TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
July 6, 2017

Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner

This past week, the US Water Alliance held its annual One Water Summit in New Orleans, drawing over 600 experts and leaders in the field from locations across the United States and abroad. During the conference, the Water Alliance gave out its annual US Water Prize to five leaders and innovators in water stewardship. One such winner hailed from the Crescent City! Mark Schleifstein, of the Times-Picayune, was lauded for his landmark work covering water, coastal, and environmental issues. We all know and love Mark's writing, and we're glad he's getting all the recognition he deserves. Congratulations and most of all, a big thank you for all you do, Mark!

Hold Your Nose and Close Your Eyes

A brain-eating amoeba has again been found in Louisiana water systems. Ouachita Parish's North Monroe water system and Terrebonne Parish's Schriever water system both tested positive for a nasty little bugger, *Naegleria fowleri*. This amoeba is known for hanging out in warm freshwater, and is really, really not great for humans. Once it infects the brain, not many recover. But, this isn't the first time this happened. And people definitely do survive. Plus, the water is okay for to drink, because that's not how they get to the brain. But for now, if you happen to be mosying around those parts, try and keep water from going up your nose or getting in your eyes.

Don't Float the Mainstream

Some brewers are taking Homer Simpson's old adage "To alcohol! The cause of and the solution to all of life's problems" pretty seriously. 48 craft brewers wrote and signed a letter to the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers opposing their efforts to rescind the Clean Water Act definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). These crafty ladies and gentlemen want the rule, which allows federal regulation over smaller streams and water bodies, to remain in place. This is important to them because clean water = delicious beer. Delicious beer is good, especially on hot summer days. And, clean water around in near breweries creates fun, thriving communities. Breweries are taking a lot of initiative to be fun, happy, sustainable places these days. Thus, we cheers them. To beer, and to good people, and may good people always drink good beer.

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:

July 12, 2017
Louisiana CPRA Governor's Advisory Commission Meeting
Thibodaux, LA

July 19, 2017
CPRA Board Meeting
Chalmette, LA

Water jobs:

Research Fellow in Urban Flood Resilience
University of Leeds
Leeds, United Kingdom

Arizona Water Projects Admin Coordinator
The Nature Conservancy
Phoenix, Arizona

Planning Division Manager
Puget Sound Partnership
Tacoma, Washington

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This Again.

Yep, its climate change! A new study published in Science magazine is connecting new dots between climate change and how the new risks it creates will be distributed between different swaths of the population. The study tells us that the poorer you are, the more likely you are to be adversely affected by climate change. This is because it will be very expensive to mitigate the impacts in communities that are lacking resources already. Not surprisingly, Louisiana is identified as an area that will almost certainly see particularly adverse impacts on its least-wealthy communities. This includes the impact of increased flooding that is difficult and expensive to fix, higher chances of disasters like hurricanes, and other fiscal limitations that could make things weird.

This is good reminder of how serious a changing environment can be, not just for the environment and your friends that love to fish, but for the people that live on planet earth. North Carolina is getting new islands, while losing land elsewhere. The dead zone is getting huuuuuge. Steven Hawking is concerned. Even Beyoncé is getting on board to help. And, while we're working hard to take things seriously here in Louisiana, so are folks elsewhere. What to do when there are only so many resources for a lot of necessities? We're not entirely sure, but we're working on it. Stay tuned, and for now, get excited about another event that is not the end of the world, but may feel like it – the August 2017 total solar eclipse.