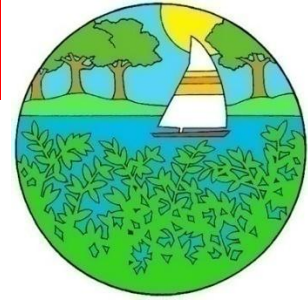


SAVE OUR LAKES



FEBRUARY 2017/Volume 17, Issue 2

LAKES DECREASE AS EFFORTS INCREASE!



January 11, 2017 - First Meeting of the City of Keystone Heights Water Steering Committee

Mayor Tony Brown and City Manager Scott Kornegay opened the first meeting with remarks of both encouragement and expectations. This Committee is chaired by Scott Kornegay and includes representatives from Clay County, Bradford County, SJRWMD, SRWMD, Camp Blanding, Chemours (DuPont) and SOLO.

Peter Schreuder, Senior Hydrogeologist at Schreuder, Inc. (Tampa, FL) gave an overview of possible Etonia/Trail Ridge Project Options. The discussion that followed concluded with a unanimous vote to move forward with engineering to determine specific costs/feasibility. Before going to press today, I requested a status update from Scott Kornegay and received the following:

“The Chairman of the Steering Committee is working on an RFQ for engineering services to move forward with project management tasks to include, but not limited to the following:

** Engineering Studies * Engineering Projects * Project Management
while working with local officials to secure funding at the state level.”*

In a conversation yesterday with City Manager Scott Kornegay, he indicated there were probably many studies and information already available that will make this first task easier.

SAVE OUR LAKES ORGANIZATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 185, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656

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President: Vivian Katz – Vice President: Webb Farber – Secretary: Carolyn Thomas – Treasurer: Carol Rozear
Board Members: Glenda Harper, Sue Plaster, Chandler Rozear, Robert Thomas, Dr. Pat Welsh

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS STEP UP TO THE PLATE!!!

2016 ended with the Keystone Heights Water Summit (October) where Senator Bradley and Congressman Yoho expressed their support. The City of Keystone Heights moved quickly to form the K. H. Water Steering Committee. The full K. H. City Council agreed to move forward in full support of bringing recovery projects to reality.

Senator Bradley is introducing a Bill that (if passed) would make approximately \$35million available for water projects. Senator Bradley specifically mentioned the Keystone Heights water projects as potential funding recipients.

Senator Bradley discussed his Bill and his efforts to bring it to the Governor at the Clay County Legislative Delegation meeting held on January 30th. Senator Bradley's Bill must have a matching Bill from the House in order to reach the Governor's desk. Both State Representative Cummings and Payne indicated they were working on the matching House Bill.

My comment here: The picture on the front page expresses a lot of frustration that I have heard...and feel. BUT, the current involvement and effort by our elected officials is EXACTLY what has been needed to get projects from ideas to reality. From the K.H. City Council to Tallahassee, the ball is rolling.

SO - as I watch the lakes receding, yes I am frustrated (as you are)...but I see a potential for real recove - projects...not just rain. Rainfall has NOT been the entire problem and it is NOT the entire solution. I'm stepping off my soapbox...for now.

A NEW (MAYBE RENEWED) FOCUS FOR SOLO IN 2017

SOLO has been blessed with a great Board with varied talents and expertise. Our "Technical Team" (Webb Farber, Dr. Pat Welsh and Chandler Rozear) have done a great job on pouring through graphs, charts and volumes of studies, reports and data. Their efforts have allowed us to speak with clear knowledge and understanding when discussing lake and Aquifer levels and MFL issues when dealing with the Water Management Districts, agencies, utilities and others. Webb, Pat and Chandler have done a great job!

NOW, another area of great importance - **ECONOMIC IMPACT**. This topic has been talked about and touched on but the real facts have not been brought to the surface. That's were SOLO will be expanding efforts to take a very hard look. We suspect the **ECONOMIC IMPACT** will reach easily into the millions...possibly billions. Contemplate for a minute - lost property values, declining business activity, closed businesses, loss of tax revenue, and loss of jobs. Now expand that to the Springs! Remember, the Keystone Heights area is one of two major recharge areas for the Floridan Aquifer. When the Floridan Aquifer declines, our lakes recede AND the Springs flow declines. The Floridan Aquifer connects (and disconnects) the dots! We have decided it's time to put a real dollar impact picture to the situation.

WATER FLOW!

PARTICIPATE IN 2017!!
FEBRUARY 2017 - Calendar

Please join us in our efforts to Save Our Lakes - Save The Aquifer!

***SJRWMD BOARD MEETING** - FEB. 14th, 10:30am - District Hqtrs., Palatka

***CLAY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING** - FEB. 14th- 2p.m., Green Cove Springs

***S.O.L.O. MEETING**- FEB. 14th - 7p.m. - 1st Baptist Church of K.H.



*******MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL...MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL*******
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EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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renew your
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today!*

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FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF K.H. (Hwy. 100, just east of Hwy. 21),
7PM, ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH!

PLEASE SELECT ONE: SEND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY (US MAIL OR EMAIL)?

Save Our Lakes Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 185
Keystone Heights, FL 32656




Logo by: Graham E. Kestner

NEXT SOLO MEETING: FEBRUARY 14th -7p.m.-FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF K.H.

S.O.L.O. NEWSLETTER PRINTING BY FABCO-AIR. THANK YOU FABCO-AIR!



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