

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
July 23, 2014

We've Moved!

One door down! Those of you lucky enough to have visited us in the past knew our offices in Tulane Law School's Weinmann Hall. Well, as of this week we are now next door in the Tulane Law School Annex at 6325 Freret Street (#33 on your Tulane Campus Map, but #1 in your heart). We're excited about the move and hope it will even allow for future staff expansion. We're still settling in, but come by and visit us in our new digs.

Community Organizations and New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Receive Urban Water Grants from EPA

Congrats to NOSWB, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Global Green, and others on [receiving \\$338k](#) from the EPA's Urban Waters program. The EPA gave more than [\\$2.1M to 37 groups](#) across the country, but six of those groups are here in New Orleans. The grants will be used for various programs targeting stormwater management, public education, and pollution reduction. We hope to see the benefits of these grants around town in the coming years and expect them to go hand-in-hand with the [New Orleans' Urban Water Plan](#).

Water Plans are the New Black: State Water Plans Keep Flowing Towards Completion

More than a dozen [state water plans](#) are being developed or updated this year – well more than in previous years. These states have various motivations, but they all fall under the basic category of “greater demand and/or less reliable supply.” The plans intend to create a cohesive, long-term blueprint for water use, infrastructure, and conservation. [Kansas](#) and [Arkansas'](#) draft plans are now available for public review, and Colorado's will be coming later this year. We can't recommend the drafting of a state water plan highly enough. If you're not planning for your waters, rest assured, someone else is.

That “Someone Else” Who is Planning for Your Water is Probably an Entrepreneur from Texas

We covered Texas to death [last week](#), but we would be remiss if we didn't follow up with two pieces this week. First, a [water exchange](#) has started up in Texas, and we'll be curious to see how it plays out. It is based on the Australian water market that took two decades to work out its kinks. Does Texas have two decades to figure it out? We'll see. The market will trade groundwater acquired under Texas' rule of capture

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:

[Louisiana Water Resources Commission Meeting](#)
July 30, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

LaBelle Room, LaSalle Building
617 N. 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA

[Restore America's Estuaries and Coastal Society Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration](#)
November 1-6, 2014
Washington, DC

Water jobs:

[Water Resources Manager](#)
National Wildlife Federation
Water Protection Network & MS River Network
Washington, DC

[Communications Director](#)
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Baton Rouge, LA

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groundwater laws (“[I drink your milkshake](#)”), but how it will account for the public trust, if at all, is unclear. Well, how does Texas account for the public trust with water generally? Not well, it seems. If you read anything we link to this week, read “[Who Stole the Water](#)” by Paul Solotaroff. This longish read is a great summation of how Texas’ water issues have been compounded in the last two decades. This article is exactly why states, all states, need to get their water plans in order.

State of the Climate Report Released by NOAA. Its Verdict? Warm.

NOAA released its annual [State of the Climate](#) report this week. The [New York Times](#) and [Circle of Blue](#) have quality summaries and images. So what do we know about 2013’s climate? Ice in the Arctic continues to shrink (the Northwest Passage is real!) and ice in the Antarctic continues to grow. Concentrations of greenhouse gases are higher than ever recorded, and 2013 was one of the warmest years on record. Oh, and sea level rise continues at about 3mm per year. So, climate change and sea level rise are happening. We are [underprepared](#), but places like [Pensacola](#) are taking notice and forming task forces to address it at a local level.

Foreclosed Basements for Stormwater Storage? Milwaukee’s Considering it

Milwaukee has seen an increase in storms and flooding over the past few years. It has also seen its stock of foreclosed homes grow. They’re hoping one problem can help to solve the other. The idea, essentially, is to relieve the flooding in the basements of inhabited homes by increasing the flooding in uninhabited homes. So far, this is just at the [feasibility study](#) level, but stay tuned. Milwaukee is a city [making a push](#) to be a leader of water science and policy, and a splashy new move like this could bring even more attention to their water-related efforts.

Classic Western Coming to Life in Northern India

[Banditos](#) in a dry region of northern India are demanding a “water tax” from dozens of villages. Each village in the area of southern Uttar Pradesh must deliver a “water tax” of 35 buckets of water per day to the bandits or be shot dead. Years of weak monsoons have made water hard to come by and accessing it could draw the bandits out where they would cross paths with the police. Many villagers are complying so far, and the police are hopeful that the bandits’ tenuous position can be used against them, but we can’t help but wish for help for these villagers in the form of the [Magnificent Seven](#) or, at least, the [Three Amigos](#).

Righteous! Why Surfers are Always so Laid Back (Or, “Water Stress – it’s not Just for Plants”)

Marine biologist [Wallace Nichols](#) wants us all to understand why we feel so good in and around water. He calls it our “[blue mind](#),” but what he’s getting at is that people have biological reactions to water. And they’re good ones. Really good ones. It’s almost a meditative state, and the brain releases make-you-feel-great hormones like dopamine and oxytocin. Now let’s keep it clean and available for everyone.