

# SAVE OUR LAKES



JUNE 2021 Volume 21, Issue 6

## Water Board OK's MFLs and Lakes Recovery Plan

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Governing Board approved the amended minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva and approved the related recovery strategy at the May 11 Board meeting. The threat of a legal petition posted by the North Florida Utility Coordinating Group (NFUCG) requesting an administrative hearing did not dissuade the Board from moving forward because, as it was often stated at the meeting, "It's the right thing to do." The NFUCG consists of the City of Atlantic Beach, Clay County Utility Authority (CCUA), Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), City of Jacksonville Beach, JEA, City of Neptune Beach, Town of Orange Park and St. Johns County)

The desire to do the right thing by the lakes and the Keystone Heights Community was also expressed by the Utility Group at this meeting and at meetings of both the JEA Board of Directors and the Clay County Board of Commissioners that we were able to attend on



The mud bogger pic over a copy of a 1994 Florida Times-Union article reminds us that, until now, efforts towards saving our lakes have brought us more hope than water.

5/25/21. All agreed that the Black Creek Project is the most viable and cost effective way to meet the required MFLs for the lakes and provide important recharge to the Floridan Aquifer. All expressed that they understood that the Utilities had an obligation, because of their Consumptive Use Permits

(CUPs), to financially participate in the MFL recovery of the lakes and said that they looked forward to negotiating with the District to work out the particulars of how each utility's share might be proportionately and fairly met. These discussions are on going at the time of this writing.

**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

## **THE DISTRICT IS MOVING FORWARD ON THE BLACK CREEK WATER RESOURCE PROJECT**

according to Mike Register, the Division Director of Water Supply Planning and Assessment at the SJRWMD, and is not waiting on the outcome of negotiations with the Utilities with regards to their contributions to the project. The project schedule has slipped somewhat, according to information from the Bureau Chief, District Projects and Construction, Vincent Seibold. Highlights of the current schedule are:

- The completion of the Pilot Testing of the water treatment system is to occur on 5/28/21. The treatment unit will be dismantled and studied to better predict the life expectancy of the system when it is scaled up and the final design of the treatment facility is completed.
- The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application for the discharge of water into Alligator Creek will be submitted to the Jacksonville office of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). A Notice of Draft Permit will be published in Clay Today. There is a 30 day comment period which, after comments are addressed, is followed by a Notice of Intent which is followed by a 14 day petition period.
- At the same time, an Environmental Resource Program (ERP) for wetlands water permit application will be submitted to the State DEP. It is hoped this permit will be issued in August.
- When these permits are complete, a permit application will be made to the Army Corps of Engineers. The time schedule for processing of this permit is not readily determined at this time.
- The District anticipates bidding the Pipeline separately from the rest of the work. This part should go out for bid in September. The completed bids and the contractor selection will go to the Board for approval at the October or November Meeting. The contractor is expected to be mobilized and work begun on site in early 2022.
- A separate bid package for the pump station and the completed discharge design and treatment system will follow the pipe portion of the work as quickly as possible. It is expected that this part of the construction will begin in the Spring of 2022.
- Construction will not begin until all of the required permitting is received by the District. As the process moves forward, a more precise schedule will emerge. It is likely that the construction process will last two years. When the lakes will be full and indeed “sparkle again” is likely two or more years beyond that.

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**SJRWMD GOVERNING BOARD Mtg. (Live Streaming available) 10:00 am Tues., 6/8/2021 at the Palatka HDQTRS. **\*\*IMPORTANT!\*\*** Verify on website: [www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/](http://www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/)**

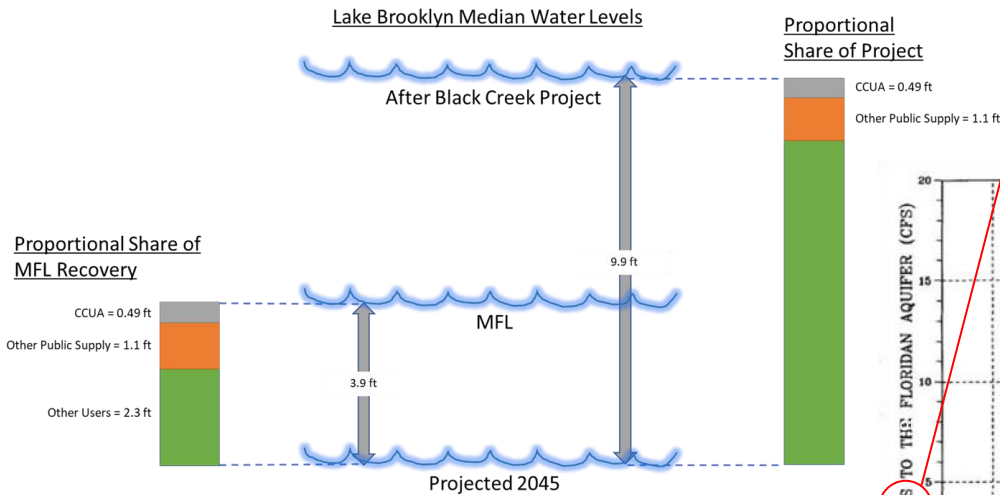
***We appreciate all of the RED SHIRTS who were able to attend the last two Governing Board Meetings on our lakes' MFLs! Your presence is always noticed and it makes a big difference to those who are trying to make a difference to our lakes!***



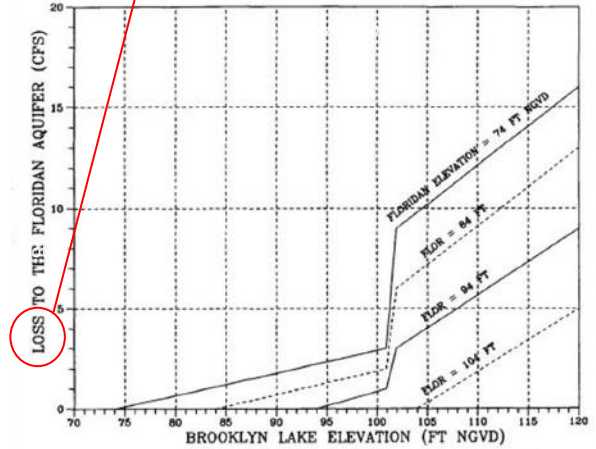
**WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO BOATS FLOATING ABOVE THIS SCENE ON LAKE GENEVA**

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This "LOSS" recharges the Aquifer. With the Black Creek Project bringing new water to Lake Brooklyn, this loss is a very good thing for the Aquifer!



Floridan Aquifer Loss Curves for Brooklyn Lake. These curves relating lake elevation, the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer (FLOR), and loss from the lake to the aquifer were developed during model calibration. SJRWMD

The above graphic was presented by the CCUA's Jeremy Johnston at the Clay County Commission meeting 5/26/21 to illustrate their position as to what would be the fair basis for assessed costs for the project. It also shows that in 2045, without recovery projects, Brooklyn would likely be 3.9' below its MFL. With the project, it would be 6' higher than its MFL or 9.9' higher than it would have been without recovery projects. As illustrated by the graphic on the right, with higher lake levels, significantly more water will flow into the Aquifer.

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

SOLO WEBSITE [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org)

You can get information as well as communicate with us through our website: [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org) or our email: [save-our-lakes@comcast.net](mailto: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.  
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Logo by: *Graham E. Kestner*

**No JUNE SOLO Members meeting! Our FIRST meeting back will be in JULY at the First Baptist Church. Watch for notices in the newsletter, by email and by meeting signs posted in and around Keystone Heights.**

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

**FABCO-AIR**  
 A member of Festo Group

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By getting vaccinated you protect yourself and those who may not be able to be vaccinated. We'll be meeting again in July. Haven't been fully vaccinated? Kindly wear a mask to protect yourself and your unvaccinated friends and loved ones while we meet together. Vaccinated? We look forward to seeing your faces again!

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