

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
December 20, 2018

We're Hiring!

The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy is in the market for our next postgraduate research fellow to start up in August 2019! If you're graduating from law school (JD or LLM) in Spring 2019 or already graduated in 2018, and you're interested in joining us here at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy, then check out [this job posting](#) and send your resume on in! (Ability to quickly and confidently speak aloud the name of our institute not required.)

You Know You Want to

Comment on [WRDA 2018](#) implementation guidance! After all, nothing brings families and friends together like [commenting on provisions of Water Resource Development Acts](#), and this year offers a rich opportunity.

Oh, Mamma, I'm Gonna Find a Way

Semper Paratus: Always Ready

Ready to lend a helping hand, that is. The Coast Guard has officially taken over the containment and cleanup of the Taylor Energy platform. As discussed in an [earlier TUWW](#), the platform is 12 miles off the coast of Louisiana and has been leaking oil into the Gulf of Mexico for 14 years. The fine folks at the Coast Guard will [pay for the containment work](#) using the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and then bill Taylor for the work. [Cue Dido](#) to show the Coast Guard our gratitude.

The name is Bond, Terrebonne Bond

Terrebonne Parish President Gordy Dove said the parish has [successfully bonded](#) out \$16.8 million in [Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act](#) (GOMESA) money to use for hurricane protection and coastal restoration projects. Projects include a \$10 million lock system in Montegut; a \$2.5 million conveyance channel in Chauvin; engineering for the Elliot Jones Pump Station; a potential pump station and water control structure on land currently owned by Shell in the La. 311 corridor, and other miscellaneous pumps and street drainage projects. Under the bond agreement, Terrebonne will receive \$14.6 million up front, plus \$1.2 million in a reserve fund by the end. Bond investors will earn a 5.5% interest rate. The bonds could be paid off in 15 years or less with the parish's \$1.2 million annual GOMESA money, depending on future amounts. However, if the federal government decides to end GOMESA's revenue-sharing program, the parish will not be on the hook for any remaining payments. [Cameron Parish was the first to issue this type of bond earlier this year](#). Seems people are listening to [our advice](#) after all!

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:

[CPRA Board Meeting](#)

January 16, 2019
Baton Rouge, LA

[Coastal Law CLE](#)

March 14 & 15, 2019
New Orleans, LA

Tulane Environmental Law Summit

March 22 & 23, 2019
New Orleans, LA

Water jobs:

[Assistant Professor, Water /Wastewater Technology](#)

Palomar College
San Marcos, CA

[Postdoctoral Research Associate in Communicating Science](#)

William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Gloucester Point, VA

[Senior Program Officer, Groundwater/Agriculture](#)

WWF
Washington, DC

[Climate Advisor](#)

Natural Resources Defense Council
Multiple Positions, US

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Another Triumph for Terrebonne

The \$36 million, eight-year [project to restore marshes around Lost Lake](#) in southwestern Terrebonne Parish is complete. The work was funded through the federal [Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act](#) (CWPPRA) and [benefited 749 acres of marsh](#). [Hooray!](#)

CWPPRA: Putting the “Fun” in “Funding”

The CWPPRA Technical Committee approved more than \$21 million in funding for construction of the [New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation project](#) intended to help create marshland and stabilize the area around the [New Orleans East Landbridge](#). By reducing storm surge pressure on the levees around Lake Pontchartrain, the Landbridge provides protection to more than 1.5 million people in the Greater New Orleans area.

If You Burn It, They Will Come

[The benefits will come, that is](#). The Gulf Coast has a longstanding tradition of [burning the marsh so that it comes back stronger](#). [Recent research](#) is showing that these controlled marsh fires not only boost the health of wetlands but may help in the fight against land loss. The research indicates that regular burns reduce relative sea level rise by about one-third. In fact, land Managers for McIlhenny Co., makers of Tabasco hot sauce, have burned the marshes for as long as anyone can remember. However, the author of the research warns that burning the marsh can exacerbate land loss if not done right. So, always remember to [practice fire safety](#).

On the Trail, I Ride Along

Dreaming of a White Christmas

A new [paper](#) published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* concludes that snow season has become shorter nationwide and that snowpack in the western United States has decreased by an area the size of [South Carolina](#). This is troubling because melting snowpack is a major source of fresh water in many ecosystems throughout the West and feeds rivers that provide drinking water. Additionally, the changes in Western snow patterns may lead to drier landscapes and [worsening fire seasons](#). A separate [study](#), published in the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, confirms the pattern. When presenting his findings, that study's co-author, Amato Evan, said "I would make the argument that our winters are getting [sick](#), and we know the reason why — it's global warming; it's rising temperatures." [Let it snow](#), let it snow, [let it snow!](#)

One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

New Mexico, the country's third-largest producer of oil, is hoping to keep the industry going and promote fracking. But, [fracking requires a lot of water](#), which is problematic in the arid West. Accordingly, New Mexico state officials, with the help of the EPA, are hoping to push oil companies to treat and recycle fracking waste water for reuse in agriculture and, possibly, as drinking water. Last month, they released a [draft document](#) detailing how to clarify state and federal regulations to promote the reuse of the waste water. Unsurprisingly, those in the industry are [focused on the monetary side of things](#): they caution that it currently costs as little as \$1/barrel to inject produced water, so treating it would have to be cheaper to make it worth their while, especially given the [low prices](#) oil is fetching these days. Even if the water can be treated in an economically viable way, environmentalists argue that the water might still be tainted by harmful metals or chemicals used in fracking, creating long-term risks for people and the environment. After all, [oil and water don't mix](#).

Speaking of Trash

Remember the [2,000 foot long boom launched into the Pacific Ocean in September to collect trash](#)? Well, the boom is moving slower than the plastic, [allowing the trash to float away](#). The boom's inventor [promises](#) that a team of engineers is being sent out to sea to fix the problem and is hopeful that the first load of trash will be hauled back to land by next summer. If not, maybe we should just send [Oscar the Grouch](#).