



Suggested 2020 Legislative Action

To insure clean waterways and provide ample drinking water for future generations, the Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County (CWC) recommends:

1. Florida transition to 21st Century wastewater treatment. We support the funding of pilot projects for closed-cycle systems that eliminate human waste products containing excessive nitrogen, phosphorous and other toxic and dangerous chemical compounds typically found in sewage sludge, ie: pharmaceuticals, viruses, and other contaminants of emerging concern. Such a process will eliminate the need for land application of the waste sludge (biosolids) and produce clean water to be reused.
2. The State to develop long-term funding sources (via Water Management Districts Ad Valorem taxes and/or Water Withdrawal Fee) for cities and counties to address their respective needs for reducing pollution. These needs include:
 - A. Conversion of Septic Systems to Sewer – given that Florida has an estimated 2.7 million septic systems of which 40% have been identified in high risk locations and an estimated 50% are pre-1983 installations with mere 6” separation between the drain field and the high-water table and are located in high density (urban) settings in close proximity to water bodies
 - B. Prior to receiving grant funding from the State, require all Utilities to have an Asset Management Plan to accommodate anticipated growth and the additional capacity and concentrations generated by pumps out during routine septic system inspections.
 - C. A penalty system for sewage spills must be designed that forces utilities to make the necessary expansion or repair to prevent repeat offences.
 - D. Upgrade Municipal Sewage Plants to Advanced Wastewater Treatment(AWT) It is recommended that all plants be upgraded to AWT within 15 years from legislation passed in this regard. This will allow time for the municipalities to plan and engineer the upgrade and apply to the State for financial assistance.
 - E. Building of infrastructure to prevent or filter storm water runoff from urban, suburban and agricultural sources.

3. New Regulation be established to address the nutrient pollution from septic systems:
 - a. All newly permitted septic systems that are located on a barrier island or within 60 meters of any impaired waterbody system shoreline including natural or manmade tributaries, and within 40 meters of all other waterbodies should be required to be an advanced treatment system capable of removing a minimum of 65% of the nitrogen loading. This restriction is currently in effect in Brevard County.
 - b. Existing septic systems need to be inspected every 5 years to ensure they are functioning properly and being adequately maintained to prevent surface and ground water contamination.
 - c. Repairs of pre-1983 septic systems must be corrected to provide 24" separation between the drainfield and the high-water table or be replaced with an advanced treatment system capable of removing 50% of the N loading.
4. The revised (and shelved) Statewide Stormwater Rule needs to be implemented.
5. New Regulation be established to prevent the disposal and or runoff of contaminants of emerging concern such as glyphosate, industrial chemicals, and pesticides into waterbodies and provide adequate monitoring to ensure compliance.
6. Sufficient funding be provided to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to post notice and strictly enforce the State's Marine No Discharge Regulation to prevent the dumping of sewage into our waters by transient and live-aboard boaters.
7. The Land Acquisition Trust Fund, including Florida Forever and the Rural Lands Legacy programs receive full funding as intended by voters in Amendment 1. The acquisition of conservation lands is crucial for nutrient removal and for maintaining/filtering Florida's potable water supply.
8. Every State watershed not in compliance with Clean Water Act standards be required to develop and implement a Basin Management Action Plan with Total Maximum Daily Load reductions for Nitrogen, Phosphorus and sediments. The State must assign responsibilities and deadlines and provide funding for sufficient monitoring and testing to ensure compliance. There should be NO exceptions to the TMDL's, including agricultural lands within the respective watershed. Sea Level Rise must be calculated into the TMDL process in all BMAPs.
9. Responsible growth management be established by reintroducing the Department of Community Affairs, along with the necessary regulation, to ensure that the State protects the natural resources (wetlands, endangered species, wildlife corridors), has adequate infrastructure (roads, sewage treatment capacity, parks, recreation, beach access, dock access) and resources (adequate water supply) for new growth and provides needs analysis before new large-scale land use changes are granted. Growth management should include planning for Sea Level Rise (SLR) beginning with all of the State's coastal areas.