

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
April 19, 2017

Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan Update Passes Hurdle

Like [steepchase](#), the process of creating and adopting an update to Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan is long and full of obstacles. Releasing the draft of the plan in January was a big hurdle. Since then the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority have received [comments galore](#) and been part of a [campaign](#) to marshal approval for the plan. [It's worked](#). So today the CPRA Board voted [unanimously](#) to [approve](#) the final [version of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan](#). The plan will now go to the Louisiana Legislature for an up or down vote.

Avast Me Hearties, that Water Now be Mine!

River Piracy! Now we're talking about some exciting, [swashbuckling water action](#)! But wait, it turns out that when scientists talk about river piracy they don't mean what most people think piracy means. Apparently, in those circles river piracy happens when one river takes water from another river without getting anyone's permission. But that doesn't mean it can't be cool, as demonstrated in Canada (which has a deep [history of river pirates](#)) by the crafty Slims River which somehow managed to convince the Kaskawulsh Glacier to send water to it instead of its traditional distributary, the (now ironically named) Kaskawulsh River. Actually, scientists writing about the shift in the journal [Nature Geoscience](#) attribute the shift more to climate change than any charms or inducements offered by the Slims. While it is doubtful this shift will have a big impact on any of our readers, it is a reminder that rivers and glaciers are often partners. Just because water works one way today, that's no guarantee that it will work that way tomorrow and the impacts of glacial change [go way beyond](#) the occasional act of piracy.

Did You Just Feel Something?

Something like the metaphoric [earth moving under your feet](#)? If you live in a coastal area, that just might have been the vibrations from the growing realization that rising seas are changing the way that the insurance industry sees the future of coastal communities. It is not the way local boosters have seen it. It turns out that rising water means rising risk, which is not something that leads to cheap insurance. And when you can't finance homes and businesses, they tend to move to safer places. Which is exactly what a paper published in [Nature Climate Change](#) predicts. Some of this is not really news. But when someone projects up to 2.5 million people

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:

[GiveNOLA Day](#)

May 2nd

Water jobs:

[Assoc. VP for Water and Sustainability](#)

Fresno State University

Fresno, CA

[Advocacy Director](#)

Neponset River Watershed Association

Canton, MA

[Program Director \(Climate Resilience\)](#)

Sonoran Institute

Phoenix, AZ

[Associate \(Policy\)](#)

Ceres

Boston, MA

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leaving Florida, and when it becomes clear that it is not just [Florida](#) and Louisiana but places like [Connecticut](#), the [Eastern Seaboard](#) and [California](#) that will be impacted, maybe it's time to ask if something bigger is afoot. Especially when those leaving wet areas consider moving to drier places that have their own issues with water supplies. The answer most assuredly is yes, something big is afoot, and the sooner it is faced as a management issue instead of a political one (don't worry, there is still plenty of room for politics) the better.

Give NOLA Day May 2, A Chance to Show Your Love

We are pleased to provide the newsletter for free, but that doesn't mean that it costs nothing to produce. Like the rest of our work here at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy, this newsletter depends on gifts and grants to happen. If you have been looking for a way to support that work, we have just the ticket: [Give NOLA Day](#) on May 2nd. Thanks to the Greater New Orleans Foundation, Give NOLA Day allows groups like ours a chance to ask for support across the community with the potential for receiving a measure of matching support from GNOF itself. So go to our [profile page](#), it's easy, painless, and sure to make you feel better. Please consider it. Thanks.