

November 2019

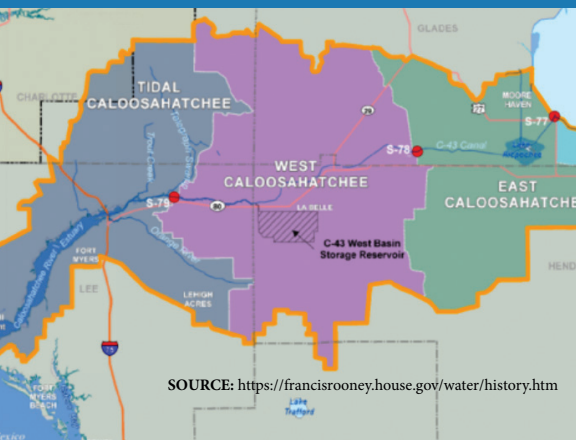
EAA RESERVOIR GETS UNDERWAY

Governor Ron DeSantis and dozens of leaders in Florida's environmental protection industry were at the groundbreaking of the new C-43 reservoir in LaBelle on October 25th.

The 10,500-acre Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir – when completed in 2023 – will be part of an ambitious project to restore and improve the Caloosahatchee estuary including its 19 miles of embankments and canals.

The project was fast tracked because the state ended a lease with Florida Crystals early so it could engage in immediate water quality corrective measures. In fact, according to Noah Valenstein, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, "The reservoir project will be completed before it was originally scheduled to begin."

The reservoir will clean over 55 billion gallons of water from the Caloosahatchee river, which has suffered from years of severe nutrient rich water discharges from Lake Okeechobee.



SOURCE: <https://francisrooney.house.gov/water/history.htm>

Naples Area Board of REALTORS®

Water Quality Advisory



As the voice of REALTORS® in the Naples area, NABOR® has and will always advocate for action to reduce or eliminate any manmade or environmental threats to homeownership, property values and the living standards in Florida.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLEAN WATER EVENT

“*Things happen when people take action!*”

This statement could be the official new vision quest of Naples Area Board of REALTORS® (NABOR®) Leadership Academy classes moving forward after over 200 members and the public showed up to support the 2019 class's RINK2REEFS project at Celebration Park on **Saturday, October 5th from 3pm to 6pm.**

While every Leadership class deserves praise for its class members' community project contributions, the 2019 class rode the wave of perfect timing when it found the RINK2REEFS project.

An outpouring of community and political support helped make the event a success. Several in attendance spoke to the crowd of guests including:

- **Dr. Michael Parsons**, Professor of Marine Science, Director of the Vester Marine & Environmental Science Research Field Station, Member, Blue Green Algae Task Force;
- **Kathleen Passidomo**, Florida State Senate Majority Leader (District 28);
- **Byron Donalds**, Florida House of Representatives (District 80);
- **Penny Taylor**, Collier County Commissioner;
- **Andy Solis**, Collier County Commissioner;
- **Rob Moher**, President and CEO of Conservancy of SW Florida; and
- **Captain Daniel Andrews**, Exec. Director of Captains for Clean Water.



Members from the 2019 NABOR® Leadership class are joined by NABOR® President Jeff Jones at the Clean Water event. The oyster reef pictured is now secured under a boat dock at Celebration Park where it is home to about 400 oysters that will clean up to 20,000 gallons of water each day!

Generous media coverage and strategic outreach efforts by the class, including the creation of a dedicated project website, helped to increase education and awareness about progress being done to improve Florida's water quality. The 16 reefs built by the class are now secured to docks and will clean hundreds of thousands of gallons of water a day.

The RINK2REEFS habitats will enjoy oysters, sponges and other filter-feeding aquatic organisms that remove pollutants and excessive nutrients from local waterways.

NEW WEBSITE IS GREAT RESOURCE

The State of Florida has developed a new website that contains "information on things like active blue-green algae blooms, red tide conditions and information on how the public can volunteer to improve the state's ailing water quality."

protectingfloridatogether.gov

The new website will allow the public to obtain recent information on water conditions to avoid being exposed to toxic waters. According to Noah Valenstein, secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection said, "We've got a great environmental movement really starting here in Florida, and I think leading the nation, about the importance of water quality and making a difference for our environment." NABOR® members are encouraged to share the new resource website with clients so they can better understand the truth about Florida's water issues and how they can become involved.



Naples Area Board of REALTORS®

SPONSOR A REEF

Efforts to keep the spirit of the RINK2REEFS project alive are ongoing by several members of the class, many of whom are now actively involved in supporting it and other water quality projects in the area.

You can continue to support the RINK2REEFS project by funding the cost to build one or several reefs. Here's how to do it:

Write a check for \$175.00 to "FGCU Vester Field Station"

include "NABOR RINK2REEFS" in the check's memo section.

Mail it to:
NABOR
1455 Pine Ridge Rd.
Naples, FL 34108

RESOURCES

[Calusa WaterKeeper](#)

[Captains for Clean Water](#)

celebratecleanwater.com

[Collier County Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Daily Red Tide Reports](#)

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