

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 24, 2012

Called to Order: 6:03

Attendance: Leon Abood, Frank Pryzbylski, Joanne Swann, Rob Ranieri, Todd Weissing, Jim Harter, Charles Grande, Mark Perry, Jay Honan, Phil Tafoya, Douglas Ashley, Max Quackenbos, John O'Brien, Jim Moir, Dennis Phalen, Morris Crady, Gerald Weissensel, Liz Elliott, Jackie Trayneger

Special Presentation:

Mark Perry gave a presentation on the discharges and the water quality.

Bob Washam with the Martin County Health department gave a presentation on the different types of bacteria in the St. Lucie River.

Both presentations can be found at www.RiversCoalition.org.

Senator Joe Negron spoke about his plan to take the responsibility away from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Senator promised to find out if the Martin County Health Department can receive more funding for the local water testing projects. He will report back to Leon Abood.

Douglas Ashley presented the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund with a check.

Petition:

Charles Grande announced that the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund, specifically Karl was the one who wrote the petition but the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund agreed that the Rivers Coalition could reach more people. Leon Abood read the petition to the audience and passed around for signatures. Go to https://www.change.org/petitions/army-corps-of-engineers-south-florida-water-management-elected-officials-stop-the-discharges-from-lake-okeechobee-into-the-st-lucie-estuary?utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition to sign and pass on the petition.

Committee Update:

Liz Elliott announced that for the membership committee there are two new volunteers; Valerie Wright and Jim Skeoch. Valerie made calls to all of the Rivers Coalition members to inform them of our meeting. The committee will continue to reach out to current members and new members.

The public outreach committee is in the process of revamping our website and hopes to launch it in January 2013.

The Government relations committee; Mark Perry has identified two regular montly meetings that we need to have presence at.

River Kidz:

Nicole Mader announced that the River Kidz will be at the protest on Thursday, November 25th at 6:30pm. The River Kidz art work is on display at the Harbor Bay plaza, please go and vote for your favorite.

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Rivers Coalition Defense Fund:

Charles Grande announced that Karl Wickstrom stepped down from being the President, but is still on the board. Charles Grande is now the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund's President. The Defense Fund is in the process of exploring our legal options.

Speakers Bureau:

Todd Weissing announced that Leon spoke to the Rotary club last month and that Jim Harter spoke to the President's Council of Hutchinson Island. Charles Grande is the Rivers Coalition representative for that group and presented the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund with a donation.

Martin County:

Diane Hughes announced that Martin County launched Speak Up for the St. Lucie". Go to http://ap3server.martin.fl.us:7778/portal/page?_pageid=73,4444933&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL to learn more about it and to join the FaceBook page.