A BRIEF HISTORY OF FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT

"PONCE TO CERP"

1800 – 2000
A little bit earlier…

Ponce de Leon
1803 - Louisiana Purchase

1821 – Spanish Deeds Florida to U.S. ($5M)

1845 - Statehood

1851 – Florida Secures Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)

1855 – FL Legislation Creates TIIF
1877
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND
BANKRUPT
Bankrupt?  Broke?
WHAT??? HOW???  HUH???
STATE TIED UP IN DEBT & LEGAL BATTLES

- Marketing Problems
- Civil War Period
- Payment in Confederate Dollars
- Reality/Perception
- Poor Transportation

DESPERATE FOR TRANSPORTATION!!!
How Did the State-TIIF Spell Relief?

R-A-I-L-R-O-A-D-S
STATE NEEDED RAILROADS:

- Transportation
- Drainage
- Land Improvement
- Development

Lands Given/Sold Cheap to RR’s
THE BIG 3 - RAILROAD BARONS

William D. Chipley

Henry B. Plant

Henry F. Flagler
Big Problem
Still Loomed
Deal #1 – January 1881

Deal #2 – June 14, 1881
1881 – 1899

- Florida’s First Large Scale Land Boom
- Numerous Cities Developed
- Railroad Miles Quadrupled
- Taxable Property Doubled
- Tourism Exploded
- Florida’s Agricultural Reputation
Disston – Sugar Industry

Had Problems with...

✓ Effective Drainage
✓ Haphazard Project Planning
✓ His Visions/Ego
✓ Overpayment by State
✓ Debt
Politics of Note
1881-1899

Governor Bloxham (1881-1885) & (1897-1901)

Governor Perry (1885-1889)

Governor Fleming (1889-1893)

Governor Mitchell (1893-1897)
1901-1905 – Drainage by Counties Act
Land Reclamation

1903 – Everglades Title

State believed – Obligation for the Lands was to Drain Wetlands for Cultivation & Settlement
BIG “3” - of Government

William D. Bloxham

William Sherman Jennings - Governor

Napoleon B. Broward - Governor
BROWARD ERA


✓ Believed Railroad Industry too Dominant

✓ Created Board of Drainage Commissioners to Oversee State-wide Land Development & Water Management (1905)
May 1907

EVERGLADES DRAINAGE DISTRICT

✓ Responsible only for the Everglades
✓ Levy Tax – 5 cents/acre/year
✓ Authorized to Issue Bonds

4,300,000 Acres
60 miles wide X 150 miles long
Swamp + Prairie + Timberland
Other Broward Impacts

- Primary Election Law
- Insanity Grounds for Divorce
- Federal $$$ from Teddy Roosevelt
- Lays Groundwork for Drainage Districts
- Vision of State-Wide Water & Land Mgt.
- Florida Everglades Engineering Commission
Broward & Richard Bolles

DRAIN EVERGLADES
SAY LEGISLATORS
All Agree Great Area
Be Reclaimed

1917

THEY CAME TO BOOST, BUT WENT AWAY
TO KNOCK WHEN THEY FOUND THE
GLADES NOT DRAINED AS PROMISED

MAP of Section of Florida showing
EVERGLADES
Corrected and published by
EVERGLADE LAND AND
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
of MIAMI, FLORIDA
216 12th Street
GEO. E. WARREN
Associates
P. C. TREFRY
W. H. LANGDON
Broward & James O. Wright
Broward & William Jennings
EVERGLADES DRAINAGE DISTRICT

1928 – Constructed Major Canals
- West Palm Beach
- Hillsboro
- North New River
- Miami
- St. Lucie

1931 – 440 Miles of Canals
- Bolles
- Cross
- 47 Miles of Levees
- Sixteen Locks & Dams

$18 M
EVENTS OF NOTE

1913 General Drainage Act (Chapter 298)

Revenues:
✓ Bond Sales
✓ Special Tax Levy

Primary Purpose:
✓ Flood Control
✓ Transportation
EVENTS OF NOTE

1929 Okeechobee Flood Control District

Responsible for:

✓ Works & Improvements
  • Caloosahatchee River
  • Lake Okeechobee
  • Everglades

Necessary for:

✓ Flood Control
✓ Navigation
1931
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BANKRUPT – AGAIN!

Bankruptcy
Do not pass Go,
do not collect $200
1928 Lake O Hurricane
Lake O Navigation Project

1926 and 1928
DEVASTATING HURRICANES
... LOSS OF 2,500 LIVES

HOOVER DIKE
AUTHORIZED 1930
Completed 1937
FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1936

Washington

An extraordinarily dramatic touch was given to the President's appeal to the nation for Red Cross fund for, even as he signed the proclamation, thousands of Works Progress Administration workers were struggling desperately to erect bulwarks against the waters of the Potomac River which rapidly are approaching within a few squares of White House itself.

Evolution of the 1936 Flood Control Act

A quarter of the areas under flood waters today with the worst calamities have occurred in the higher regions of life may exceed 100 known and 40 people.

As Eastern America is covered with waters by the roots and 300 miles of country. storms, it rained mud.

ALL EASTERN AMERICA UNDER FLOOD WATERS

Terrible Duststorm Rages In West

Menace Of Mining Accidents

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT SIGNS APPEAL AS CAPITOL FLOODED

100 Cities And 14 States Affected

Severe Duststorm
1947 – Bob is Born
1947 - Floods

1948 – Congress Approves 1948 Flood Control Act

Focus: Flood Control/Water Supply
C&S F Components

- Protective Levees
  - Lower East Coast
  - Everglades Agricultural Area

- River Channelization

- Water Conservation Areas

- Drainage Network
  - Salinity Structures
1949 – Central & South Florida Flood Control District Legislatively Created

Goal to Provide Works for:

- Flood Protection
- Water Conservation
- Water Supply
1950’s

1954 Flood Control Act

Spessard Holland
Project Construction
1949-1954

- 5 Canals
- 5 Pump Stations
- 2 Spillways
- 4 Levees

East Coast Structures
1954-1959

EAA Levees & Canals
C-17 Palm Beach County
C-18 Palm Beach County
Lake “O” Structures

15% of Project Complete
Project Construction
1960’s

Water Conservation Areas
Lake “O” Dike Extended
Pump Stations Completed
Caloosahatchee Enlarged
Kissimmee Canal
Chain of Lakes Channels Cut
Spillways
Navigation Locks
Dams

By 1969 – 50% Complete
Notable Events

1960’s

TS Brenda & Hurricane Donna (1960)

Drought Years (1961-1965)

Herbert Hoover Dike Dedication (1961)

Kissimmee River (C-38) Work Begins (1962)

Flood Control Act of 1968
CONTROVERSIES

1960’s

✓ St. Lucie Canal Discharges
✓ ENP Water Supply Guarantee
✓ Drowning Deer/Wildlife Impacts
✓ Drought/Floods – Natural & Man-made
✓ Ag getting Special Treatment
✓ Oil Exploration in WCA’s
✓ Alligator Alley
✓ Rock Mining
✓ Development
✓ Lake “O” Water Quality
✓ Salt Water Intrusion
Notable Events

1970

- EPA Formed
- 1st Everglades Conference
- Congress Mandates ENP Water Delivery Schedules
Notable Events

1971

- Kissimmee C-38 Canal Completed
- Cloud Seeding in FCD

Channelized Kissimmee River:
- Controlled flooding well
- Drained 60% of wetlands
- Disturbed hydrologic cycle
- Lowered plant diversity
- Lowered fish and waterfowl diversity
Notable Events

1972

Governor’s Conference on Water Management

- Water Supply linked to Growth Mgt.
- Reversing Water Quality Losses
- Land Use Recommendations
- Comprehensive Planning
- Ground Water Protection
- Geographical Considerations

The Water Resource Act
The Comprehensive Planning Act
The Environmental Land & Water Mgt. Act
Notable Events
1973-1976

1973 - WMD Governing Boards

1974 - Permitting Requirements Adopted

1975 - State Environmental Reorganization Act
       Delegates Authority to WMDs (Ch. 373)

       CREATES FDEP & SFWMD
Notable Events
1977-1979

Boundaries Change

SFWMD: Lost Upper St. Johns
Gains 1000 SQ. Miles

Now 17,400 SQ Miles
1980’s

Drought/Flood Cycle at Historic Worse
Cloud Seeding-Weather Modification
Project – 2 WM-81
1980's
1990’s

Restoring the Kissimmee River

In 1971, the Army Corps of Engineers finished transforming the wild, meandering, 103-mile Kissimmee River into the placid, straight, 56-mile C-38 Canal. Now the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District are backfilling 22 miles of the canal—and blowing up two of its control structures—to restore 43 miles of the river. The $518 million project is supposed to be a model for Everglades restoration, but it is a much
1990’s
Local Matters of Interest
Hurricanes/Storms Pre 2000

Hurricane Camille
Storm Of The Century
Questions?