

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 30, 2013

Called to Order: 11:03

Attendance: Leon Abood, Bob Pearson, Max Quackenbos, Frank Pryzblski, Mark Perry, Shari Anker, Todd Weissing, Marty Baum, Jim Harter, Jim Moir, Phil Tafoya, Charles Grande, Paul Gray, Joanne Swann, John O'Brien, Douglas Ashley, Nic Mader, Rick Hartman, Elisa Ackerly, Jackie Trancyng, Bob Pearson, Lisa Fiore, Tom Reetz, Tom Hill, Mike Myers,

Chairman's Comments:

Leon Abood announced the guest speaker from the South Florida Water Management, Ernie Bernett.

South Florida Water Management District: C44 Update:

Ernie Bernett, Assistant Executive Director for Everglades and Water Recourses. Go to www.RiversCoalition.org to see the presentation.

Mark Perry made a motion to write a letter to the Florida legislature thanking them for the progress made so far on the C44 project, and then send a separate letter asking for the legislature to finish funding the project. The third letter will be to the South Florida Water Management District to ask them to follow the protocol from STA 2 & STA 3/4 and to fund the project for the remaining phase 2 that has yet to be completed. Discussion. Charles Grande seconded motion, motion passed. Mark Perry and Paul Gray to help write the letter to the South Florida Water Management District with Leon Abood.

Special Presentation:

Mark Perry and Kevin Henderson special presentation "The Current State of Our Region's Hydrology". Go to www.RiversCoalition.org.

River Kidz

Nic Mader announced Paddlefest was a success and that it will benefit 6 different organizations. Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch announced the River Kidz workbook that has been started with the help of Julia Kelly.

Rivers Coalition Defense Fund:

Charles Grande announced that the Defense Fund has been told by the lawyers to keep everything confidential.

Speakers Bureau:

Todd Weissing announced that Jim Harter spoke to the Lost River HOA. The HOA will have their annual event on June 22nd, all proceeds will go to the Rivers Coalition. We are in need of volunteers.

Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:

Mark Perry announced that our local water quality is looking ok.

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Indian River Keeper:

Marty Baum announced that the City of Stuart took immediate action on the Loggerhead Marina, they have been allowing people to live on their boats and they are putting sewage in the river. On May 31st the CCA is meeting regarding the restoration of the seagrasses.

WRAC “Water Recourses Advisory Commission”:

Mark Perry announced that the next WRAC meeting is June 6th, 2013

Martin County:

Deborah Drum announced:

- Martin County was successful in receiving a \$3 million appropriation for the Danforth Creek Stormwater Project. Danforth Creek drains over 3,800 acres, ranks in the top ten most polluted tributaries in Martin and St. Lucie Counties, and discharges directly into the St. Lucie River. This appropriation will allow us to proceed with Phase II of this project, which will include construction of an Integrated Chemical and Wetland Treatment System. This technology integrates the strengths of both wetland and chemical treatment processes. Relative to conventional chemical treatment systems, this facility will reduce chemical use by up to 70%, and will remove up to 85% of the nutrients and provide treatment for over 2,500 acres of homes and pastures.
- Martin County, in coordination with the Martin County Department of Health, sampled for sucralose at three of the estuary fecal coliform sampling sites including the Roosevelt Bridge, Leighton Park and North Bessey Creek. FDEP analyzed the samples and they were all positive for sucralose, which indicates human sources. These results provide important additional information as we discuss options for water quality improvement related to septic and sewer issues. The County has identified \$88 million of septic-to-sewer conversion projects to address the issue of fecal coliforms in our local waters.
- The 9-County Coalition will meet on Friday, June 7th at 10 a.m. in Okeechobee at the Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom. The agenda includes updates from the Army Corps of Engineers, the SFWMD will provide an overview of District flood control operations and rainy season readiness as well as other major efforts updates, and the FDEP will provide an update on their Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.
- 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.

Additional Announcements:

Mark Perry announced that on June 10th there will be a meeting regarding the St. Lucie Inlet at the Blake library.

Mark Perry also announced that on June 8th is World Oceans Day. Go out to Florida Oceanographic.