

**Martin County Projects Update**  
**January 25, 2018 at 11 a.m., City of Stuart Commission Chambers**  
**(Update provided by Deborah Drum, Manager, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division)**

**LAKE OKEECHOBEE / WATER CONDITIONS**

- 2017 Wet Season Statistics:
  - June, September, and October 2017 were 190% of average.
  - Hurricane Irma impact was about 8.5 inches rainfall impact.
  - Tropical Storm Philippe was about 2.4 inches rainfall impact.
- 2017-2018 Dry Season Statistics:
  - Below Average through January 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - December was 63% below average.
  - Upper East Coast a bit of an anomaly with these statistics. Through beginning of January rainfall was 111% of average rain for the dry season.
- Lake Okeechobee is at 15.32 feet. Last year on this day it was 13.95 feet, and 2 years ago, it was essentially the same at 15.31 feet. Inflows to the Lake are 748 cfs, and outflows are 1230 cfs. There are 0 flows coming from the Lake or through S-80 at this point. Any releases from S-308 at the Lake in the past month or so have been for agricultural water supply.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

This week the Florida Senate and House of Representatives rolled out their proposed budgets. Pertaining to environmental protection and Martin County are the following highlighted budget proposals:

- \$50 million for the repair of the Herbert Hoover Dike
- \$1.1 million for Everglades and Estuary Restoration
- \$163.5 million for CERP
- \$2 million for septic-to-sewer conversion in Martin County
- \$100,000 for the Manatee Pocket SW Prong STA in Martin County

Other bills of interest which may still receive appropriations as session continues are:

**Land Acquisition Trust Fund (SB 370 & HB 1353)**

By Senator Bradley Representative Beshears

This bill would allocate \$100 million a year into the Florida Forever Trust Fund.

**Golden Gate Vacuum Sewer System (HB 2357)**

By Representative Harrell

This bill is another \$2 million request for a septic-to-sewer conversion project in Golden Gate. This bill passed its first committee unanimously with Martin County present to waive in support on December 6, 2018.

**South Savannas Water Control Weir (HB 2063)**

By Representative Harrell

This is a \$300,000 appropriations request for a project that will provide habitat restoration within the Savannas Preserve State Park and will reduce flooding in downstream of the Warner Creek watershed.

**Manatee Pocket Southwest Prong Stormwater Quality Retrofit (HB 2067)**

By Representative Harrell

This is a \$140,000 request for a project that will reduce nutrient loads to the St. Lucie River and estuary.

**Turtle Creek Water Quality Weir (HB 2039)**

By Representative Magar

This is a \$350,000 appropriations requests for a project that will reduce nutrient loads to the St. Loxahatchee River and estuary.

**East Fork Creek (HB 2507)**

By Representative Magar

This is a \$1.2 million appropriations request for another project that will reduce nutrient loads to the St. Lucie River and estuary.

**Land Acquisition Trust Fund (HB 339 & SB 786)**

By Representative Harrell and Senator Mayfield

Labeled "Legacy Florida 2.0", this legislation would establish reoccurring funds for projects in the Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. It would designate \$50 million a year as grants to be used for water-quality monitoring and storm water runoff projects, as well as septic tank conversions.

Session will end on March 9, 2018. For more information on the 2018 Florida Legislative Session, you may track bills and updates via [The Florida House](#) and [The Florida Senate's](#) websites.