

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 25, 2013

Called to Order: 6:09

Attendance: Mark Perry, Charles Grande, Jim Gilmore (Windjammer), Frank Pryzbylski, Marty Baum, Jim Harter, Jim Moir, Tom Tomilson, Liz Elliott, Benjamin D'Avanzo, Nic Mader, Darrell Brand, Todd Weissing, Ted Guy, Rob Ranieri, Dennis Phelan

Vice Chairman's Comments:

Mark Perry announced Scott and Annemarie Tyner with 4RShores, donating \$250.00 to the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund.

Stuart News:

Tyler Treadway, Eve Samples and Ed Killer announced that there will now be a new advocacy team in place at the Stuart News to focus on the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie Estuary. The goal is to focus on these issues more regularly.

River Kidz:

Nic Mader announced that the River Kidz completed Earth Day at the Environmental Studies Center and will be focusing on Paddlefest coming up on Memorial Day, May 27 at Sandsprit Park from 11:00-3:00, the River Kidz will be there and there will be food and music and many more activities. Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch announced that the River Kidz participated in the Town of Jupiter's Viva 500 and raised \$800.00 for their FDOT Signs that were displayed.

Rivers Coalition Defense Fund:

Charles Grande announced that the Defense Fund has a meeting coming up in May to discuss with the Attorneys for the Everglades Fund some new options that we may want to look at.

Speakers Bureau:

Todd Weissing announced that they just spoke to the Indian River Drive Freeholders Association and they will be donating \$100.00 to the Defense Fund.

Special Presentation:

Mark Perry, "*The Everglades and St. Lucie River; Flows & Current Issues*"

Presentation can be found at www.RiversCoalition.org.

WRAC "Water Recourses Advisory Commission":

Mark Perry announced that the next meeting is on May 2, 2013.

ROGER "River of Grass Estuary/Everglades Restoration":

Ted Guy announced that this group is in constant communication with the people on the West coast and are trying to help restore the River of Grass.

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Martin County:

Deborah Drum announced:

- Martin County has been active in this year's legislative sessions at the state and federal levels to advocate for Everglades funding and other water quality improvement priorities.
 - State: Martin County is supporting the Senate proposal of \$70 million in Everglades Funding. Some of this funding will help support the C-44 project. We are grateful to Senator Negron for his leadership in the Senate budget and we are urging the House to match the Senate's budget proposal. We are also supporting a potential \$3 million appropriation for the Danforth Creek Stormwater Project, currently in the Senate budget. Finally, we are opposing and working to amend legislation that could limit Martin County's environmental regulatory authority, particularly in the Pal Mar Water Control District, and opposing efforts to limit our ability to regulate the use of fertilizer (although efforts this year do include a grandfather provision which protects our existing ordinance – for now).
 - Federal: While the Senate budgetary news is encouraging, we have concerns regarding the President's budget and C-44 construction timeline. Our Commissioners will be strongly advocating towards a more aggressive timeline and funding in this year's budget, so we may continue to make progress in the next phase of the C-44 project.
- Martin County Ecosystem staff presented a County-wide Stormwater and Water Quality Needs Assessment earlier this week to our Board of County Commissioners. Projects were identified that help met our adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the St. Lucie Basin, and also address the County's additional water quality goals.
- Martin County Ecosystem staff recently developed a Fertilizer Ordinance brochure for distribution to the public and participated in the City of Stuart's Water Fest where 700 - 800 people were in attendance.
- If anyone has any questions or would like additional information about any of these efforts, please feel free to contact Deborah Drum at 463-3263.

South Florida Water Management:

Boy Gunsalus announced that they are starting the water farming pilot projects and looking at the effectiveness.

Additional Announcements:

Mary Baum announced that House Bill 999 is not a good bill, it will take away our fertilizer ordinances and we should let our legislature know about the bill and ask them to vote know. Please note that Senator, Joe Negron voted against it and Senator, Gayle Harrell voted for it.

Jessica Briske announced that on Friday April 19th the some members of the Rivers Coalition, Defense Fund and our local commissioners met at Ian's Tropical Grill to launch their partnership. Ian's has graciously offered to donate \$2.00 for 2 of their specialty drinks called the Indian River Lagoon and the Lake Okeechobee Discharge. Please go out and help support our River, stop by Ian's on East Ocean in the Stracuzzi plaza and have a drink.