

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
March 18, 2013

## ***House Passes Bill to Study Group Flood Insurance Policies***

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (a remarkable feat itself these days) authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to study the possibility of issuing flood insurance policies on a community wide basis. Interest in changing the way flood insurance is handled and turning it into more of an actual insurance program paid for by premiums has grown in recent years. The bill, [H.R. 1035](#), passed 397-17. Next stop, the Senate.

## ***It's Spring and Congress's Thoughts Turn to Water Resource Development***

Once upon a time Congress would churn out a bill authorize a new raft of water resources public works projects and policies every two years. Those days are long gone as are the days of flush budgets and earmarks but the need to revisit our nation's water project docket persists. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has just released its version of the Water Resources Development Act which will serve as the launching pad for much spirited discussion fueled by a wide range of needs, desires, concerns and fears. You can see the Senate bill by clicking [here](#).

The House has yet to release a bill though House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairperson Bill Shuster has signaled both an intention to take up WRDA in the House and the challenges of having to produce one without specific project earmarks.

## ***Commission to Governor: Hands Off Our Funds***

Tough times tend to spur creativity when it comes to plugging holes in state budgets but the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has threatened to Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal if the State (yes the same state government the Commission is part of) continues to take funds from the Artificial Reef Development Fund. In 2011 the State took \$26.6 million from what the Commission and others contend is a constitutionally protected fund. Beyond the question of whether this diversion of funds was kosher is the larger question of just how certain it is that future coastal restoration dollars such as those slated to come from the RESTORE Act will in fact go to their targeted purpose. Find more [here](#) and [here](#):

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

## **Coming up:**

[March 24-26, 2013](#)

**Center for Natural Resources and Economic Policy (CNREP)**  
"CNREP 2013: Challenges of Natural Resources and Economic Policy"  
New Orleans, LA

[May 10, 2013](#)

**Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Coastal Stewardship Award Banquet**  
Baton Rouge, LA

[June 6-7, 2013](#)

**American Bar Association's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Water Law Conference**  
Las Vegas, NV

## **Job Announcement:**

**Upper Mississippi River Basin Association**  
**[Executive Director](#)** (March 26 deadline)

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### ***Hands Off Those Dollars (Part 2)***

The desire to keep RESTORE Act dollars received by Louisiana focused on coastal restoration and protection is the subject of at least two bills filed in advance of the upcoming regular session of the Louisiana Legislature. These bills require that any RESTORE funds be deposited in State's Coastal Restoration and Protection Trust Fund. The two bills are [HB 118](#) filed by Rep. Champagne and [HB 94](#) by Rep. Garafalo

### ***Wet but Dry: India Struggles For Drinkable Water***

India can be a very wet place with some places getting more than 40 feet (not inches) of rain each year. But having water and water you can drink are different things as India increasingly is finding. Growing demand, weak infrastructure, and dwindling groundwater are all [adding up](#) to a major headache for one of world's fastest growing economies.

