

## RE: SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project

---

From: Thomas, Hugh (hugh.thomas@srwmd.org)

To: stillpe@aol.com; Virginia.Johns@srwmd.org; Richard.Schwab@srwmd.org; Charles.Keith@srwmd.org; William.Lloyd@srwmd.org; Larry.Sessions@srwmd.org; Harry.Smith@srwmd.org; Larry.Thompson@srwmd.org

Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 03:12 PM EDT

---

Yes I agree and our staff are scheduled to meet with the project consultants on site next week.

Thanks

Hugh Thomas  
Executive Director  
Suwannee River Water Management District  
9225 CR 49 Live Oak, FL 32060  
Office 386-647-3114  
Cell 386-208-3950  
FL Toll Free 800-226-1066  
Fax 386-362-1056  
[www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com)



All E-mail sent to and from this address may be public records. The Suwannee River Water Management District does not allow use of the District E-Mail system and other equipment for non-business related purposes.

---

**From:** Paul Still <stillpe@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 1:55 PM

**To:** Johns, Virginia <Virginia.Johns@srwmd.org>; Schwab, Richard <Richard.Schwab@srwmd.org>; Charles Keith <Charles.Keith@srwmd.org>; Lloyd, William <William.Lloyd@srwmd.org>; Sessions, Larry <Larry.Sessions@srwmd.org>; Smith, Harry <Harry.Smith@srwmd.org>; Thompson, Larry <Larry.Thompson@srwmd.org>; Thomas, Hugh <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>

**Subject:** Re: SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the District. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize and have verified the sender and know the content is safe.

This approach deprives the public and the press including those individuals viewing the live and recorded meeting an opportunity to hearing the comments and the SRWMD Governing Board members the opportunity to ask questions after the comments are read.

The important thing is the urgent need to get the issues regarding the SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Project addressed.

Thanks,

Paul Still

On Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 12:21:40 PM EDT, Thomas, Hugh <[hugh.thomas@srwmd.org](mailto:hugh.thomas@srwmd.org)> wrote:

Mr. Still, as you included all the board members on your email there was no need to read the comments. Our legal agreed with me as well on this approach.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Paul Still <[stillpe@aol.com](mailto:stillpe@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 10:10:50 AM

**To:** Johns, Virginia <[Virginia.Johns@srwmd.org](mailto:Virginia.Johns@srwmd.org)>; Schwab, Richard <[Richard.Schwab@srwmd.org](mailto:Richard.Schwab@srwmd.org)>; Charles Keith <[Charles.Keith@srwmd.org](mailto:Charles.Keith@srwmd.org)>; Lloyd, William <[William.Lloyd@srwmd.org](mailto:William.Lloyd@srwmd.org)>; Sessions, Larry <[Larry.Sessions@srwmd.org](mailto:Larry.Sessions@srwmd.org)>; Smith, Harry <[Harry.Smith@srwmd.org](mailto:Harry.Smith@srwmd.org)>; Thompson, Larry <[Larry.Thompson@srwmd.org](mailto:Larry.Thompson@srwmd.org)>; Thomas, Hugh <[Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org](mailto:Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org)>

**Subject:** Fw: SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the District. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize and have verified the sender and know the content is safe.

Why were the BSWCD comments not read this morning?

Paul Still

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Paul Still <[stillpe@aol.com](mailto:stillpe@aol.com)>

**To:** Johns, Virginia <[virginia.johns@srwmd.org](mailto:virginia.johns@srwmd.org)>; Thomas, Hugh <[hugh.thomas@srwmd.org](mailto:hugh.thomas@srwmd.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 09:11:21 AM EDT

**Subject:** Re: SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project

Is there a reason why the BSWCD comments were not read this morning?

Paul Still

On Monday, July 8, 2024 at 11:23:17 AM EDT, Thomas, Hugh <[hugh.thomas@srwmd.org](mailto:hugh.thomas@srwmd.org)> wrote:

Comments received.

Thanks

Hugh Thomas

Executive Director

Suwannee River Water Management District

9225 CR 49 Live Oak, FL 32060

Office 386-647-3114

Cell 386-208-3950

FL Toll Free 800-226-1066

Fax 386-362-1056

[www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com)



All E-mail sent to and from this address may be public records. The Suwannee River Water Management District does not allow use of the District E-Mail system and other equipment for non-business related purposes.

---

**From:** Paul Still <[stillpe@aol.com](mailto:stillpe@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 5:41 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Hugh <[Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org](mailto:Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org)>; Johns, Virginia <[Virginia.Johns@srwmd.org](mailto:Virginia.Johns@srwmd.org)>  
**Subject:** Fw: SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the District. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize and have verified the sender and know the content is safe.

I am requesting the contents of following email be read as public comment at Tuesday/s SRWMD's Governing Board Meeting

Thanks,

Paul Still

904 368-0291

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Paul Still <[stillpe@aol.com](mailto:stillpe@aol.com)>

**To:** [Virginia.Johns@SRWMD.org](mailto:Virginia.Johns@SRWMD.org) <[virginia.johns@srwmd.org](mailto:virginia.johns@srwmd.org)>; [Richard.Schwab@SRWMD.org](mailto:Richard.Schwab@SRWMD.org) <[richard.schwab@srwmd.org](mailto:richard.schwab@srwmd.org)>; [Charles.Keith@SRWMD.org](mailto:Charles.Keith@SRWMD.org) <[charles.keith@srwmd.org](mailto:charles.keith@srwmd.org)>; [William.Lloyd@SRWMD.org](mailto:William.Lloyd@SRWMD.org) <[william.lloyd@srwmd.org](mailto:william.lloyd@srwmd.org)>; [Larry.Sessions@SRWMD.org](mailto:Larry.Sessions@SRWMD.org) <[larry.sessions@srwmd.org](mailto:larry.sessions@srwmd.org)>; [Harry.Smith@SRWMD.org](mailto:Harry.Smith@SRWMD.org) <[harry.smith@srwmd.org](mailto:harry.smith@srwmd.org)>; [Larry.Thompson@SRWMD.org](mailto:Larry.Thompson@SRWMD.org) <[larry.thompson@srwmd.org](mailto:larry.thompson@srwmd.org)>; [Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org](mailto:Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org) <[hugh.thomas@srwmd.org](mailto:hugh.thomas@srwmd.org)>; [greg.evans@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:greg.evans@dot.state.fl.us) <[greg.evans@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:greg.evans@dot.state.fl.us)>; [sroberts@cityofstarke.org](mailto:sroberts@cityofstarke.org) <[sroberts@cityofstarke.org](mailto:sroberts@cityofstarke.org)>; [dnugent@cityofstarke.org](mailto:dnugent@cityofstarke.org) <[dnugent@cityofstarke.org](mailto:dnugent@cityofstarke.org)>; [jmortimer@cityofstarke.org](mailto:jmortimer@cityofstarke.org) <[jmortimer@cityofstarke.org](mailto:jmortimer@cityofstarke.org)>; [ssmith@cityofstarke.org](mailto:ssmith@cityofstarke.org) <[ssmith@cityofstarke.org](mailto:ssmith@cityofstarke.org)>; [dmullins@cityofstarke.org](mailto:dmullins@cityofstarke.org) <[dmullins@cityofstarke.org](mailto:dmullins@cityofstarke.org)>

**Cc:** Amy E. Morie <[a.morie.bswcd@gmail.com](mailto:a.morie.bswcd@gmail.com)>; Ok Sun Burks <[o.burks.bswcd@gmail.com](mailto:o.burks.bswcd@gmail.com)>; Sherman Carnes <[carnes.bswcd@proton.me](mailto:carnes.bswcd@proton.me)>; Walter <[westcott\\_w@yahoo.com](mailto:westcott_w@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 at 06:57:28 AM EDT

**Subject:** SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project

The 3 Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors present (Paul Still, Walter Westcott, and Ok Sun Burks) voted in favor of sending the following to the SRWMD, FDOT, and the City of

Starke.

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District Concerns about Potential Flooding Created by the Suwannee River Water Management District Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project

The 43 acre Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project site is located along Alligator Creek starting approximately 930 feet downstream of the Highway 301 Bridge in Starke, FL. It is located on City of Starke property. The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) was and currently is responsible for the design, permitting, construction and maintenance of the project. site and is responsible for meeting the mitigation requirements associated with the Florida Department of Transportation provided funding for the project to offset wetland loses from road construction projects. The City of Starke holds the permits associated with the site. The site clearing began in early 2018. The clearing and earthwork were completed in the fall of 2018 and initial planting was finished in June 2021.

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) has been monitoring the Edwards Bottomlands along Alligator Creek in the City of Starke since 2007. The BSWCD performed a detailed post storm evaluation of the Alligator Creek flooding from Irma in 2017. Based on 16 years of observations and water level data the BSWCD contends that the design, execution, and maintenance of the SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project may be creating a significant risk of upstream flooding along Alligator Creek from just west of Highway 301 in Starke to SR 230 near the Clay County line in eastern Bradford County. Flooding along this section of Alligator Creek endangers properties and lives of people living in homes and apartments and the property of several businesses.

The BSWCD contends that several corrective actions taken now by the SRWMD at its Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project site could significantly reduce the risk of upstream flooding.

Those actions include the following:

1. Remove the trash and debris that has accumulated on the site during high flow events to prevent blockages that can reduce flows.
2. Mow the secondary channel in the site to maximize flow through the secondary channel.
3. Remove the trees killed by beavers and SRWMD herbicide treatments to reduce the chance of trees falling across the channel and trapping debris and trash.
4. Mow the Fakahatchae grass planted by the SRWMD. Mowing this large bunch grass will allow for an increase in out of the channel flow rates to the south and west. It is also a critical step in establishing the tree density and species mix required for the project.

The BSWCD contends that the SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project current conditions may be placing the property and lives of residents and business owners along Alligator Creek upstream of the project at risk of flooding. Waiting for a major rain event to demonstrate that there is not sufficient flow through the SRWMD Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Project to avoid upstream flooding should not be the approach the SRWMD follows.

The BSWCD finds it troubling that that SRWMD is unwilling to have SRWMD staff attend a BSWCD meeting so our concerns and suggested actions can be discussed. The BSWCD is again asking SRWMD staff attend a BSWCD meeting to try and resolve the issues we have noted and explain the recommendations we are making.

Thanks,

Paul Still

Supervisor

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District

14167 SW 101st Ave

Starke, FL 32019

904 368-0291

---

All E-mail sent to and from this address may be public records. The Suwannee River Water Management District does not allow use of the District E-mail system and other equipment for non-business related purposes.

---

All E-mail sent to and from this address may be public records. The Suwannee River Water Management District does not allow use of the District E-mail system and other equipment for non-business related purposes.

---

All E-mail sent to and from this address may be public records. The Suwannee River Water Management District does not allow use of the District E-mail system and other equipment for non-business related purposes.