

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
September 13, 2018

Bayou Bridge Pipeline Halted in the Atchafalaya Basin (Again? For Now?)

An agreement between plaintiffs and the pipeline builders [this week](#) is halting construction on a piece of property where the landowners are challenging the expropriation of their land for the project. This isn't the first [challenge](#) to this pipeline – set to link into the Dakota Access network- nor will it be the last. Opponents are saying this agreement freezes construction until a state court hearing in November, but builders Energy Transfer Partners [seem to say](#) they're still on schedule to link crude oil from Lake Charles to St. James Parish.

Meanwhile, more than a dozen [activists](#) are waiting for the St. Martin Parish District Attorney to decide whether or not they'll face [felony charges](#) under a new law passed this spring to discourage opposition to pipelines such as this one. However, as some of these protesters were invited by the plaintiff landowners, it's hard to imagine them guilty of trespass.

Meanwhile, [an oil export terminal](#) has been proposed for a site adjacent to the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, the river reintroduction project that is the crown jewel in the state's Coastal Master Plan. Looking to avoid a reenactment of the [RAM Terminal debacle](#), the state has held off granting any permit for this terminal – a terminal that would also incorporate a new, [you guessed it](#), pipeline to, you guessed it, St. James Parish.

You Think You Got Problems? Buddy, You Ain't A South Florida Water Manager

The Florida coast has been dealing with a red tide – a rapid increase in toxic red algae in the ocean – for [several months](#) now. It has reached as far north as [Tampa Bay](#) and has already driven away millions of [tourism dollars](#), killed countless fish and other sea life, such as manatees and dolphins.

Inland, Florida rivers have experienced explosions of toxic [blue-green algae](#). In waters fresh and salt, nutrient pollution, heavy rains, and warm temperatures create perfect conditions for algae to explode and render waters uninhabitable. Too bad there's [nothing they can do](#) about it.

Below those rivers, much of south Florida sits on the shallow, porous limestone of the Biscayne Aquifer. Much of the region's water infrastructure is intended to utilize that aquifer without getting overrun by it, but that balancing act is in serious danger. Sea level rise alone [endangers the freshness of the aquifer](#) and threatens to turn many, many [septic tanks into nasty pollution sources](#) – 90,000 or so in Miami-Dade County alone.

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 stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force Meeting](#)

September 18, 2018

Baton Rouge, LA or via webcast

[CPRA Board Meetings](#)

September 19, 2018

Baton Rouge, LA

&

October 17, 2018

Cameron, LA

[Volunteer Oyster Shell Bagging](#)

September 15, 2018

Buras, LA

Water jobs:

[Executive Vice President/Executive Director](#)

American Water Resources Association

Middleburg, VA

[Mississippi River Network Policy Manager](#)

Mississippi River Network

Chicago, IL or location near MS River

[GIS Professional](#)

Dewberry

Baton Rouge or New Orleans, LA

[Assistant Professor, Environmental Law](#)

[and Policy](#)

Colorado College

Colorado Springs, CO

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But at least Florida has mangrove trees. Mangrove forests are great (unless you're in [Hawaii](#)). They're incredible ecosystems home to fish nurseries and [very cool animals](#). And a new [study](#) shows increasing temperatures will allow the expansion of mangroves into more of Florida. Should these forests be allowed to grow and expand into areas predominantly of salt marsh, they seem to be able to build soil at a rate that could [keep up with sea level rise](#). Plus, the forests do more to slow down storm speed and surge than do the marshes. Florida's got enough problems with invasive species, but the mangroves could support some neat ones – wouldn't they like some [three-toed sloths](#) to go with their [super-pythons](#)?

Won't Someone Please Do Something About the Garbage Patch!?!

Well, someone is. And that someone is Ocean Cleanup, a nonprofit started by a young Dutch person who went diving and saw more plastic pollution than fish. So what's Ocean Cleanup doing? [Launching a massive 2,000 foot long trap](#) to try to collect 150,000 pounds of trash in its first year. Will it work? Well, it has its doubters, but kudos to them for trying. [Godspeed, giant doodle](#).

Want to See Just How Little You Know About Molecular Science?

Then check out this new [article](#) about how water can be both fast and slow at the same time and how it [transitions from fragile to strong](#). Still not sure exactly what those things mean, but these being molecules and not characters in an action movie, it's probably not through a [training montage and stirring music](#). Too bad.

Dear Miss Michigan, Please Apply to Tulane Law School

[What else is there to say?](#)