

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 28, 2012

Called to Order: 11:04

Attendance: Ted Guy, Shari Anker, Joanne Swann, George Jones, Todd Weissing, Jim Harter, Ted Guy, Rob Ranieri, Charles Grande, Marge Ketter, John O'Brien, Douglas Ashley, Rick Hartman, David Brown, Mike Myers, Jackie Trancynger, Lisa Fiore, Dennis Phelan

Chairman's Comments:

Ted Guy announced the new member for approval. 27-80 Paddlers, Dennis Phelan. Charles Grande made motion, seconded and passed to vote in 27-80 Paddlers.

Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Update:

Karl Wickstrom announced the open letter that Defense Fund passed. The Rivers Coalition Defense Fund made this letter public at the SFWMD task force meeting.

Rick Hartman asked that when the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund sends out a letter that we can differentiate the difference between the organizations.

Ted Guy announced that maybe we can put something in the newsletter to differentiate.

Rick Hartman announced that many people do not know the difference between the two.

Rob Ranieri announced that it would be helpful if when the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund sends out a letter it would be nice if the Rivers Coalition members were notified ahead of time that the letter would be going out. Rob agrees that there should be some differentiation between the two organizations as they do overlap.

Rick Hartman would like to help facilitate someone from the Sugar Co-Op to come and speak at one of our meetings.

Backpumping Issue:

Pete Quasius spoke about the possibility of Backpumping from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee when they need water.

Committee Update:

Rob Ranieri announced the new FaceBook page has been launched. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/RiversCoalition>.

River Kidz:

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch announced that the River Kidz have produced a 10 things every River Kid should know. Go to <http://www.riverscoalition.org/10things-riverkidz.php>. The River Kidz are working with Martin County to make Bird Island a preserved area, the Kidz also went out with Florida Oceanographic and deployed Reef Balls.

Speakers Bureau:

Kevin Henderson spoke to the S.M.A.R.T.S. Group and they send a \$50 check and nice thank you note.

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Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:

George Jones announced that the water quality is good right now, only getting basin discharges. No Lake Okeechobee discharges.

WRAC “Water Resources Advisory Commission”:

George Jones announced that the last meeting was n the west coast and was basically about the west coast.

George Jones announced that he will be taking another position with Broward County with their parks department and will be no longer working as the Indian River Keeper.

Kevin Stinette thanked George for all he has done and announced that the position is open and they are accepting applications.

ROGER “River of Grass Estuary/Everglades Restoration”:

Ted Guy announced that the group works well to keep east and west coasts together and exchanging information.