

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 27, 2013

Called to Order: 11:03

Attendance: Ted Guy, Frank Pryzbylski, Marty Baum, Benjamin D'Avanzo, Karl Wickstrom, Leon Abood, Darrell Brand, Charles Grande, Jim Harter, Joanne Swann, John O'Brien, Douglas Ashley, Cindy Willson, Todd Weissing, Jackie Trancynger, Bev Poppke, Shari Anker

Chairman's Comments:

Leon Abood presented an application for new membership by Harbor Branch FAU. Motion made, seconded and passed.

Leon Abood reviewed the letters send on Behalf of the RC in support of of the C-44 as directed at the last meeting.

Ted Guy announced that the Farm Bill was not passed and would like members to take a copy of the letter that was passed out and send them on behalf of themselves or organizations. Victoria Winslett, Congressman Murphy's aide announced that the bill was voted on and did not pass the house. All comments that anyone would like to send to the Congressman can be sent to her at Victoria.winslett@mail.house.gov.

Special Presentation – Dr. Grant Gilmore:

Karl Wickstrom introduced Dr. Grant Gilmore for our special presentation on our estuary. Go to www.RiversCoalition.org to see the presentation.

River Kidz

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch announced that the River Kidz workbook that has been started with the help of Julia Kelly.

Speakers Bureau:

Todd Weissing announced that Leon Abood spoke to Harbor Branch. Lost River had a very successful fundraiser and will update us more at the next meeting.

Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:

Benjamin D'Avanzo announced that there are very high levels of bacteria in the estuary.

Indian River Keeper:

Marty Baum announced that there are very high levels of bacteria in the estuary. The Health Department should have an email alert so the public can know what is going on with the health of the estuary.

Martin County:

Deborah Drum announced:

- Martin County staff is focused on getting our preliminary designs completed for the Danforth Creek stormwater project that I briefed on last month.
- Martin County staff is working with our Engineering Consultant in finalizing the design for the Rio / St. Lucie Exfiltration Trench project. Design should be finalized this month. Construction is scheduled for later this year.

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- Have been monitoring the releases and participating on operations calls with the ACOE and other stakeholders.
- We continue to see very alarming numbers with regard to the enterococcus numbers in our local waters. Martin County has been extremely concerned about the elevated numbers and has been communicating with FDEP on a weekly basis to develop a plan to determine the microbial source and/or sources. The FDEP is currently developing a DNA Microbial Source Tracking Laboratory. Once the lab is in place Martin County plans to work with FDEP to perform sampling analyses within the Bessey Creek watershed. This watershed has been selected due to the EPA approved Fecal Coliform TMDL that exists for this watershed.
- Martin County recently participated in a Fertilizer Ordinance Panel Discussion at the Treasure Coast Chapter Florida Association of Environmental Professionals. We have developed a spreadsheet of known ordinances and their differences from the FDEP model ordinance (distribute spreadsheet).

New Business:

Shari Anker announced that the Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County is opposing the Crosstown bridge and would like the Rivers Coalition to support them in this effort. Leon Abood asked that Shari send him the resolution passed and at our next meeting we can look at allowing individuals sign to support the Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County.

Max Quackenbos announced that he would like more information on the repairs being made on the East side of the Lake from the Army Corps of Engineers.