



P.O. Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995

772-225-6849

March 30, 2015

South Florida Water Management
Governing Board Members
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Governing Board Members:

At the March meeting of the Rivers Coalition, we voted unanimously to communicate to you our concern for the lack of leadership exhibited by your Board regarding the EAA land acquisition. What continues to trouble us is that after 115 comments from concerned citizens, your constituency, at your February and March meetings not a word was spoken from your Board. The lack of respect you showed for the time invested by these good people is unacceptable. To not even acknowledge what everyone knows, that the EAA land acquisition option is our best opportunity to move forward with meaningful water management for south Florida, supports what many believe is the special interests influence on water policy.

We insist that the EAA US Sugar land acquisition option be put on the agenda for the next Governing Board meeting. Unless there is some underlying motive you would care to share with us, there is no reason that this not be discussed openly in a public forum. We also strongly recommend that the appraisal mechanisms to establish value for these option parcels be expedited.

This is the perfect opportunity for the Governing Board to prove to your critics that you really do have the best interests of the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the coastal estuaries in mind. And that pandering to the special interests for the benefit of a few at the expense of many is coming to an end. It will take courage. It will take bucking the status quo. It will take leadership.

We await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leon Abood'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leon Abood, Chairman

Rivers Coalition