

CANALS LACK BIODIVERSITY

As reported in “Lack of nutrient criteria in Collier’s canals leaves gaps in water quality restoration,” by Karl Schneider and published by Naples Daily News on June 8th, a study in 2019 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection found 21 of the 57 canals located in Collier County don’t meet one or more water quality guidelines.

According to Rhonda Watkins, Collier County’s pollution control manager, the issue stems from the fact that the county manages the canals to include their:

- water levels,
- flow,
- aquatic plants, and
- dredging of the bottom surface.

While the upkeep is meant to reduce flooding in Collier neighborhoods, the lack of biological diversity can impair the water, which eventually reaches large bodies of water including Naples Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Left unchecked, poor canal water quality can lead to potential algae blooms or feed coastal red tide. And while coastal waters have set standards for nutrient pollution, none of the inland canals that flow into the Gulf do, said Watkins. Fortunately, the county has a pollution control ordinance in place, so discharges into canals must meet standards. Currently, the only solution available to the county is to educate residents on fertilizer output to reduce the level of nutrients going into canals.

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.

SIGN UP TO JOIN NABOR® BEACH CLEANUP EVENTS

Naples Area Board of REALTORS® (NABOR®) is spearheading local efforts to clean up area waterways as part of Florida Realtors®’ **Clean Up Florida’s Waters** project during July. NABOR® members are encouraged to register as participants for a **Friday, July 9th 8:30 a.m. clean-up event at Delnor-Wiggins Pass Park** hosted by NABOR® Young Professionals, and on **Wednesday, July 28th 8:30 a.m. for a public clean-up event at Lowdermilk Park** organized by NABOR®.

“We’re going to clean the beach of trash so residents, visitors and our precious local wildlife can continue to enjoy a safe experience on our shores,” said Corey McCloskey, NABOR® President. “Discarded items left by humans are an avoidable factor that has been found to impair the life cycle of many shoreline animals and aquatic life. Our goal is to not only clean the beaches, but also increase community awareness of beachgoing behaviors that cause water pollution.”

The statewide push encourages REALTORS® and residents to join forces to pick up trash and clean the state’s lakes, rivers, streams, retention ponds, bays, Intracoastal Waterway,



McCloskey's Water Quality & Real Estate Insight a Plus



President Corey McCloskey (center and featured on the big screen) was an expert panelist during the 2021 Market Watch event hosted by Naples Daily News at Hertz Arena on June 3, 2021.

On June 3rd, NABOR® President and Water Quality Task Force Co-Chair Corey McCloskey was a featured panelist at Hertz Arena where hundreds of residents heard from experts on the latest developments in real estate. The “Market Watch” event, hosted by Naples Daily News, included professionals from nearly every part of the real estate industry. McCloskey’s participation added clarity to comments and discussions regarding the state of our area’s water quality to include how state and local projects and ordinances are protecting our environment and how they will improve real estate values in the future.

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Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Participants can keep up with their progress using a Clean Swell app, a tool developed by Ocean Conservancy that tracks clean-up history, time spent, distance covered, and pounds of trash removed.

NABOR® will provide bottles of water and pick-up supplies to anyone who registers for the free events and joins the scheduled cleanup events in July. More information about the statewide project can be found on Florida Realtors’ Florida Waterways Cleanup Event page.

ARTICLE LINKS:

[Register for the July 9th Cleanup](#)

[Register for July 28th Cleanup](#)

[Clean Swell app](#)

[Florida Realtors’ Florida Waterways Cleanup Event](#)

Where to Flow Lake O?

A workshop to discuss a proposed Lake Okeechobee Systems Operating Manual, being developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was held on June 29th at the South Florida Water Management District offices. In addition to a coalition of Florida water quality groups, several other vested businesses and members of the public were in attendance to give their support or disapproval of the six draft versions being reviewed. If amended properly, Plan CC was preferred among water quality groups as it would send more water south to the Everglades and eliminate harmful discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. Others, including agents with the sugar industry, prefer Plan BB, which would maintain discharges into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers for at least another decade. On July 7th, each of the stakeholder agencies represented will identify their preferred plan.

RESOURCES

[Calusa WaterKeeper](#)

[Captains for Clean Water](#)

[Collier County WaterKeeper](#)

[Collier County Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Daily Red Tide Reports](#)

[protectingfloridatogether.gov](#)