



# The Droplet

## Florida Water Environment Association Integrated Water Resources Committee

February 2015

Volume 7 Issue 1



### In this Issue

### Page

- **From the IWRC Chairman** 1
- **2015 IWRC Awards Update** 2
- **Integration of IWRC & Reuse Committees** 2
- **Funding Opportunities** 3
- **Get Involved Spotlight** 4
- **Other Water News and Events** 5
- **IWRC Calendar of Events and Sponsors** 6

### *From the IWRC Chairman*

One of the goals of the IWRC is to further the dialogue between water professionals throughout Florida. Another goal is to provide timely, high-quality information and education on water as a valuable resource that can be used to meet current and future water resources and water supply challenges throughout Florida.

This month's newsletter focuses on project funding for integrated water resources in the state of Florida. With the help of recent legislation including the passing of Amendment #1, there is a renewed focus to protect our finite water resources to ensure availability for future generations. Definitive action begins with financial support. In this issue, we review some funding sources that support this effort.

### **Call for Members/Open Board Position!**

We currently have open positions on the board including Vice-Chair, Newsletter and Secretary. This is a great opportunity to collaborate with other professionals within our region who share a common interest in advancing the integrated water resources industry for the benefit of our clients, all water users and for the environment.

If you are interested in becoming a member of IWRC or nominating yourself for an open position, please contact me at [Ricky.Ly@Stantec.com](mailto:Ricky.Ly@Stantec.com).

And keep an eye out for more details on the upcoming events organized by the IWRC in future issues of this newsletter.

*Ricky Ly*  
**FWEA IWRC Chair**

**FY 2014-2015**

**Chair:**  
Ricky Ly

**Vice Chair &  
Secretary:**  
open

**Treasurer & Website:**  
Alonso Griborio

**Newsletter:**  
Jason Bird &  
Doug Eckmann

**Seminars:**  
Shanin Speas-Frost

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## **2015 FWEA Integrated Water Resources Awards Update**

It's time for the 2015 annual awards. This annual award is given by our committee to someone who has made significant contributions to the water resources/stormwater profession throughout Florida. The winner should embody the spirit of our committee in that they should be an outstanding contributor to the field of water resources in Florida. This is a prestigious award and the winner is recognized at the Florida Water Resources Conference (FWRC) in May.

The schedule is as follows:

1. Nominations deadline: February 14, 2015
2. Send out voting ballot via email: February 16, 2015
3. Voting via email, deadline: **February 23, 2015**
4. Winner Selection: **February 26, 2015**
5. Presentation at the Florida Water Resources Conference: **May 3- May 6, 2015**

## **Integration of IWRC and Reuse Committees**

As our industry evolves to identify new water resources to meet growing demands, the importance of reuse continues to emerge in the Integrated Water Resource discussions. With this growing trend, we believe there are synergies in combining the Integrated Water Resources and Reuse Committees to leverage a wider range of water resource expertise to identify new opportunities and continue leading the industry.

We welcome your continued input and ideas on bringing these committees together in May 2015.

## **2015 Winter Reuse Seminar "Expanding the Reuse Pie"**

The 2015 Winter Reuse Seminar, "Expanding the Reuse Pie," was held at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida in Orlando on February 12. Over 90 attendees gathered to hear presentations from utility directors, industry users, engineers, and the FDEP about their experiences and lessons learned from expanding the use of reclaimed water in their respective jurisdictions. Topics such as facility interconnects, use at power plants, stormwater integration, legislative studies, potable reuse, and storage were discussed. The next Winter Reuse Seminar is expected to be held in January/February of 2017. The take home message of the seminar was that the use of reclaimed water is expanding and our state policy makers want to know how to help.

### **Officer Contact Information**

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Open

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Photos courtesy of Shanin SpeasFrost



## **SJRWMD Cost-Share Funding Opportunity**

The St. Johns River Water Management District will accept applications from Jan. 5 to March 13, 2015, for cost-share funding for water conservation and construction projects that will contribute to any of the following:

- Water conservation
- Alternative water supply development
- Water quality/nutrient-loading reduction
- Water resource development

The District anticipates making cost-share funding available in its fiscal year 2015-2016 budget that begins Oct. 1, 2015, subject to Governing Board approval.

Application instructions, guidelines, form, evaluation process and a contract template will be available on the District's website after Dec. 15, 2014. Complete applications must be emailed between Jan. 5, 2015, and 5 p.m. on March 13, 2015, to [funding@sjrwmd.com](mailto:funding@sjrwmd.com).

More information is available at [floridaswater.com/funding](http://floridaswater.com/funding).

## **Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Wrapping Up First Phase**

The Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) is an ongoing water supply effort focusing on the Central Florida Coordination Area, which includes southern Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Polk counties. The three water management districts, along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), regional public water supply utilities and other stakeholders are collaborating to develop a unified process to address central Florida's current and long-term water supply needs.

The first phase of the work is wrapping up. A final report should be available by spring 2015. Findings of the report include that approximately 250 MGD of additional water supply is needed by the year 2035. The CFWI solutions sub-team has estimated that this amount of water will cost about \$2.7 billion to develop.

The following are types of projects that were considered for providing the new supplies:

- Surface water (dispersed storage and reservoirs)
- Groundwater
- Reclaimed water
- Conservation and other management strategies (agriculture and urban landscape)
- Recovery/prevention projects (coordinated with other teams as needed)
- Other (storm water, etc.)

New projects ideas are always welcomed. More details and contact info can be found on their website at [www.cfwewater.com](http://www.cfwewater.com).

You may also contact Elizabeth Thomas at [ethomaspe@gmail.com](mailto:ethomaspe@gmail.com).

**Elizabeth Thomas, P.E.**

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## Get Involved Spotlight

### Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

#### Bay Guardian Volunteer Workdays

- February 21 @ Manatee County TBD
- March 28 @ Bowlees Creek w/ Florida Audubon - Kayak Only
- April 18 @ Philippi Park - Air Potato Spud Busting
- May 2 @ Robinson Preserve - Oyster Bag Placement
- June 13 @ Sarasota County TBD - Summer Planting



For More Information: <http://sarasotabay.org/get-involved/bay-guardian-volunteers/>

### Tampa Bay Estuary Program

#### Upcoming "Give A Day" Workdays

All workdays run from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- February 21, 2015  
Tampa location (to be determined)
- March 21, 2015  
Boyd Hill Nature Park  
Invasive Plant Removal
- April 25, 2015  
Manatee County location (to be determined)



For More Information: <http://www.tbep.org/help/giveaday.html>

### Tampa Bay Watch

#### Upcoming Workdays

- MacDill Air Force Base Oyster Project  
Thursday, February 19  
Friday, February 20
- Bay Life Art Exhibit Fundraiser  
February 20-21



For More Information: [http://www.tampabaywatch.org/events\\_baylife\\_main.html](http://www.tampabaywatch.org/events_baylife_main.html)

### Other Volunteer Opportunities

- FDEP - Current Initiatives and Volunteer Opportunities  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/central/Home/Watershed/GetInvolved.htm>
  - Includes links to opportunities in the following Counties:
    - Brevard
    - Indian River
    - Lake
    - Marian
    - Orange
    - Osceola
    - Seminole
    - Volusia
- Florida State Parks  
<https://www.floridastateparks.org/get-involved/volunteer>

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## Other Water News and Events

- **Governor Scott's Budget Recommends \$1.4 Billion to Protect and Preserve Florida's Environment** <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/a227ff>

The Governor's Budget will include support for restoration projects in the Everglades, springs protection improvements, and the purchase of conservation lands. The FY2014/2015 budget places a priority on protecting the health of Florida's natural resources. "By proposing more than a billion dollars, Governor Scott recognizes the Department's commitment to preserving the environment through sound science," said Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. "This significant funding will ensure the Department's ability to continue to safeguard and protect the state's natural resources."

- **Florida Department of Environmental Protection – SB 536**  
Senate Bill 536, which passed in the 2014 legislative session, requires DEP, in coordination with stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive study on the expansion of use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water in this state. <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/reuse/study.htm>

- **Florida Ballot Measure** "Water and Land Conservation Amendment" (November 4<sup>th</sup>). [http://ballotpedia.org/Florida\\_Water\\_and\\_Land\\_Conervation\\_Initiative,\\_Amendment\\_1\\_\(2014\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Water_and_Land_Conervation_Initiative,_Amendment_1_(2014))  
**PASSED!!!**

- **National Disaster Resilience Competition Statewide Public Meeting/Webinar**

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity announces a public hearing and webinar to which all persons are invited. The purpose of the statewide public hearing and webinar is to discuss the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). HUD, in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, is providing significant resources and support to communities to help them become more resilient. The NDRC is a two-phase process that will competitively award nearly \$1 billion in HUD Disaster Recovery funds to eligible communities. The competition will help communities recover from prior disasters and improve their ability to withstand and recover more quickly from future disasters, hazards, and shocks. Participants can attend the hearing in person or participate through the webinar.

DATE AND TIME: February 25, 2015, 4:00-6:00 PM EST

PLACE:

The Division of Emergency Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Sadowski Building, 3rd Floor, Kelly Training Room  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

WEBINAR INFORMATION: Please register for National Disaster Resiliency Competition Statewide Stakeholders on February 25, 2015 4:00 PM EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8529513493844824578>

1-888-670-3525 Passcode 6171416843

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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## IWRC Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
March 3, 2015	Monthly IWRC Teleconference
March 7, 2015	Florida Water Festival (hosted by Big Bend chapter)
April 7, 2015	Monthly IWRC Teleconference
May 5, 2015	Monthly IWRC/Reuse Teleconference

## IWRC Goals and Focus

The goals of the IWRC are:

- To further the dialogue between water professionals throughout Florida to meet our growing needs in all areas of water resources.
- To provide timely, high-quality information and education on water as a valuable resource that can be used to meet current and future water resources and water supply challenges throughout Florida.
- To provide rewarding leadership opportunities to water professionals at all levels of experience.

The focus of the IWRC encompasses the following areas of water resources practice:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water quality</li> <li>• watershed and stormwater management</li> <li>• water supply</li> <li>• water conservation and reuse</li> <li>• ecological and hydrologic restoration</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• groundwater recharge</li> <li>• hydrologic and hydraulic modeling</li> <li>• funding and grant opportunities</li> <li>• regulations and policies</li> <li>• supply and distribution resiliency</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation/Transit Planning</li> <li>• Civil/Structural/Traffic Engineering</li> <li>• Water Resources/Water Supply</li> <li>• Program Management</li> <li>• Construction Management</li> <li>• Construction Engineering/Inspection</li> </ul>	420 S. Orange Ave. Suite 400 Orlando, FL 32801 407.587.7800 www.pbworld.com Contact: Dale Helms, PE
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