

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes

---

Date: September 27, 2012

**Called to Order:** 11:04

Attendance: Leon Abood, Joel Sena, Shari Anker, Todd Weissing, Rob Ranieri, Jim Harter, Karl Wickstrom, Liz Elliott, Phil Tafoya, Marge Ketter, Paul Gray, John O'Brien, Douglas Ashley, Charles Grande, Nic Mader, Rick Dickerson, Paul Bender, Max Quackenbos, Dennis Phalen, Bob Pearson, Morris Crady, Lisa Fiore, Jackie Trancynger,

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

Leon Abood played the River Kidz protest YouTube video. Go to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=IYYMQarR8Fs#](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IYYMQarR8Fs#) to view the video.

### **Water Quality:**

Mark Perry announced that the water quality is disastrous. They have been discharging from the S80 structure for over 32 days now. It has affected the salinity level, we have seen a lot of dead oysters and dead fish. A lot of nitrogen and phosphorous coming in with the discharges. This is very disheartening.

### **Lake Okeechobee:**

Paul Gray announced that the lake is up to 15.4 ft. For the health of the lake that is a little bit deeper than we would like to see. They had to start discharging; according to the Corps it is needed. They are trying to go easy on us right now. If another storm comes we will be in big trouble. It's a bad situation and I think we are doing the best that we can.

### **Special Presentation:**

The Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative – David Goodlett, Vice President and Consultant Tom MacVicar.

### **Committee Update:**

Liz Elliott announced that she has met with all of committees and is reviewed their progress and needs. Membership Committee is in the process of contacting all current members and exploring new membership opportunities. We are in need of current members to help us with the committee. Public Outreach Committee has a marketing and outreach plan in place to focus on increasing awareness and involvement among the general public. The speakers Bureau is open to any group that would like them to come and speak. Government Relations Committee is looking for ways to increase presence and participation at government meetings and workshops. We are need of more members to attend these meetings.

### **River Kidz:**

Nicole Mader announced how well the River Kidz did at their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lemonade Stand and Clean-up. They raised \$730 and were able to draw on recycled FDOT signs. There will be a contest and they will be on display sometime soon. The River Kidz have a few upcoming events.

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes

---

### **Speakers Bureau:**

Todd Weissing announced that on Tuesday, Sept. 18th, Jim Harter spoke with approximately 30 members of the 27-80 Paddlers club at the Palm City Community Center. The audience was informed as to the issues and shared our passion for a clean river and lagoon. Rivers Coalition Speakers Bureau contact Todd Weissing at (772) 223-6743 or ctodd\_weissing@ml.com.

### **Martin County:**

Deborah Drum announced the update from then Martin County Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division. See the attached update.

**Martin County Projects Update  
Rivers Coalition Meeting  
September 27, 2012 at 11 a.m., Stuart City Hall**

**(Update provided by Deborah Drum, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division Director)**

- A motion was passed in support of completing the C-44 Project by the 9-County Coalition at their August 1, 2012 meeting.
- The Martin County Board of County Commissioners passed resolutions in support of completion of the C-44 project and other elements of the Indian River Lagoon South project (August 7), and in support of the Central Everglades Planning Process (September 11) which is identifying options for moving more water south.
- Those resolutions were distributed to the ACOE Colonel and Lt. Colonel, ACOE project managers, Assistant Secretary for the Civil Works Department of the Army (Secretary Darcy), the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Works (Rock Salt) and the federal delegation.
- Held a special Board of County Commissioners meeting at the C-44 project field office on August 29<sup>th</sup> to tour the C-44 site. The meeting and tour included the ACOE (including the Lt. Colonel), the SFWMD, state and federal delegation staff (Congressman Rooney and Senator Negron's staff), representatives from the Rivers Coalition, and the media.
- The Board of County Commissioners declared September 2012 and September 29, 2012 as Estuaries Day and Estuaries Month in Martin County. An editorial was published on September 22, 2012.
- An agreement with the SFWMD and USDA/NRCS was approved by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners on August 7 for the Allapattah Wetlands Reserve Program which will allow for \$4 million from USDA/NRCS to complete construction of hydrologic restoration. The benefits of the project are both flow and water quality nutrient load reductions in the St. Lucie River Watershed and Estuary.
- Successfully received grant funding from the St. Lucie River Issues Team for partial funding of the "Rio St. Lucie Stormwater Quality Retrofit" project, a "Manatee Pocket—Southwest Prong Baffle Box Project," and an oyster reef proposal to create an additional 4 acres of reef and shoreline vegetation that will trap sediment associated with stormwater runoff. All of the projects are designed to capture runoff and provide water quality benefits to the St. Lucie Estuary. Our projects were ranked numbers 1, 2, and 3.
- As part of the ongoing oyster project, additional reef balls are being deployed at Flagler Park. Although salinity conditions are not ideal, this project will create the substrate that will eventually provide settling opportunities for oysters once conditions improve.