

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes

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Date: March 31, 2011

**Called to Order:** 11:05

Attendance: Joanne Swann, Frank Pryzbylski, Jim Harter, Greg Gardner, Karl Wickstrom, Leon Abood, Mark Perry, Paul Gray, Marge Ketter, Phil Tafoya, Susan Smyth, Donna Melzer, Max Quackenbos, Douglas Ashley, Todd Weissing, George Jones, Don Cuozzo, Toby Overdorf, Rob Ranieri, Mike Myers, Jim Moir, Morris Crady, Charlie Grande, John O'Brien

### **Chairman's Comments:**

Leon Abood; Sailfish Point POA made application and gave a \$1,000 donation. Motion made, seconded and passed to vote in the Jeff Stukel with the Sailfish Point POA.

Greg Gardner; don't forget about the oil drilling petition. If you have not received one, please let me know and I will make sure you get one.

Leon Abood; thank you to Carol Wehle with the SFWMD for coming to our meeting.

### **SWOT Results:**

Thank you to Rob & Stacy Ranieri for helping us organize and facilitate the SWOT meeting.

Leon reviewed the results of the SWOT meeting from March 5, 2011.

Discussion: Max Quackenbos; maybe the Rivers Coalition can produce a bimonthly magazine or brochure.

Leon Abood; we need the next generation.

Marty Levin; High school and college students need volunteer hours. Reach out to Science teachers.

Marge Ketter; Jupiter high school has an environmental studies program. Possibilities for internships.

Paul Nicoletti; The Rivers Coalition may want to rethink the possibility of becoming a 501c3. If you don't it may limit the ability to accept grants.

Bob Voisinet; The Rivers Coalition needs to setup committees.

Lisa Lefort; Explore the concept of an independent "champion".

George Jones; Reach out to the young professionals.

Toby Overdorf; I am 41 years old and I believe I am the youngest member of our group. The younger generation is a generation of its about "me" and what can you do for me? Until it affects

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them, they won't get involved. The river is our champion. How we promote our champion is our problem. How can we take control?

Charlie Grande; not sure if you know but the Chambers all have leadership classes that we should reach out to.

Leon Abood; Membership committee – Co-chairs, Toby Overdorf and Charlie Grande. To identify 3-4 members.

Frank Pryzbylski; the general public has no idea what we are all about and what we are trying to accomplish.

Leon Abood; Public outreach committee – Chairman, Rob Ranieri and Todd Weissing as the Speakers Bureau.

Carol Wehle; the Rivers Coalition should use the National Estuary program and the Marine Resources Council as resources. Both organizations always had something to engage the public and had a very clear vision. They are positive and proactive.

Max Quackenbos; please add the St Lucie inlet dredging problem to the agenda.

Patrick Hayes; we need a champion and the River is not our champion it is what we are trying to save!

Leon Abood; Membership Task Force – Chairman, Marge Ketter. To review the attendance criteria, policy and how we can respond to action items faster.

Leon Abood; Government Relations Committee – Co-chairs, Paul Gray and George Jones. To make sure the meetings get out to all members, and to make sure the Rivers Coalition has a presence at the meetings.

Leon Abood; Organizational Outreach Task Force – Jim Harter and Frank Pryzbylski to reach out to the CCA and other organizations.

Kevin Powers; I am available to help in anyway that the Rivers Coalition needs.

### **Legal Update:**

Karl Wickstrom; we are waiting for the phone to ring. The court in Washington will make a decision any day now.

### **Water Quality:**

Mark Perry; the Lake is dropping, we don't have discharges. The quality is great except we have over 8 million cubic yards of muck sitting on the bottom.

Mark Perry; IRL South Plan has been approved to start May 26<sup>th</sup>.

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### **WRAC:**

Mark Perry; next meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Speakers Bureau:**

Todd Weissing; Bob Voisinet, Jim Harter, and Mark Perry are the horses that drive the Rivers Coalition Speakers Bureau. This last month they have spoken to the Rotary Club, Sunset Rotary, and Palm Cove HOA.

### **Martin County Updates:**

Paul Millar; the Martin County commissioners will be going to Washington regarding the inlet funding, the C-44 project and the Herbert Hoover Dike funding.

### **St. Lucie Inlet Dredging:**

Donna Melzer; the members should see the specific language.

Rob Ranieri; the county is going to narrow the list for the projects.

Paul Millar; this will require a special vote. Paul will make sure the Coalition has a seat at the table.

Mark Perry; motion made to send a letter to our Florida delegation to communicate that the dredging of the St Lucie Estuary is critical to our economy, the St. Lucie estuary, and the IRL. Motion seconded and passed.