



the Watershed

AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

Florida Section Meeting
 Nations Bank Building
 205 North Parrott Avenue, Suite 201
 Okeechobee, Florida

May 19, 2000

Restoring the Heart of the Everglades Ecosystem: Prognosis and Remedies for What Ails Lake Okeechobee

Friday, May 19, 2000

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon	National Conference Coordinating Committee <i>Nations Bank Building, 205 North Parrott Avenue, Suite 201</i>
12:00 noon – 1:45 p.m.	Florida Section Board of Directors – Section members invited <i>Nations Bank Building, 205 North Parrott Avenue, Suite 201</i>
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Technical Session and Bi-monthly Section Meeting <i>Nations Bank Building, 205 North Parrott Avenue, Suite 201</i>
	Introduction and Overview - John Morgan Lake Okeechobee Protection Act – legislative perspectives Senator John Laurent & Representative Ken Pruitt Lake Okeechobee Action Plan – agency perspectives South Florida Water Management District – Dr. Al Steinman United States Army Corps of Engineers – Pete Milam Department of Environmental Protection – Jerry Brooks Environmental Protection Agency – Richard Harvey Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Chuck Aller Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Don Fox
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Social Hour – cash bar <i>Motel Pier II Lounge, 2200 Hwy 441 SE</i>
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	A Taste of Okeechobee - Dinner and Storytelling BBQ steak, catfish filets, gator tail, frog legs, fresh vegetables, salad, and dessert <i>Motel Pier II Meeting Hall, 2200 Hwy 441 SE</i>

Saturday, May 20, 2000

Field Trips

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Hiking and bird watching on the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail Sponsored by COKEE (Center for Okeechobee Kissimmee and Everglades Education) and the National Audubon Society
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Pontoon boat tour of restored Kissimmee River – limited to 20 persons Sponsored by the Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION, Florida Section Meeting, May 19, 2000, Okeechobee, Florida -- continued

Meeting and Registration Information

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
 Address: _____ City, State, Zip Code: _____
 Telephone: _____ Guest(s): _____

____ x \$45 Registration Fee = \$ _____
 # ____ x \$30 Guest(s) Registration Fee = \$ _____
 # ____ x \$20 Student Registration Fee = \$ _____
 # ____ x \$10 for 2000 Florida Section Membership Dues = \$ _____
 Total Amount = \$ _____

Please mail registration fees and dues by **May 5th** to:
 John Morgan
 609 SE 6th Avenue
 Okeechobee, Florida 34974
 (800) 250-4200 x3014

Make checks payable to:
 AWRA Florida Section

Lodging Suggestions:

Motel Pier II	Wanta Linga Motel	Holiday Inn Express	Floridian Bed & Breakfast
2200 Hwy 441 SE	3225 Hwy 441 SE	3975 Hwy 441 S	1120 South Parrott
Okeechobee	Okeechobee	Okeechobee	Okeechobee
(800) 874-3744	(800) 754-0428	(800) 465-4329	(863) 763-5777

A block of rooms is being held at the Motel Pier II – standard rooms \$45+ tax; 12 suites also available for under \$100+ tax. Call early; limited available rooms. Mention AWRA.

“On Your Own” Suggestions:

Nix’s Fishing Headquarters	Lake Okeechobee Guide Association	Zachary Taylor Resort Boat Rentals
3235 Hwy 441 SE, Suite A	3235 Hwy 441 SE	2995 Hwy 441 SE
Okeechobee, Florida 34974	Okeechobee, Florida 34974	Okeechobee, Florida 34974
(863) 763-2248 (BAIT)	(800) 284-2446 (BIGO)	(888) 282-6523
		ztresort@ictransnet.com

Apalachicola Meeting - March 17, 2000, Apalachicola Community Center

Technical Program Summary

Bill McCartney and Sandy Young co-chaired a very informative technical program on various topics important to water resources in northwest Florida. The presentations were tag-team panel discussions on water supply initiatives, state land acquisition, and the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River system.

Regional Water Supply Initiatives in NW Florida -- Each of the presentations focused on specific projects, the hydrogeology of the area, and the public relations, political, as well as funding challenges and issues.

- Fair Point Peninsula – Ned McMath, Baskerville-Donovan, Inc.
- Water Resources Partnership – Pete Debogory, South Walton Utilities Company
- Deer Point lake Reservoir – Travis Windham, Bay County Public Works Dept.

Land Acquisition Success Stories in NW Florida --

These presentations reviewed the land acquisition successes and upcoming projects in the NW Florida area with details on the targeted ecosystems as well as acreages and costs.

- Save Our Rivers & Preservation 2000 – Bill Cleckley, Northwest Florida WMD
- CARL & Preservation 2000 – Greg Brock, Florida DEP
- Florida Communities Trust – Keith McCarron, Florida Community Affairs

The Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River System – Problem or Opportunity? -- This presentation provided an excellent overview of the watershed containing these rivers, and a very good update on the water supply and political controversies within and between the three neighbor states.

- Florida's Perspective – Steve Leitman, Northwest Florida WMD

Bullets from the Board - Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting

Report on Board of Directors Meeting, March 17, 2000, Apalachicola Community Center

Board members present included: Mike Mesiano, Roger Rumenik, Rand Edelstein, Gail Murray, Cathy Vogel, Bill Stimmel, Sandy Young, Bob Higgins, Don McEwen, Gerry Ward, Allan Biddlecomb, and Mike Cullum. Ed Hobin represented Paul O'Neil.

- Regarding membership, Dave Watt reported there are 507 records in the database with 279 active members (paid as of 1999 or later). The Board requested a list of inactive members be provided at the next meeting so that they may follow up with the past members and perhaps re-enlist them.
- Rosanne Clementi reported on the status of the J.B. Butler and Storch grants. Ms. Bonnie H. Cary received a \$350.00 check for her Butler grant proposal. Also, the 2000 grant "request for proposals" will be distributed at LEEF's Annual State Conference March 31 to April 2, 2000 in hopes of getting a better response by K-12 school teachers.
- Rosanne discussed the idea of another "student-focused" bimonthly meeting to help generate more student interest. She suggested that we do this every year.
- Mike Mesiano reported that newsletter sponsors currently receive: (1) a business card-sized notice, and (2) the opportunity to write a one-half page article on a technical project (not an advertisement on their company). A lengthy discussion was held with a final agreement to give sponsors business card notice only.
- Don McEwen reported he is close to having our website rebuild completed.
- Bob Higgins (National Conference Technical Program Chairperson) reported that he is looking for session moderators for National Meeting to be held in Miami, November 6 to 9, 2000. An organizational meeting was held following the Board meeting.
- Mike Cullum discussed a new award titled, "Corporate Support Appreciation Award" to go to the company or agency that helps the section succeed the most. More discussion regarding this award will take place at the next meeting.



AWRA National News

Annual Conference - The 2000 National AWRA Annual Conference in Miami from November 6th through the 9th is coming quickly. If you haven't received a Call for Papers, contact Bob Moresi (Rmoresi@moffatnichol.com) and he'll get you one. The meeting is at the Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel. Keep your eye out for the announcement that should come out this summer. We are still accepting volunteers to assist with the conference. If you want to be a session chair, present a paper, provide on site services, be a sponsor, or provide general help, please contact any Board member. Look for more news in the following "The Watershed". We look forward to seeing you there, and hope that you will support our conference.

General - Several Florida members will be running for election to the National AWRA Board of Directors. Please support your local representation when the ballots come out. If you are not a National AWRA member, you can contact any Florida Section Board member for an application. If you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to tell any Florida Section Board member, or member of the National Board of Director.

Directories are Out!

The 2000 AWRA Florida Section Directories have been mailed out! Members who were current as of February 29th should have received a directory by the time you read this. New and recently reinstated members will be receiving their directories soon. Thanks to the sponsors for underwriting the cost of printing and distribution, to Patrick Victor for soliciting those sponsors, and to Sarah Crockett for her cover design, layout and coordination with the printer. Contact David Watt at 904-329-4355 or david_watt@district.sjrwmd.state.fl.us if you have any questions concerning the directory or other membership services.

Education

J.B. Butler Science Grant - The Board is pleased to announce that an award of \$350.00 was presented to Ms. Bonnie Cary of the St. Barnabas Episcopal School in Deland. Ms. Cary will be using the funds to purchase a dissecting scope, nets and traps for a stream monitoring program for her students. We were proud to be able to assist her with her water resource program.

J.B. Butler Science Grant Extended For 2000 - The response to our request for proposals for our science teacher grant was not what we expected. The Board has authorized the Education Committee to re-advertise this Grant. The deadline for is 2 June 2000. If you know any science teachers grades K-12 who might have a water resource program for which they might need some funding, please have them call Rosanne Clementi at (813) 752-1289 or email at SESROSANNE@aol.com.

William V. Storch Student Awards - This year we have tried again another format for providing assistance to university students. We allocated \$333.00 for each Student Chapter. To date only the University of Florida Student Chapter has taken advantage of these funds. There is a Student Chapter at the University of Central Florida and Florida State University. We would very much like to share this money with them too, if they would contact Rosanne Clementi at SESROSANNE@aol.com. In addition to the monetary assistance for the Student Chapter, the Section is offering a grant (\$500.00) to a university student who has had a paper or poster accepted for the National Meeting this year in Miami. Please contact Rosanne Clementi at SESROSANNE@aol.com. The Section needs assistance from students for various functions at the National meeting. The Section will try to compensate those students or Student Chapters for their assistance. Please contact Bob Higgins at bhiggins@ix.netcom.com or Bob Moresi at bmoresi@moffatnichol.com if you are interested.

DOWN THE LINE.....



Key West - July 27 - 29

The Key West meeting is just around the corner, July 27 - 29, 2000. Please make your room reservations as early as possible. Rooms are limited and they go fast!

Wyndham Casa Marina Reservations:
1-800-235-4837 in state/1-800-626-0777

Room prices:

Island View - \$103
Ocean View - \$132
Island View Suite - \$143
Ocean View Suite - \$196

Be sure you mention you are with AWRA.

Vero Beach - September 22

The 2nd annual **Vero Beach** AWRA Meeting will occur on **September 22, 2000**. The technical session will take place at the **Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute** and the reception will be at the host hotel, **The Disney Resort**. Saturday morning will feature tours of the **Indian River Lagoon** originating from the **Environmental Learning Center**. Fishing in the **Indian River Lagoon**, golf, and activities for the kids are available, as well as activities on the beach! Call the **Disney Resort** at **561-234-2184** to make your reservations now!!

First Edition of E-Newsletter

This issue of *The Watershed* is our first effort at publishing electronically as well as in hard copy. So, in addition to receiving this issue through "snail mail", those of you who requested it should be receiving it via e-mail as well. We wanted to run this issue in both formats as a test before going to a predominantly electronic format. This will save close to \$2,000 per year in printing and mailing costs, which can be put to more beneficial uses, like water resources education. If you did not receive the newsletter via e-mail, it means we have no e-mail address on file for you, or an incorrect e-mail address on file, or you told us you would prefer not to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Please call our membership services coordinator, David Watt to correct any errors at 904-329-4355, or e-mail at david_watt@district.sjrwmd.state.fl.us. Thanks for your support!

Special thanks from the entire membership to David Watt, Sarah Crockett (of Florida Water) and Patrick Victor for the outstanding work on the publication of the 2000 membership directory. Your efforts are exemplary!

**CONTACT UPCOMING MEETING CHAIRMEN REGARDING
SPONSORSHIP**

Thanks to the sponsors of the upcoming Saturday morning fieldtrips in Okeechobee:

- Center for Okeechobee Kissimmee and Everglades Education (COKEE)
- National Audubon Society
- Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University

Okeechobee
May 19, 2000
John Morgan
800-250-4200 ext. 3014

Key West
July 27 - 29, 2000
John Wehle
904-329-4214

Vero Beach
September 22, 2000
Mike Vanatta
561-567-5300

Miami
November 6 -9, 2000
Bob Moresi
813-258-8818



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