TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
May 8, 2018

What IS the State of the Coast? Find Out for Yourself!

Every other year, as the last vestiges of spring melt away in New Orleans, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana hosts a three day conference to take stock of Louisiana's coast, where it's come from, and where it's headed. This year, it runs from May 30 to June 1. Hey, lawyers, it's even got CLEs! If the cost or time commitment for the whole event is too much, they've got a half-day on Friday program for $25 you might want to check out.

Here Comes the Judge! Interesting Verdicts Abound in Louisiana Coastal Law

Down on the East Bank of Plaquemines Parish, some landowners sued some gas pipeline companies for not holding up their end of the right-of-way agreements to place and maintain a pipeline across their property of coastal wetlands. Turns out, the federal district court judge agreed with them. Although the decision only awards damages of $1,104, it does order injunctive relief of the restoration of 9.6 acres of wetland where the pipeline canals were not maintained within their contracted right-of-ways. It also does a pretty nice job of spelling out exactly what is expected of a company who's obligated to maintain a pipeline canal through the wetlands. If this decision stands up under appeal, don't be surprised to see other landowners to follow suit.

Meanwhile, up in St. James Parish, a state judge has ruled that the state's Department of Natural Resources improperly granted a Coastal Use Permit to the already controversial Bayou Bridge Pipeline. Once the formal ruling comes out, expect that 162 mile pipeline that cuts across coastal Louisiana, including the Atchafalaya Basin, to be put on hold until it goes back through the permit process. A more robustly-enforced Coastal Zone Management program would be a very interesting development for Louisiana.

Cape Town Avoided "Day Zero" by Scaring the Crap out of People (and Then Not Flushing)

Cape Town was looking down the very dry barrel of a gun, no, cistern. After two years of drought, the metropolis was looking at running out of water this August, but thanks to a wide variety of strategies, they have pushed that day back to 2019 and a (hopefully) above-average rainy season should be kicking off any day now. The city now restricts residents to 50 liters of water per person per day (less than one sixth of what the average Californian uses) and imposes hefty fines or meters that automatically limit use. Limitations are still on, but everything has a bit less of a stink of desperation now. Unfortunately, the drought has not only hit the city, but also the

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:

10X Water Summit
Baton Rouge, LA
May 16 and 17, 2018

State of the Coast Conference
New Orleans, LA
May 30 – June 1, 2018

Water jobs:

Project Manager, Innovation and Governance
Environmental Law Institute
Washington, DC

Assistant Staff Attorney
Riverkeeper
Ossining, NY

Executive Director
Deschutes River Conservancy
Bend, OR

Water Policy Specialist
Water Now Alliance
San Francisco, CA

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region's farms. A lot of production and jobs were lost, but hopefully the changes to practices made by farmers will pay off in the long term. So now's the time to really vet those desalination and iceberg towing plans!

What If I Told You About a Rechargeable Battery made of Water and an Industrial Salt? Would That be Something You'd be Interested in?

Because there's a guy at Stanford who's making just that. A recently published paper touts the potential of a new battery system that could be scaled up to grid-storage scale. The battery would store energy from power sources like wind and solar in the form of hydrogen molecules created by the interaction between manganese sulfide and good ole H_2O. It's a little tabletop prototype for now, but the researchers (and Stanford's endowment) are hopeful that it will be able to be scaled up. Another strand in the water-energy nexus (we looked for a fun link for that, but "nexus" has been obliterated by Silicon Valley into buzzword nothingness)!