

Good morning. I am sorry I cannot be here, as I have a speaking commitment in Ft. Pierce today.

Nearly two months back, I was honored to be allowed to join the Georgia Aquarium up in Titusville to participate in the HERA Project. (Health and Risk Assessment) Ongoing since 2003 our very own Jim Moir, and Captain Nancy Beaver have been involved from the beginning. Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch got a chance several years back to participate too. I am confident she would ALSO tell you that it is one of the coolest things EVER to safely capture a wild dolphin and give it a 70 point physical. It was through the efforts of Jim and Captain Nancy that I was allowed to play. This project has recorded the declining health of our resident bottle nosed dolphin (*tursiops truncatus*) population for some 13 years, and it is information that needs to be better disseminated. I will be working with Jim Moir towards a presentation to this body about the collection of information and what the declining health of so important a "sentinel" specie as bottle nosed dolphins means to us.

Indian Riverkeeper has begun a sampling project trying to create a baseline of blue/green algae concentrations and locations in our lagoon with Dr. Larry Brand, of Rosenstiel School of Atmospheric and Marine Sciences at University of Miami. Dr. Brand has studied Tampa Bay, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, and is now here on our waterway. Some others involved locally that are familiar to you; Dr. Grant Gilmore, Dr. Edie Widder, and Dr. Beth Falls. We are very excited to be participating.

The insurance company has finally come through, and we are in the process of trying to repower our patrol boat, we will be asking for some help with this soon.

The Crosstown Bridge fight goes on, we feel that our case is stronger than ever as accountability for bad financial decisions in PSL has become a headline item. Why the current Mayor and Council are so determined to waste another 42 million dollars AND steal our park is beyond me. Sheri Anker can tell us more.

We have been out with ORCA installing and maintaining their KILROY suites, another case of creating a baseline where none existed before. This is a very important project with more than 25 KILROY, and 5 LOBO units now in the process of deployment, and collection. We are learning things we never expected, and are finding some of our fears were valid.

SLC Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky has informed me that our C-23, 24, 25 storm treatment projects have been moved forward in priority from 2026 back to 2018.. a substantial improvement as we try and deal with the forced upon us 400 thousand acres of UNNATURAL watershed we are now responsible for. This body.. the RC, should get behind this change with all our influence. Public pressure is our greatest tool for insuring this doesn't get sidetracked" by polluter pressures.

Here's hoping that Erika turns north before reaching Florida, and that we are not overloaded with rainfall thus creating a new set of polluted unnatural discharges. Cheers to all!

Marty Baum

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