

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Call Notes February 5, 2019

Present on the call: Stan Bronson Dan Sullivan Marianna Grossman David Berry

1) Check in and Current activities related to Sustainable Water Resources

Stan Bronson gave a summary of initiatives in the first weeks of the term of the new Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis which he said were a welcome surprise.

- The Governor created an Office of Coastal Resilience and Climate Change
- He created a position of Chief Science Officer and the person holding that position will be a chief advisor to the governor
- He called for the resignations of the entire board of the South Florida Water Management District, an agency with a budget of about \$1 billion per year. The previous board was appointed by former Governor Rick Scott and they were not known for stewardship of water resources.
- The governor also signed orders launching major initiatives on the red tide and on everglades restoration.

In the next couple of weeks Stan expects to have a meeting between the governor and the leadership of the new global center for climate resilience.

Marianna Grossman gave us a summary of her experience at the World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland. She participated in a whole day of meetings on oceans. There were many excellent talks on water. She said that while the problems we face are enormous and the solutions hard, the senior people engaged in the Davos meeting are more aware and responsive to the situation and challenges than they were a few years ago.

David Berry spoke about the upcoming workshops he will be running in the Sian Ka'an biosphere preserve south of Tulum, Mexico. A major problem there is the ongoing deposit of plastic debris on the beaches. An artist who makes educational installations from ocean plastic will be participating.

Marianna mentioned the Loop initiative announced at Davos, by large global brands such as Procter & Gamble, Unilever, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Danone, Mars, and others — some of the world's largest consumer goods companies, partnering on a potential solution to limit future waste. Loop offers consumers an alternative to recycling — a system that isn't working well these days.

In an experiment they'll roll out to several thousand consumers in New York and Paris this May, Loop is offering about 300 items — from Tide detergent to Pantene shampoo, Häagen-Dazs ice cream to Crest mouthwash — all in reusable packaging. After using the products, customers put the empty containers in a Loop tote on their doorstep. The containers are then picked up by a delivery service, cleaned and refilled, and shipped out to consumers again.

2) Other Business

Stan suggested that we begin to consider locations, themes, potential partners, and possible dates for a SWRR meeting in the Great Lakes area. David agreed and said we could begin thinking about our next Washington meeting as well. Stan agreed to contact the counsel of Great Lakes Industries and David will contact John Wells, Paul Freedman, and folks in the region we have worked with in the past.

The next SWRR call was set for Thursday, March 7 at 1 PM Eastern.