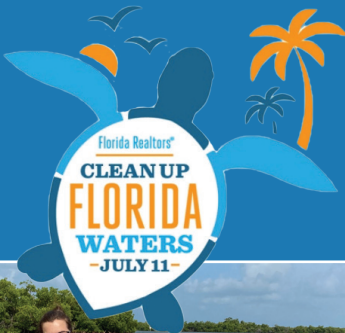


August 2020

Naples Area Board of REALTORS®

Water Quality Advisory



As the voice of REALTORS® in the Naples area, NABOR® has and will always advocate for action to reduce or eliminate any man-made or environmental threats to home ownership, property values and the living standards in Florida.

NABOR® MEMBERS & FRIENDS CLEAN LOCAL WATERWAYS



As part of Florida Realtors® “Clean Up Florida Waterways” state-wide community-service project, which ran July 4 - 11, 2020, dozens of NABOR® members and volunteer allies descended upon several key Collier County watershed locations to rid them of trash. Led by NABOR®

President-elect and Water Quality Task Force Chair Corey McCloskey, the team spent the week filling bags with waste collected from miles of canals, backwater inlets and retention ponds around the county.

According to Florida Realtors®, tons of waste were removed from Florida’s precious waterways by members across the entire state during this week-long project.

“Our waterways are more than just a beautiful photo backdrop for tourists,” said McCloskey. “They are home to a variety of native birds, animals, plants, fish and sea creatures that are an important part of the cycle of marine life.”

The team of volunteers worked as a group along Vanderbilt Drive, Pine Ridge Road, and Rookery Bay.



Among the items removed were a tire, fishing line, glass bottles, and plastic bags. Special thanks to NABOR® members and volunteers: Marisol Alasevich, Melissa Baker, Nick Bobzien, Melissa Bognaski, Sara Brand, Matthew Brown, Sally Cramer, Atia Hart, Heather Haynes, James Hinson, Austin Howell, Danielle Hudson, David Jablonski, David Luciano, Cheyenne Luckey, Corey McCloskey, Lauren Melo, Josh Neely, Pamela Omer, Thomas Regan, Theresa Scalise, Gretchen Shelton, PJ Smith, Michael Soulard, Stuart Tackett and Jon Vollmer.



HEMP4WATER STUDY UNDERWAY IN FLORIDA

A new study by Hemp4Water™, a registered Florida-based 501c3 organization aims to determine whether industrial hemp plants can be used to reduce the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in distressed Florida waterways. In collaboration with South Florida State College and with permits from the Florida Department of Agriculture to cultivate industrial hemp, the project is called the Florida Industrial Hemp Pilot Project Program.

The project is underway in Avon Park where plants are situated on floating bio-mats so they may be grown hydroponically, feeding from impaired water bodies directly. This is the first hemp fiber oriented pilot program in the State of Florida. Sister studies by Hemp4Water™ are also being done in Texas, Michigan and Louisiana. Learn more about how you can support this project at hemp4water.org.

STATE BUDGET CUTS HURT SEPTIC PROJECT

As reported in the July 2019 issue of the *Water Quality Advisory* newsletter, a much-needed \$14 million project to convert over 1,200 homes in the City of Naples to city sewer service from septic systems was scheduled to be done in two phases. Unfortunately, Phase Two has encountered a snag as Governor Ron DeSantis recently vetoed a bill that would have provided a \$1.1 million appropriation to the project. The project was originally greenlit in 2019 after Governor DeSantis included septic tank cleanup as a priority in an executive order that sought \$2.5 billion in the next four years to combat red tide and blue-green algae blooms and to restore the Everglades.

The City of Naples utility infrastructure improvement plan included a massive septic conversion project for six sections within the city to improve drainage, overall water quality and reduce pollution. During Phase One about 350 homes were converted to sewer using a portion of city and state-matched funds, and also at a cost of \$13,300 per homeowner. Homeowners chose to either pay the assessment in full or defer the cost on their tax bill for 20 years, at a rate of about \$980 per year.

Without state funding for Phase Two, the city and residents may be liable for a larger portion of the bill. REALTORS® working with sellers and buyers in the remaining sections should be aware of this issue for the properties affected.



BEACHY NEWS

Residents passing through Gordon Pass on boats report seeing dredge equipment on the shores of north Keewaydin Island. The Army Corps of Engineers planned to dredge the pass in the summer of 2019, but it was delayed due to reallocation of state funds for projects related to hurricane recovery. The pass, which is a federal channel, must be dredged regularly due to shoaling. The last dredging of the pass was in 2016. This should make boaters with large vessels happy as they won't have to worry about hitting bottom anymore.

Beach renourishment projects in the City of Naples will start again in November with 35,000 tons of sand being brought in and laid along a stretch of Naples Beach from Doctors Pass to just north of Lowdermilk Park. Be sure to tell your customers to expect some beach access closures during the project window and that it is scheduled to be finished before visitors arrive for Thanksgiving.

RESOURCES

[Calusa WaterKeeper](#)

[Captains for Clean Water](#)

[Collier County WaterKeeper](#)

[Collier County Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Daily Red Tide Reports](#)

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