



Lee County Board of County Commissioners' Investment in Water-Related Projects

Funding Commitment:

- \$25 million spent on projects in the last five to 10 years.
- \$12.2 million planned for future projects.
- \$60 million roughly estimated in expenditures during the next 15 years for state-mandated TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) compliance.
- \$96 million spent during last five years in capital and operations toward stormwater-management activities.
- \$316 million spent on purchase of 25,000 acres of Conservation 2020 land.

Milestones:

1980	Six Mile Cypress Slough Land Purchases
1989	CREW Land Purchases
Late 1980s, Early 1990s	Weir structures added to Six Mile Cypress, Kehl Canal, Whiskey Creek to retain water
1996	Conservation 2020 Program
1997	NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) MS4 permit holder
2005	Ten Mile Canal – first filter marsh
2007	Northern Everglades Estuary Protection Act (NEEPA)- Boma purchase
2008-9/2012	TMDL/ BMAP stakeholder

Time Commitment:

Since the late 1980s, Lee County has taken proactive measures to address impairments to local waterways and preserve the natural system:

- The current County Commissioners have made frequent visits to Washington, D.C., Tallahassee, West Palm Beach and Okeechobee for water-related meetings as well as to other Florida west coast counties.
- They have dedicated countless hours both in-county and out of town on water-related issues working with local, state and federal officials advocating supportive policy and obtaining funds for current and future projects geared toward improving water quality.

Other Information:

- Caloosahatchee River flows about 70 miles from Moore Haven to San Carlos Bay.
- Caloosahatchee Watershed is about 1,400 square miles. When it is wet and Lee receives water releases from Lake Okeechobee, the contributing watershed nearly doubles, extending north to Orlando.
- More than 80 percent of the nutrient loading to the Caloosahatchee estuary is derived from east of Franklin Locks, making this not only a local issue but a regional issue.
- January 2016 was the wettest since record-keeping began, with an average of 11.2 inches of rain in Lee County.
- An additional foot of water storage on C2020 lands within the Caloosahatchee Watershed would hold the equivalent of 22 hours of Lake Okeechobee high releases. (Additional water storage on 2020 lands would entail extensive physical alterations with associated costs and permitting of infrastructure.)