

# Sustainability Update

June 2014

## Federal:

- National Flood Insurance Program: See Height Referendum
- President Obama unveiled a [carbon dioxide emissions reductions plan](#).
- The 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRDA) passed the Senate and House and is on way to President for signature. The bill authorizes 4 CERP projects: C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Broward County Water Preserve Areas, and the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project. The State has already moved forward with construction on BBCW and C-111SC, but will now be eligible for credit and federal funding once the bill becomes law. However, the Central Everglades Planning Project, due to hold ups did not make the WRDA bill, and may have to wait in limbo for Congress to take it up.
- The Presidents FY15 budget reduces funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to \$1.78B (Down \$581M). This fund provides low interest loans to communities for water infrastructure improvements. Earmarked for FY14 monies are sewer treatment infrastructure in Marathon (\$550K), Islamorada (\$6M) and Key Largo (\$2.6M).
- The President's budget does include an increase of \$76M (FY15: 1.1B) for grants to States and Tribes to implement rules that protect air and water.
- The EPA has proposed [a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act](#) that leave nearly 30% of Florida's streams and millions of acres of wetlands at risk of unchecked pollution and development.

## State:

- Governor Rick Scott continues to challenge EPA on Clean Water Act requirements, maintaining that Florida has some of the strictest rules. The House's Select Committee on Water Policy, passed HB 239, which orders the Florida DEP to ignore the EPA standards. Similar bills are stalled in Senate committees.

## Regional:

- Upcoming Four County Compact Workshop Dates Include:
  - ✓ Workshop 3: Communications: Feb 13/14
  - ✓ Workshop 4: 10 Year Water Supply: April 17/18
  - Workshop 5: Stormwater: ~~June 24/25~~ (POSTPONED: TBA)
  - Workshop 6: Adaptation Action Areas: Aug 27/28
  - Workshop 7: Tri Rail Coastal Line, Sept 17/18
  - Workshop 8: TBA: Nov 18/19

## County:

PACE: See Energy.

Solid Waste Contracts: [BOCC](#) voted to extend the Waste Management Contract.

County will issue a yard waste RFP in June.

- The Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Council workshop dates:
  - June 4 Workshop: Adaptation Action Areas
  - Oct 8 Workshop
  - Aug 13 Workshop
  - Dec 15 Workshop
- RESTORE Grant Local Pot: No updates
- Canal Restorations: [Progressing](#)

## **Municipal:**

### City of Key West

- **BV Garden Grant** – Still don't know where final home will be.
  - **Green Jobs and Futures Grant:** Students have been trained and have started weatherization. Plans for summer internship phase has begun.
  - **Sea Grant Adaptation Grant:** Held the first workshop in March for Climate Change Elements, and will soon take on Water Conservation.
  - **TIGER Grant:** Applied for Planning Grant for Bike/Ped Master Plan to USDOT. Hope to have City Manager visit with FDOT to help with process. Lobbyist is assisting.
  - **LDR's** – The RFP for the LDR consultant team should go out this month.
  - **INTERN:** I may have a volunteer to help with the GHG update.
  - **SAB Annual Report** - Got bumped from May 6 & 20, now on for June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Will include budget priorities.
  - **SAB:** We have lost two members due to resignation over the 2-1-1 solid waste contract. I would like to think about what skills/perspectives we are missing on the board if asked for recommendations.
  - **Height Referendum** – A focus group of 15-20 stakeholders will meet next week to finalize exact wording for the staff recommendation to City Commission, slated for July 1. This will give us time for any changes or tweaks in time for the Voting Ballot deadline in August.
  - **Grants (General)** – Alison is assisting on an internal grants team that reviews opportunities and aligns them with local efforts. Sustainability will be included whenever possible.
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**GLEE** – Alison is working on Fiscal Sponsorship agreement with GLEE to put legitimate umbrella and accounting measures on monies donated for the Horse Manure Shed / Bahama Village Community Garden. Also, See Green Business Month for other collaborative projects.

### **Water Quality** – February was Water Quality Month!

- Code Compliance delivered No Discharge Zone signs to all local marinas in a goodwill gesture towards getting them in compliance with the existing pumpout rules. Two marinas are in the process of upgrading their pumpouts.
- A FREE Hazwoper Class was being offered on Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, some marinas attended.

### **Transportation** – March

- The Transportation Coordination Team voted on its Transportation Budget priorities for FY15.
- Kevin Bond and Alison will be working on a commuting challenge for businesses for when the new bus routes are adopted.
- Parking really needs to be taken up as an in depth subject by the Transportation Coordination Committee, as I cannot install bike parking (or order bike racks) until a plan for the commercial corridor is approved.

### **Water** – April

- The Cistern at Indigenous Park electrical is finished! Still need to set a date for finishing the painting (Sept for Land Conservation?).

### **Youth Leadership** - May

- Local youth from the KW High School were recognized for their grand prize solar go kart, alongside middle school "Garden Companions" every Saturday volunteers from KW Botanical Garden.
- As reported in grants, the Green Jobs and Futures program student phase has finished. The leadership team is meeting next week to move forward with Phase Two, Summer Interns.

## **Green Business – June**

- On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the City and County are partnering on a “Green Business Leadership Council with the top ~15 largest employers in Key West to work with them on specific sustainability challenges surrounding our themes of Energy, Water, Solid Waste and Transportation. Those businesses that attend will be recognized by Proclamation that evening at the City Commission Meeting for Green Business Month.
- GLEE is interested in teaming up with the City to utilize the online Green Business Certification through the [Florida Green Energy Works online](#) program, which is free for all Florida based businesses. We will test the system out on their 15 currently certified businesses, who are in need of recertification. Alicia Betancourt from the County Extension Service and Alison Higgins will conduct the verification surveys in order to better understand training needed for volunteers. Training will be integrated into the upcoming Sustainable Floridian program that Alicia Betancourt is working on (like Master Gardeners).
- The Straits Lighting Company has opened up a branch in Key West, and offered to partner with USGBC and the City of Key West for a Green Business contest. They will offer a 100% free LED lighting upgrade for the business that stands to gain the most GHG’s reduced. We are still working together on a timeline. The company is also donating an upgrade to the Hemmingway House, and has offered to upgrade the City Commission chambers in time for Energy Conservation Month for their Oct 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Green Building – July**

The City & Keys Branch of USGBC hosted an overview of the Building Permit Allocation System. We now have a list of training opportunities which offer more in depth green courses for local contractors.

- ✓ March 28<sup>th</sup>: HERS Rating (8 attendees)
- ✓ April 30: Reclaimed Wood Seminar (#?)
- ✓ May 2-4: ARCOSA Certification Course (12 attendees)
- June 13<sup>th</sup>: Florida Green Building Council
- July TBD: Lighting Seminar (CEU’s offered)

## **Healthy Living: August**

I would like to do something with the Community Garden in August....

## **Land Conservation: September**

- We have discussed working with the KW Botanical Garden student volunteers on an educational program for September.
- We could also help with the International Coastal Clean up at the end of Sept. Local Charter Boat captains used to help.

## **Energy – October**

- See Green Business = Straits Lighting
- Keys Energy: Lynn Tejada will present their strategic plan to the SAB board during their Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that we can better understand their needs to better work together proactively. We plan to present back to their board, and propose a team that would create collaborative projects to meet the Climate Action Plan’s goals.
- LED streetlights: the City is still looking into the LED streetlight proposals and potential grants.
- PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy):
  - The [Florida PACE](#) Funding Agency EVest Program announced that \$200 million in financing is now available to property owners in subscribing local government jurisdictions for qualifying energy efficiency, renewable generation and wind-resistance home or commercial business improvements or repairs. The improvement financing will be repaid over time as part of the property owner's annual property tax assessment. Currently the only participating areas are Flagler and Nassau counties. The Agency's EVest Program is non-exclusive, allowing participating local governments the opportunity to retain additional PACE providers at their sole discretion.

- **The Florida Green Energy Works** program funded its first commercial deal for a \$45,000 retrofit of a family-owned business at 1101 North Tamarind in West Palm Beach. The work – new HVAC, lighting, refrigeration, windows & doors – is being done by a local contractor, **Fastrack MCI**, with funding from a local bank: **Grand Bank & Trust of Florida**.
- PACEnow has a [youtube video](#) that better explains PACE financing...

**R4** – November

- **City Recycling:** See Waste Diversion Report
- **County:** See County section.
- **Horse Compost:** Next Community Compost Day is Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am – Noon. The bulletin board is complete, and the donation box should be done within a month.

**Green Gifts** – December - No Update