

SAVE OUR LAKES



DECEMBER 2020/Volume 20, Issue 12

IT'S A BIT "UP IN THE AIR" NOW, BUT THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

RON HOWSE, BOARD MEMBER and **GENERAL DOUGLAS BURNETT**, the Chairman of the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District, at the November 10, 2020 Governing Board Meeting, requested that the District Staff provide, for the benefit of the new Board members, an update on the status of the Black Creek Water Resource Project at the next Governing Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Dr. Ann Shortelle, Executive Director, reminded the Board that the District did not get the proposed "Site Specific Alternative Criteria" approved. This would have allowed Lake Brooklyn's designation as a clear water lake to change to a dark water lake. Therefore, they have changed their direction and have their "project people" working to get the color out of the water so that it will meet the clarity requirements for permitting. The Engineers for the Project, CDM Smith, were to provide the District a report on the various companies who have submitted their qualifications, technological proposals and samples of water from Black Creek which have been treated with their proposed systems. This report was to be delivered to the District before the end of November. Since the complete evaluation of the treatment alterna-



Lake Geneva then and now. The background picture was taken November 6, 2020. The little girl "up in the air" is now 38.

tives by the District Staff is not anticipated to be ready for the December Board meeting's Black Creek Project update, the District Staff are expected to give the complete report on the project at the January Governing Board meeting.

While SOLO Board members have been virtually attending the SJRWMD Governing Board Meetings, at the next two meetings, at least some will be both physically present while socially distanced.

SAVE OUR LAKES ORGANIZATION, INC.

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President: Chandler Rozear – **Vice President:** Vivian James — **Secretary:** Susan Welsh – **Treasurer:** Carol Rozear

Board Members: Webb Farber, Glenda Harper, Sue Plaster, Dr. Pat Welsh



PAVILION UPDATE: The completion of the renovation of the Keystone Beach Pavilion is expected after the first of the year. The Contractor has been pressing ahead but as anyone who has worked on nearly 100 year old buildings knows, when you open up the work there will be a lot of hidden problems that must be fixed. It looks like, the renovated pavilion will be available for use by the time the COVID 19 vaccines are generally available in our area. The pavilion on Lake Geneva will be an appropriate and inspiring place to hold Save Our Lakes' members' meetings as 2021 unfolds.

Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva MFLs Information as posted on the SJRWMD Website

“Recovery Strategy for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva Minimum Levels

*The re-evaluated MFLs for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva indicate that they are currently not being met. There is a deficit of 1.6 feet * for Lake Brooklyn and 0.3 feet * for Lake Geneva. Therefore, Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva are in recovery, and a Recovery Strategy must be adopted concurrently with the revised MFLs (subsection 373.0421(2), Florida Statute (F.S.)).*

In developing the Recovery Strategy, the District will consider the implementation of numerous components. Strategy components will likely include projects, conservation measures and changes to consumptive use permitting rules.

*The District encourages active stakeholder participation** in the development of the MFL Recovery Strategy.”*

*** (Editor’s note: Considering the lakes’ current levels, these deficits sound low. However, they are a result of a calculation of the median (P50) level of the lakes for the period of record, 1957 to 2020. To be in MFL compliance, the lakes also must come up to the P25 level of 111.5ft for Brooklyn and 101.7ft for Geneva for certain minimum times and intervals. The Black Creek Project will ultimately make all of this discussion irrelevant as both lakes will be at or close to full pool all of the time.**

****The Brooklyn and Geneva MFL Strategy Rule Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, December 10 at 5:00 pm. It will be a hybrid meeting with limited in person attendance along with a webinar. The link and further meeting information are expected to be posted on the District’s website one week prior to the meeting.**

SOLO MEMBERSHIP PERIOD EXTENDED

The SOLO Board has decided to make the membership year and the calendar year the same. To make this work fairly, all memberships that were renewed at any time in 2020 will be good through the entire 2021 calendar year. Memberships that are renewed in 2021 will be good for the entire calendar year. All memberships will be up for renewal on January 1, 2022. Remember every SOLO membership adds strength to our voice with the Water Management District, Clay County Government and the City of Keystone Heights as together, we work to Save Our Lakes!

Please join us in our efforts to Save Our Lakes - Save The Aquifer!
*SJRWMD BOARD MEETING (Live Streaming) Tuesday - December 8th, 9:30 AM (IMPORTANT: Verify date & time on District Website) The District Headquarters in Palatka has partially reopened to the public. While the Chairman of the Board has been presiding in person and many of the other Board Members are present, others have been participating via telephone. Only essential District staff are present. Limited numbers of the public are now permitted to be there in particular if they wish to speak. A teleconferencing number is also available. Updated meeting dates, times, agenda, videos of past meetings and other information are posted on the District's website: www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/



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Cut, copy or send the whole page!

(Please Circle One) RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER?

NAME _____

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CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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 WHEN MEETINGS RESUME AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF K.H. (Hwy. 100, just east of Hwy. 21), 7PM, ON THE SECOND TUESDAY-EVERY OTHER MONTH!

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE: SEND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY US MAIL OR EMAIL ?

**BOTH
New &
Current
Members!**

If you are able to receive the newsletter as an email attachment, please send your email address to save-our-lakes@comcast.net. Should our normal hard copy production and mailing process be disrupted, this will help assure that you receive your newsletter.

SOLO WEBSITE www.saveourlakes.org

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

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Logo by: *Graham E. Kestner*

The December SOLO Members meeting will not be held. Future SOLO Members meeting dates and times in 2021 will be announced in the newsletter, by email and by meeting signs posted in and around Keystone

NEWSLETTER PRINTING BY FABCO-AIR. THANK YOU, FABCO-AIR!

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