

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes

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Date: February 27, 2014

**Called to Order:** 11:03

Attendance: Leon Abood, John Marshall, Frank Pryzbylski, James Harter, Marty Baum, Todd Weissing, Karl Wickstrom, Charles Grande, Don Voss, Jackie Tracynger, Joanne Swann, Dennis Phelan, Charlie Burns, Max Quackenbos, Rip Fisher, Elisa Ackerly, Jim Moir, Tom Bausch, Mike Conner, Paul Gray, Mark Perry, Paul Bender, Steven Cohen, Jill Pinkham, Shari Anker, Nic Mader, George Jones, Dennis Killia, Annie Potts, David Carlson, Mike Conner, Paul Bender, Clint Starling, Tom Gilson

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

Leon Abood presented applications for new membership by Nettles Island Community Action Association and Ocean Research & Conservation Association. Motions made, seconded and passed.

### **Special Presentation – Nathaniel Reed:**

Leon Abood introduced Nathaniel Reed as our guest speaker.

Following the presentation, Leon proposed a meeting with Nathaniel Reed and the other board members of the Everglades Foundation to decide the best solution for water flowing south to the Everglades in terms of economic feasibility and eco-sustainability.

### **River Kidz**

Nic Mader reminded everyone that the River Kidz will be holding a special event called “Get the Muck Out”, using river muck to tie dye t-shirts, which will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> in Harbour Bay Plaza, Sewall’s Point.

Katy Lewey from the St. Lucie County River Kidz announced that they are working on a new rain barrel project in the upcoming months called “Retain your Rain” in partnership with the Florida Foundation. Also, they will be holding their monthly meeting March 2nd 12pm at the Manatee Center in Ft. Pierce with guest speaker Gayle Carol.

### **Speakers Bureau:**

Todd Weissing announced to new members how to arrange a Rivers Coalition speaker.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Clint Starling announced our participation in the BBQ and Blues Festival Feb 28 - March 2 at Indian Riverside Park in Jensen Beach, where we will be selling t-shirts and stickers as well as debuting our new ladies tank tops.

### **Martin County:**

Deborah Drum gave an update on Martin County: Go to <http://riverscoalition.org/reports-info/martin-co-sfwmd/> for the full report.

### **South Florida Water Management District:**

Kathy LaMartina gave an update on the South Florida Water Management District: Go to <http://riverscoalition.org/reports-info/martin-co-sfwmd/> for the full report.

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### **Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:**

Mark Perry announced that even with minimal discharges, the local water quality is not improving; there is local basin runoff, which is affecting the water quality. Also, April 8<sup>th</sup> is Everglades Day up in Tallahassee and he will be there with others to help raise awareness about the Everglades' restoration.

### **WRAC - "Water Resources Advisory Commission":**

Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup> is the South Florida Water Management District meeting and Dr. Gary Goforth and Kevin Henderson have been requested to attend. The Governing Board meeting will be the following Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> with an agenda of Lake Okeechobee operations.

Paul Gray announced the Level of Lake Okeechobee is currently 14 ft. Small discharges are happening on the Caloosahatchee side. He also reminded everyone of the planning in order to lower to the lake's level to prepare for the rainy season.

### **Indian River Keeper:**

Marty Baum announced that at the Citizens for Clean Water rally in Tallahassee, over 110 organizations participated; they discussed HB 703 and Amendment 5, which holds polluters financially responsible. He also asked that everyone support the River Kidz in their upcoming event "Get the Muck Out" and to get more exposure for the young people who are doing such good work.