

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy Authors: Christopher Dalbom, Mark Davis, Haley Gentry, and Ximena De Obaldia August 2, 2024

MERCHANDISING! MERCHANDISING! (Still)

For 12 years, TUWaterWays has graced the inboxes and spam filters of hundreds, maybe even thousands, of the world's email accounts. Over those years, we have heard back more than once that TUWaterWays is your favorite newsletter. What hasn't been said is that all that's really missing in your life is some awesome merch that would allow you to rep the creators of your favorite newsletter. But we read between the lines and knew you meant to say it. Therefore, we've taken some of the amazing designs students at Tulane's School of Professional Advancement made for us and turned it into merch! These bags and hats are currently on pre-sale, but the shop will close by August 12th. So go check it out right now! Of course, we are hoping these items are a fundraiser for us, but if you're not into any of these items, you can just make a donation! That would surely be more satisfying than just waiting until the next round of swaggy-ness drops.

Calling All Recent Law School Graduates! (Still)

Well, at least two recent law school graduates. This Institute is in the market for our newest postgraduate research fellow. It's a two-year position for someone who graduated law school with a JD or LLM degree in the last two years. This fellow will play an important role in our research, publish on a variety of water law and policy issues, supervise students, and contribute to this very newsletter. It's a program with a pretty impressive track record at this point. Find the water law job posting here.

The Water Law postgraduate fellow program has been so successful, that those handsome devils over at the Tulane Center for Environmental Law decided they needed a postgraduate research fellow of their own. This will also be a two-year position, but it will have a purview wider than just water law and concentrate on natural resource and environmental issues that affect Louisiana and related locales. Find this environmental law job posting here.

And if you have any such bright law school graduate in your life who you think might be a good fit, share this with them over the next week or two. There's a good chance they're currently not reading TUWaterWays after just going through the bar exam.

Long Island, New York and Coastal Louisiana are practically the same place

Don't believe it? It goes beyond <u>unique accents</u>. Most readers know by now that coastal Louisiana is a vast complex of marshes and other wetlands created by and dependent on rivers and streams, <u>some of them</u> somewhat notable. They both once had massive <u>offshore reefs made from billions of oysters</u>. But also, a lot of those wetlands (and oysters) have been lost thanks to actions on behalf of great national priorities like the oil and gas industry, navigation, and suburbia. They've been subjected to oil spills, both <u>old</u> and <u>new</u>. And they've been cut off from those rivers and streams.

Luckily, scientists in both Long Island and Louisiana are doing important work documenting the ongoing consequences of the centuries of decisionmaking that ignored the wetlands' value and assumed their destruction was probably even a net positive. In Louisiana, Dr. Nancy Rabalais and her team have published the results of their <u>annual survey of the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone</u> and found this year's zone is larger than average—roughly the size of New Jersey. In the dead zone, there's not enough oxygen to sustain aquatic life (if its name didn't already give that away)

thanks to an overabundance of nutrient pollution from across the Mississippi River basin making its way down to the Gulf, bypassing what's left of those wetlands. In Long Island, Dr. Dorothy Peteet and her team are doing <u>field work in what's left of Long Island's marshes</u> to get a handle on how they can be brought closer to their historic state, both in terms of grandeur and functionality, also in the face of nutrient pollution and other dangers.

Both places are facing these challenges, but are they answering them similarly? Well, the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of New York are working on marsh restoration plans, but the path forward for nourishing those marshes once they're restored is unclear. In Louisiana, the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority has its Coastal Master Plan, under which it has completed a number of marsh restoration plans, but its project to keep those marshes nourished, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, still faces an uncertain future. As for the land use creating the nutrient pollution that imperils wetlands and water bodies alike? Louisiana's been largely unwilling to press the issue with upstream states, and Long Island, well, has a plan, but it's not clear that reworking the landscape and how water flows through it is enough of a priority to drastically change the situation. So, yeah, they're pretty much the same place. Maybe Louisianians need to start cheering on the Islanders? A natural progression for Isleños, at least.

Coming Up:

Mississippi River Commission Inspection Meetings
Cape Girardeau MO, Aug. 19, 2024
Memphis TN, Aug. 20, 2024
Lake Village AR, Aug. 21, 2024
Morgan City LA, Aug. 23, 2024

Application Deadline for Coastal Leadership

Institute
August 23, 2024

Water jobs:

Senior Research Fellow; Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy; New Orleans, LA

Senior Research Fellow; Tulane Center for Environmental Law; New Orleans, LA

<u>Visiting Professor (Clinical Assistant Professor)</u>; Tulane Environmental Law Clinic; New Orleans, LA

<u>Director or US Environmental and Economic Justice Program; Namati,</u> D.C., Maryland, Virginia, or Delaware

<u>Principal Counsel, Environmental Law;</u> Berkeley Lab, San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Attorney; California State Water Resources Board

Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist; The Water Institute, Baton Rouge LA



The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy is a program of the Tulane University Law School. The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and legal stewardship of water.

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