

# State of the River Report for the Lower St. Johns Basin

LSJR TAC

Tuesday, December 16, 2008



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# Year Two Funding Request

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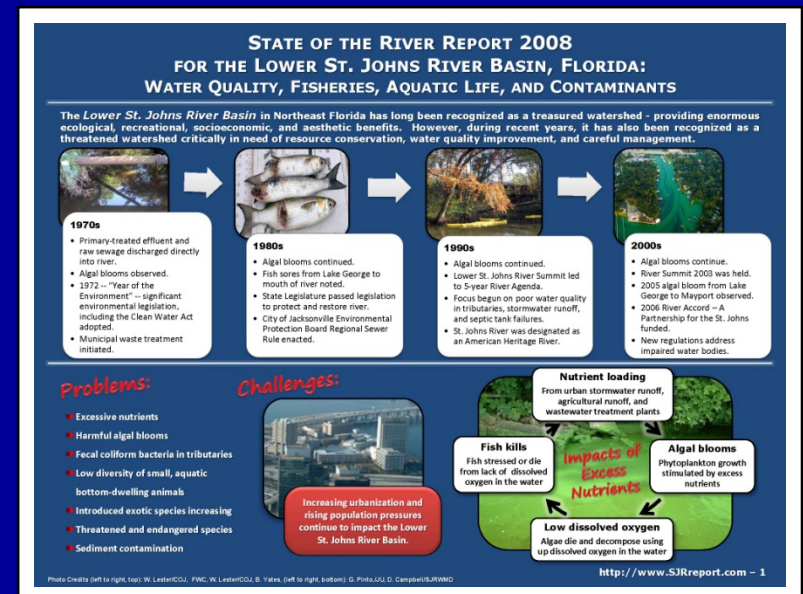
- Reapproval of Year 2 funding previously awarded
- Filling gaps in analysis from first year
- Request of a small seed amount for year three to demonstrate support to other funders
- Separate surface water withdrawal report

# First State of the River Report

- Products:
  - Easy-to-read color brochure (eight pages)
  - Full report and appendix, written independently for public level (137+ pages)

- Subject areas:
  - Water Quality
  - Fisheries
  - Aquatic Life
  - Contaminants

- Support from EPB: \$138,258



# Real Costs of First Report

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- Request granted by EPB: \$138,258
- Actual cost of report: \$266,886
  - To produce a high-quality report, UNF and JU scientists and staff contributed many hours in excess of those in Statement of Work funded in the first EPB proposal.
  - UNF Environmental Center paid Professor Stuart Chalk to create database portal.

# Community Reactions to Report

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- Positive comments from local experts from SJRWMD, FDEP, FWRI, FWC, TNC, St. Johns RiverKeeper, JEA, COJ, NPS, and others.
- Good TV coverage during unveiling of the report.
- Received a number of public questions via the website.
- Very positive editorial review from the *Florida Times-Union*.

# Gaps to Fill in during Second Report

- More seasonal macroinvertebrate data from SJRWMD and FWC
- State data on bait fish and fish kills



- Tributaries: overview, nutrient data, fecal coliform, algal blooms
- Weather impacts, including droughts, hurricanes and nor'easters

# Future Plans: Expansion of Report to Rest of SJR

- Plan to extend the range of the report to the full length of the St. Johns River.
- Middle Basin – moving forward. Partner with Stetson University.
- Working with several other potential funding sources.



# Future Support of Project

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- Fundraising – several foundations
  - Riverbranch Foundation
  - St. Johns River Alliance
  - Batchelor Foundation of Miami – interested in Middle Basin
  - Darden Restaurant Foundation
- Grant support – looking into EPA Environmental Education grants



# Surface Water Withdrawal Report

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- Separate review of scientific literature on surface water withdrawal by Professor Quinton White, Jr., Marine Science Research Institute, JU
- Combining the water withdrawal report with the River Report support request enables the EPB to obtain Prof. White's peer review by March 2009

# Acknowledgments

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- Environmental Protection Board, City of Jacksonville
- Mayor John Peyton and River Accord Partners



- Department of Environmental and Compliance, COJ
- UNF and JU faculty and staff
  - Professor Emeritus Ray Bowman