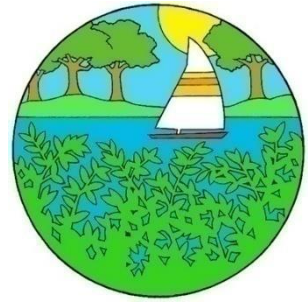


SAVE OUR LAKES



MAY 2018/Volume 18, Issue 5

WILL THIS MEMORY BE REVISITED?



NEW MFLs MAY DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

The SJRWMD staff has been working on the re-evaluation of the MFLs (Minimum Flow Levels) for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva. Our last two newsletters have focused entirely on the MFL issue for our Keystone Heights Lake community! The remainder of **this** newsletter will be the Executive Summary from the DRAFT of their findings. **PLEASE NOTE** – what comes next is just that...a **DRAFT**. This **DRAFT** has been sent for required peer review. The results of those reviews are not complete as this newsletter goes to print. **Bottom line – a DRAFT is SUBJECT TO CHANGE! So as you read...please remember...this is NOT the final document.**

MINIMUM LEVELS DETERMINATION FOR LAKES BROOKLYN AND GENEVA CLAY AND BRADFORD COUNTIES, FLORIDA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“As a part of fulfilling its mission and statutory responsibilities, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) establishes minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for priority water bodies within its boundaries. MFLs establish a minimum hydrologic regime and define the limits at which further consumptive use withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of an area. MFLs are one of many effective tools used by the SJRWMD to assist in making sound water management decisions and preventing significant adverse impacts due to water withdrawals.”

SOLO WEBSITE

You can get information as well as communicate with us through our website: www.saveourlakes.org or our email: save-our-lakes@comcast.net
Our newsletter comes out once a month by email and US Mail (usually the first week of the month). **Please feel free to check us out!**

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

EMAIL: save-our-lakes@comcast.net - **WEBPAGE:** www.saveourlakes.org

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (Continued)...

SJRWMD has completed a reevaluation of minimum levels for lakes Brooklyn and Geneva in Clay and Bradford counties, Florida. Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva are sandhill lakes adjacent to the city of Keystone Heights, Florida. They are among the most studied and modeled lakes in the SJRWMD. Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva are part of a chain of lakes and wet prairies in the Upper Etonia Creek Basin.

Minimum levels for both lakes were adopted January 1996, and were based on a methodology designed to maintain the location of existing stable wetlands and organic soils. However, due to naturally occurring extremely large water level fluctuations, stable wetlands and organic soils do not exist at these sandhill lakes. Therefore, a reevaluation was necessary to ensure that appropriate, protective minimum levels were developed.

Numerous criteria were investigated to ensure that proposed minimum levels would protect important environmental values and beneficial uses. These criteria include a SJRWMD event-based metric (i.e., the Minimum Infrequent High), and the following fourteen additional criteria; six lake change standards developed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), five criteria based on fish and wildlife habitat change, two criteria used to protect recreational uses and an aesthetics criterion. Of the 15 environmental criteria evaluated, a subset were chosen as most appropriate for each lake. A total of seven environmental criteria were assessed for Lake Brooklyn, and five criteria were assessed for Lake Geneva.

A minimum hydrologic regime (i.e., MFLs condition) was determined for each lake based on its most constraining (i.e., the Minimum Infrequent High) criterion. The most constraining environmental criterion for Lake Brooklyn was the dock access metric, which is based on an allowable 15% reduction of time that the mean dock access elevation is exceeded. The purpose of this metric is to prevent a significant change, due to withdrawal, to the public's ability to access the lakes from their docks. The most constraining environmental criterion for Lake Geneva was the aesthetics metric, which is based on a 20% reduction in time that the no-pumping condition median lake level is exceeded.

The MFLs condition for lakes Brooklyn and Geneva is represented by the minimum median (P50) lake level for each lake. The minimum P50 represents the central tendency and is an indicator of normal hydrologic conditions. A recommended minimum median (P50) lake level was determined for Lake Brooklyn based on the most constraining criterion. This elevation (107.7 ft.) is the recommended minimum P50 level that will be adopted for Lake Brooklyn. A recommended minimum median (P50) lake level was also determined for Lake Geneva, based on the most constraining criterion. This elevation (99.7 ft.) is the recommended minimum P50 level that will be adopted for Lake Geneva. Lake freeboard (available water) or deficit was determined by comparing the MFLs condition to the current impacted (baseline) condition, for each lake. The Keystone Heights Transient Model (KHTM) and the North Florida Southeast Georgia (NFSEG) groundwater models were used for both MFLs criteria determination and assessment. The status assessment for lakes Brooklyn and Geneva indicate that they are currently not meeting their proposed MFLs. A comparison of the MFLs and baseline conditions for lakes Brooklyn and Geneva yields a P50 lake deficit of 2.3 ft. and 0.7ft., respectively.

Therefore, a recovery strategy is required for both lakes. Consistent with the provisions for establishing and implementing MFLs provided for in section 373.0421, F.S., the recovery strategy for the lakes Brooklyn and Geneva MFLs identifies a suite of projects and measures that, when implemented, will recover these lakes from impacts due to withdrawal and prevent the MFLs from not being met due to future consumptive uses of water. The recovery strategy will also provide sufficient water supply options to meet all existing and projected reasonable beneficial uses. A screening level analysis, which incorporates change in rainfall trend and uncertainty, will be performed approximately every five years to ensure that the recovery strategy is effective and that the adopted minimum levels will be met within the timeframe specified in the strategy. This periodic analysis will identify any necessary revisions to the recovery strategy.

A comparison of adopted sandhill lake MFLs was conducted as a "reasonableness check" to evaluate whether the recommended MFLs for lakes Brooklyn and Geneva are within the range of allowable change for sandhill lake MFLs adopted by other water management districts in Florida. This analysis revealed that the recommended MFLs for both lakes are within the range of allowable change for other Florida sandhill lake MFLs. Therefore, the recommended MFLs for lakes Brooklyn and Geneva provide reasonable constraints, relative to other adopted MFLs for sandhill lakes. SJRWMD concludes that the recommended minimum levels for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva will protect all relevant Rule 62-40.473, F.A.C., environmental values, from significant harm due to withdrawal. The recommended MFLs presented in this report are preliminary and will not become effective until adopted by the SJRWMD Governing board, as directed in Rule 40C-8.031, F.A.C."

REMEMBER – What you have just read is a **DRAFT** that is currently being peer reviewed. That means, it's subject to change and is NOT the final MFLs Report that will be presented to the SJRWMD Governing Board for their approval, now tentatively scheduled for their August 2018 meeting.



GET INVOLVED IN 2018!!

MAY 2018 - Calendar

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

***SJRWMD BOARD MEETING-MAY 8th, 11am - District Headquarter, Palatka**

***CLAY COUNTY COM. MTG-MAY 8th - 4pm (time change) - Green Cove Springs**

***S.O.L.O. MEETING- MAY 8th, 7pm- 1st Baptist Church of K.H**

*******IF YOU'RE NOT A SOLO MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!*******

SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TODAY!!



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REMINDER!
JOIN TODAY!
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**PLEASE SEND THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR ANNUAL DUES CHECK FOR \$25.00
PAYABLE TO: SAVE OUR LAKES ORG., P.O. BOX 185, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL32656. WE LOOK
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: MAY 8th-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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