

April 2021

STATE TO CLOSE PINEY POINT

In addition to authorizing \$115 million to shut down the Piney Point reservoir – where a former phosphorous plant company in Manatee County kept wastewater for years until a leak in April caused alarm and required emergency repairs and proactive steps to reduce catastrophic results – Governor DeSantis directed the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) “to fully investigate the incidents at Piney Point and to take any and all legal actions to ensure we hold HRK Holding and any other actors fully accountable.”

More than 300 homes were evacuated for fear of flooding when the leak was detected. In response, the state ordered over 200 million gallons of wastewater to be discharged into Tampa Bay to mitigate unforeseeable problems from the leak, which occurred in a 77-acre reservoir on property owned by the phosphorus plant company. The leak was eventually plugged using rocks. Discharges ended April 9th.

The main concern is algae blooms. Phosphorus and nitrogen, which feed toxic red tide algae blooms, were present in the water discharges that entered Tampa Bay. But, recent water quality monitoring shows new red tide conditions in the area are not a direct result of the Piney Point discharges. However, elevated nutrients have the potential to exacerbate blooms.

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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 REDUCE WATER POLLUTION RISKS

Over three dozen NABOR® members joined forces on **Earth Day** – Thursday, April 22nd – with the common goal of collecting trash to clean up the area near Cocohatchee River Park. The clean-up event was organized by NABOR®’s Community Involvement Committee and included participation by President Corey McCloskey and Vice President/Secretary Adam Vellano, who are also Water Quality Task Force members.

Trash clean-up events are an important environmental necessity in order to reduce water contamination threats in Southwest Florida. In recognition of the most unique find, Heather Haynes, Chair of the Community Involvement Committee, will treat volunteer **Suzanne McGuire** to lunch. Suzanne found a part from a power pole (see photo at right).

Other items found included a bicycle tire, pelican’s skull, fire extinguisher, cooler, five-gallon bucket of paint, and lots of trash.

A big thank you to our volunteers who have inspired action in support of keeping our waterways clean.



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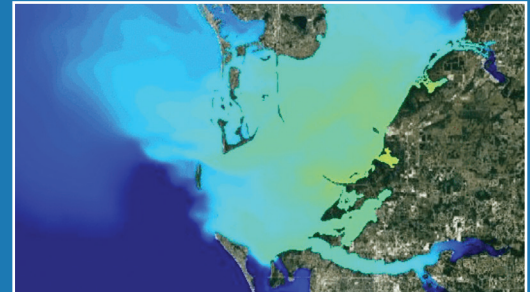


Clockwise from top:
 President Corey McCloskey; Juan Chaparro and Stephanie Ross; Carianne Czajkowski, Claire Gogan, Juliana De Lorenzo, Jordan Thomas, and Thamara Pamankada; and Vice President/Secretary Adam Vellano.



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Scientists at USF's College of Marine Science in St. Petersburg are forecasting where the plume of polluted water from Piney Point will go. Source: USF College of Marine Science Ocean Circulation Lab.

The University of South Florida College of Marine Science is tracking red tide and ocean currents to understand the transport, transformation and fate of contaminants in wastewater released into Tampa Bay from the retired Piney Point fertilizer plant.

Multiple educational institutions, governmental agencies and environmental organizations are also collecting samples in the wake of the discharge. Results will be released as they are completed.

Tamiami Trail Removed to Improve Everglades Flow

Scheduled for completion by January 2022, efforts to remove over five miles of roadbed from Old Tamiami Trail near Miami have begun as part of the Central Everglades Planning Project. Removal will “increase the flow of clean, freshwater into the Northeast Shark River Slough by more than 220 billion gallons per year and support reduced estuary discharges,” said Governor DeSantis. The old road acted as a dam for nearly 100 years until it was elevated in recent years as part of the project. In the 2021 spending plan approved by the Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, \$786 million is allocated to Everglades restoration and water projects.

RESOURCES

[Calusa WaterKeeper](#)

[Captains for Clean Water](#)

[Collier County WaterKeeper](#)

[Collier County Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Daily Red Tide Reports](#)

[protectingfloridatogether.gov](#)