

Rivers Coalition

ANNUAL Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2020

Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 11:02 am and led the flag salute.

Members In attendance: 83 people present, 35 members, Mark Perry (FOS), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of H.I.), Darrell Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), Jim Moir (MRC), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse Point HOA), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Greg Braun and George McLean (Guardians of Martin County), Annie Potts and Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Paul Gray and Doug Gaston (Audubon of FL), Walter Deemer (League of Women's Voter of MC), Ric Hall (River Warriors), Allen Hershkowitz (Sailfish Point Jeanette Hartzell (League of Women Voters SLC), Lisa Beagle (Surfrider Foundation), Michelle Byriel (FOS), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Glenn Kellis (Stuart Rod & Reel Club), Paul Laura (HIPI Jim Wharton (Harbour Ridge Yacht Club), Jackie Trancynger (Martin County Conservation Alliance), Willie Montes (MC Democratic Environmental Caucus), Mike Conner (Indian Riverkeeper), George Jones (ORCA), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of SLC), Robert and Roseanne Ryba (Joes Point HOA), Nic Mader (River Kidz, Wild Dolphin Project), Carol Ann Leonard (Martin County Democratic Environmental Caucus), Linda Grand (Am Assoc. of University Women), Diane Goldberg (St. Lucie Audubon), Douglas Ashley (River Club), Aliie Preston (Bullsugar.org), Rip Fisher (Sailfish Point Yacht Club), Dan Merritt (Seagate Harbor HOA), Jim Skeoch (Venture Three), Dave Derrenbacher (MC Realtors Assn),

Non-members: Merritt Matheson, Mike Meier and Becky Bruner (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart), Brian Mast (US Representative), Amy Gallante (Brian Mast Office), Kevin Hinkle (St Lucie Audubon), Mike Knepper, Becky Harris, Gary Goforth, Todd Thurlow, Maggy Hurchalla, Dr. Joe Gilio, Lt Col. Todd Polk (USACE), Jo Neeson, Tom Campenni, Sam Hay, Joann Saridakis (OZ for Congress), Sarah Heard (MC County Commissioner), Beth Miller.

Chairman's Comments: Mark said that this was the annual meeting of the RC, Inc. Mark thanked the City of Stuart for allowing RC to use their Chambers for meetings .

Current Action Items: Mark then introduced the 2020 Board of Directors as they stood up. The current Committee Chairs and Directors contact info was projected on the wall.

The RC Position Paper on Lake O levels was projected and comments by Dr. Paul Gray, Todd Weissing, Blair Wickstrom, Paul Laura, Maggy Hurchalla, Charles Grande, Kenny Hinkle, Gary Goforth, Beth Miller, Diane Goldberg and Doug Ashley were appreciated by all. A vote of the organizational members was taken: 28 voted-yea and 2- opposed. 2/3 of 35 present was 24 so the vote passed with 28 "yeas."

Special Presentation: Merritt Matheson, City of Stuart Commissioner on the Pending Lawsuit of The City of Stuart vs. USACE. PPT can be seen on RC webpage - www.riverscoalition.org. Video can be seen on RC YouTube channel. Important vote by the City of Stuart Commission is on this Monday Jan 27th 5:30, all are encouraged to attend to show support.

Martin County Report: John Maehl spoke on the BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan) meeting that was held that morning.

City of Stuart Report: Ben Hogarth, Public Liaison, reported LOSOM-PDT Team. Ben is on one of the 6 sub committees working on accurate modeling. Ben gave a very accurate explanation of the LOSOM process.

Rivers Coalition

ANNUAL Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2020

SFWMD Report: Jackie Thurlow-Lippisch is on vacation in Spain so Mark Perry read her report. All nine members of the SFWMD Governing Board were present at the Everglades Coalition Meeting on Captiva Island. There is a two day workshop Jan 31/Feb 1st (9:00 am) on Consumptive Use Permits at SFWMD Headquarters in WPB.

State and Federal Agencies: Lt Col Polk of USACE said that “We are here to listen and learn...We hear you.” Brian Mast, US Representative said “The best way not to get pushed around is to push back.”

Lake O. Update: Dr. Paul Gray spoke.

State Legislation Report: Mark Perry stated that State Legislature starts its session Jan 14, 2020. SB712 by Sen. Mayfield is the Clean Waterways Act. George Jones says that we need to regulate the polluters, it is a State problem. We are just moving dirty water around. We need to enforce the water laws that are already in place.

River Coalition Committee Reports:

Speakers Bureau: Todd Weissing reminded us that 2020 is an election year.

River Kidz: Nic Mader gave a huge thank you to Tyler Treadway for his 12 Days of Christmas article which raised \$1,167 towards the next RK workbook printing. Next week is a workshop with MC school district to rewrite RK workbook for MC schools. Hoping to have next workbook printed by April 2020. Next event is in February (date TBD) at Sewalls Point Park- Lisa Beagle, Surfrider Foundation, will speak on ocean plastics after a beach clean up.

Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:

Mark Perry stated that the water quality is at C+. Maggy Hurchalla requested that a talking point page be formed for people to use at upcoming meetings. Mark asked Gary Goforth to produce it.

Indian River Keeper: Mike Conner, the new IRK, thanked Marty Baum for his six years of service, a loud applause was given. There is now a new domain name www.TheIndianRiverKeeper.org and FB IndianRiverKeeper.org. Mike is setting up an advisory board. Zack Judd of FOS has already signed on. Mike is forming an volunteer “Navy” called the Ospreys for their eagle eye on the water. 36 people have already volunteered. There are 13 water keepers in Florida.

Members Comments:

Capt. Nancy Beaver of Sunshine Wildlife Tours and Ocean River Institute conducts tours of the IRL. She has observed and documented with FOS the decline of seagrasses. She is now seeing juvenile fish for the first time since the decline of discharges.

Jackie Trancynger announced that the MC Democratic Club is having Dr. Jim Sullivan of the Blue-Green Task Force speak on March 26th, Wed.

George Jones announced that The Lighthouse Art Center in Tequesta has an exhibition Jan 16-Feb 12 on H2O TrickleDown with photographers such as Clyde Butcher, Edie Widder.

Shari Anker announced that ORCA on March 6th is having Ken Lindeman of FIT speak on Advocacy and Real World Science and Climate Change and the Ocean.

Walter Deemer, MC Women’s Voters announced that they are giving Jackie Thurlow-Lippisch the Susan B. Anthony Award for Community Activism on Feb 17th 11:30 at Manero’s in Palm City \$20.

Rivers Coalition

ANNUAL Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2020

Nic Mader announced a Native Dolphin event at the Lyric theatre Jan 31st. March 28 Annual Fundraiser for Wild Dolphin Project at PBCC with Sylvia Earle.

Mark Perry said the film "America's Amazon" was sold out, it was a fundraiser for FOS, WQCS and Elliott Museum. Everglades Action Day in Tallahassee is Feb 10-11.

Kenny Hinkle, Jr said that his god-father, Jack Hanna, is speaking at Sunrise Theater tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm