

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
September 21, 2012

Bob Marshall Asks, "What Have You Done?"

A must read by the Times-Picayune's outgoing Outdoors Editor.

[We all need to save the Gulf Coast, Bob Marshall, The Times-Picayune, September 21, 2012](#)

Louisiana DEQ Fines Stolthaven \$12,000 for Toxic Chemical Release

Louisiana DEQ has fined Stolthaven \$12,000 for not reporting its spill quickly. Stolthaven, which operates a petroleum and chemical storage facility south of New Orleans that released chemicals during Hurricane Isaac, has reported differing amounts of released chemicals ranging from zero to 191,000 gallons. Louisiana DEQ is continuing its investigation and has yet to fine the facility for any actual release.

[Stolthaven says reported amount of toxic chemicals released was an error, Mark Schleifstein, The Times-Picayune, September 14, 2012.](#)

[Stolthaven fined \\$12,000 for failing to quickly report chemical release following Hurricane Isaac, The Times-Picayune, September 18, 2012.](#)

Tierra & American Carbon Registry: A Home Grown First

Wetland restoration in the Mississippi Delta is vital to our coast's survival, but the effort is costly. Thankfully the American Carbon Registry recently certified a methodology for carbon sequestration through blue carbon, which is carbon dioxide stored in mangroves, seagrass, and coastal wetlands. In an effort to provide a new mechanism for financing, Tierra Resources, LLC partnered with Entergy Corporation's Environmental Initiatives Fund to develop the Restoration of Degraded Deltaic Wetlands of the Mississippi Delta. This will provide land owners, industries and governmental entities the lucrative financial vehicle of carbon credits to pay for the restoration of degraded coastal wetlands while simultaneously reducing carbon emissions and protecting our coastline. .

[American Carbon Registry Approves First Carbon Offset Methodology for Emission Reductions from Deltaic Wetland Restoration, American Carbon Registry, September 18, 2012.](#)

New Report on Community Adaptation for Resiliency and Sustainability

The America's Wetland Foundation released a new report calling for federal action and cooperation among Gulf Coast states. Based on leadership forums from AWF's Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities initiative, the report aims to show the way to a Gulf Coast that is more resilient and sustainable for communities.

[Beyond Unintended Consequences: Adaptation for Gulf Coast Resiliency and Sustainability.](#)

How to Clean Up after a Flood

Because we'll all have to, sooner or later.

[Cleaning Flood-damaged Homes. LSU AgCenter Research & Extension.](#)

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:

[September 25, 2012](#)

Louisiana Hypoxia Meeting
10:00 AM

Room 1215

LSU Coast & Environment Building

[September 25-27, 2012](#)

America's Great Watershed
Initiative Summit
St. Louis, MO

[October 17, 2012](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Thrives"
Memphis, TN

[October 20-25, 2012](#)

Restore America's Estuaries Conference
Tampa, FL

[February 22-23, 2013](#)

18th Annual Tulane Environmental Summit

Tulane Institute
on Water Resources Law & Policy

6329 Freret Street, Suite 155G
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-865-5982

<http://www.law.tulane.edu/enlaw/>

NOAA Releases Atlas for Early Deepwater Horizon Restoration Projects.

Projects to restore damage to the Gulf Coast caused by the Deepwater Horizon have begun. These projects, funded by the \$1 billion down payment for natural resource damages made by BP, can be found in the online Atlas.

[Early Restoration Projects Atlas, NOAA.](#)

New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Proposes New Structure to Rate Hike

The Board's latest offering in its attempt to raise much needed funds in a very tough environment. Notable is the shift in tone away from focusing just on the costs the additional revenues would cover to highlighting the values that could be added if the Board had a greater and more dependable revenue stream.

[New Orleans water and sewer rate would rise more slowly under latest staff proposal, Richard Rainey, The Times-Picayune, September 19, 2012.](#)

St. John the Baptist Parish Still Unsettled Post-Isaac

While some St. John residents question parish council members as to why there was no mandatory evacuation order, others are questioning the possibility of a hurricane levee to protect the parish's east bank from tidal flooding. Although President Obama, while touring the area after Isaac, promised expedited action by the federal government, progress is less than imminent on a levee that has been sought since Hurricane Betsy in 1965. The Corps lacks funding for the project and the theoretical levee's alignment has yet to be settled on.

[No tidal flooding protection in store soon for vulnerable St. John neighborhoods, Matt Scallan, The Times-Picayune, September 18, 2012.](#)

[St. John residents, council question lack of mandatory evacuation order for Isaac, Jennifer Boquet, The Times-Picayune, September 19, 2012.](#)

Former EPA Secretary Russell Train Passes Away

Celebrating the life of one of the most important figures in American environmental protection and stewardship. Russell Train was the first Chairperson of the White House Council on Environmental Policy serving President Nixon and was Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under President Ford. His stamp is on more U.S. environmental law and policy than perhaps any other individual. His life was a testament to what public service can be.

[Russell E. Train, former EPA head, dies at 92, Juliet Eilperin, The Washington Post, September 17, 2012.](#)

Save our Shore: Volunteer for the Coast

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and Abita Beer are sponsoring an effort to install dune fences and plant dune grass on Grand Isle on Saturday, September 29th.

[SAVE OUR SHORE: VOLUNTEER FOR THE COAST WITH ABITA BEER AND CRCL.](#)

Ruling Leans on Colorado Developments to Further Unsustainable Groundwater Dependency

A recent ruling in Douglas County, Colorado, forces new developments to obtain water rights for the population of the development's maximum buildout before the project begins. This comes at a time when many in the Denver area, including developers, are trying to wean themselves off of limited aquifers accessed by deep wells. Should this ruling stand, developments that are to incorporate efficiencies and rainwater retention will nonetheless have to pay for water rights in deep wells tapping aquifers – water rights that have largely been bought up by billionaire Phil Anschutz.

[Aquifer wells in Douglas County challenge renewable-water strategies, Bruce Finley, The Denver Post, September 14, 2012.](#)

Arctic Sea Ice Smaller Than Ever

This year, the end-of-summer sea ice over the Arctic Ocean is the smallest ever recorded – nearly 50% lower than the average minimum sea ice from 1979 to 2000. Rapid melting over the past two weeks indicates that the ice remaining is thinner than (the old) normal. The potential ramifications for an Arctic Ocean without sea ice are great and widespread. Therefore, many countries have started jockeying for position to access newly available Arctic resources. Even countries without an Arctic border, like China, are lining up to exploit oil, gas, and minerals that are potentially available.

[Arctic sea ice shrinks to lowest ever level, Al Jazeera, September 20, 2012.](#)

[Race Is On as Ice Melt Reveals Arctic Treasures, Elisabeth Rosenthal, The New York Times, September 18, 2012.](#)

Climate Change and Deforestation Make Water Unpredictable and Dangerous in El Salvador

Rising sea levels kill mangroves and destroy livelihoods along El Salvador's coast. Increasing extreme weather events drench a countryside denuded of 98% of its forests. Together, all this makes an increasingly untenable situation playing out across the globe – a situation in need of whole, integrated water management.

[El Salvador in battle against tide of climate change, Simeon Tegel, The Independent, September 18, 2012.](#)