

**For more information contact Mike Tinnell 305 872-3649 For immediate release 3-25-15**

### **CITIZEN ACTIVISM WINS A DEEP WELL FOR CUDJOE SEWAGE PLANT**

For more than a year, local citizens have been writing county commissioners, the FCAA, the DEP, holding benefits and educational meetings, filing law suits, insisting that the shallow sewage wells at Cudjoe Wastewater Treatment Plant are a danger to the environment and that a deep well is needed.

This Wednesday, at noon, the FCAA Board listened, voting to move forward with the deep well by requesting funding from the County Commission.

“The County Commission has previously stated that it has the money and would fund a deep well if FCAA said one was needed, so we’re all expecting approval of the funds,” said Caron Balkany, who, with Lee Rohe from Summerland, is attorney for the two commercial fishermen, Mike Laudicina and Don DeMaria, who filed legal challenges to the shallow well permits.

“We’re obviously thrilled that FCAA has listened to the community, and the science, which shows how bad those shallow wells are for our waters. Details remain to be worked out, but we are hopeful the lawsuits can be resolved quickly and the deep well will move forward immediately,” added Balkany.

“This was a community effort, and it shows that citizen activism is alive and well. We made ourselves heard, and they listened. A great result for all. Thanks to everyone, so many of you, who helped,” said Jerry Tinnell, who, with Camille Blatz, organized the StopShallowSewageWellsintheFloridaKeysCampaign, which held a well-attended educational event and fundraiser just last Sunday.