

# Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2019

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Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and led the flag salute.

**Members In attendance:** 66 people present, 25 members, Mark Perry (FOS), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of H.I.), Darrell and Jennifer Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse Point HOA), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Greg Braun (Guardians of Martin County), Annie Potts and Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Paul Gray (Audubon of FL), Walter Deemer (League of Women's Voter of MC), Ric Hall (River Warriors), Allen Hershkowitz (Sailfish Point), Brad Davey (US Sailing Center of MC), Jeanette Hartzell (League of Women Voters SLC), Regina Wood (MC Native Plant Society), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Renee Moreshead (Surfrider Foundation), Michelle Byriel (FOS), Bob Mathias (Sailfish Point HOA), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Glenn Kellis (Stuart Rod & Reel Club), Paul Laura (HIPI), Mike Myers (Windjammer Condo Assn), Jim Wharton (Harbour Ridge Yacht Club), Jackie Trancynger (Martin County Conservation Alliance), Iris Rhett and Brain McGann (Estuary of North River Shores), Willie Montes (MC Democratic Environmental Caucus)

**Non-members:** Merritt Matheson and Becky Bruner (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart), Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (SFWMD), John Haddox (Brian Mast), Kevin Hinkle (St Lucie Audubon), , Mike Knepper, Carl Stewart, Douglas Ashley, Becky Harris, Gary Goforth, Todd Thurlow, Maggy Hurchalla, Vincent Ecomio (FOS), Anna Bergalis, Oz Vazquez (Candidate for FL-18), David Cross, Dr. Joe Gilio, Dave Derrenbacker (MC Realtors)

**Chairman's Comments:** Mark asked RC members to stand and introduce themselves.

Mark and Charles spoke highly of the late Mark Boston of Nettles Island Action Committee, who recently died. Nettles Island Action Committee has disbanded and asked to be removed from RC membership list.

**Current Action Items:** New Member Application of The Estuary on North River Shores Condo Assn represented by Iris Rhett. Darrell Brand-1<sup>st</sup>, Charles Grande-2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously voted in. Iris Rhett stood to speak about The Estuary.

Mark Perry spoke of the RC Position Paper on Lake O levels being circulated at the meeting and will vote on at January meeting.

**Special Presentation:** Topic: Blue Green Algae Task Force by James Sullivan, Ph.D., Executive Director of FAU/Harbor Branch. PPT can be seen on RC webpage - [www.riverscoalition.org](http://www.riverscoalition.org). Video can be seen on RC YouTube channel.

**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.

**SFWMD Report:** Jackie Thurlow-Lippisch thanked Dr. Sullivan for the exciting progress seen recently. She thanked Blair Wickstrom and Florida Sportsman for the tour of C-44 STA/reservoir. She was disappointed that no one from this area applied to be on WRAC. Next Governing board is Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Lake O. Update:** Dr. Paul Gray: Lake O is at 13.21 ft. He is hoping to be 11 ft to replenish the plants we lost in Hurricane Dorian.

**State Legislation Report:** Mark Perry stated that State Legislature starts its session Jan 14, 2020. Committees are being formed.

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## **River Coalition Committee Reports:**

**Speakers Bureau:** Todd Weissing spoke of recent speaking engagements.

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

Mark Perry stated that the water quality is pretty good. Spoke of the successful Rally for the River and Thanked Michelle Byriel for orchestrating it. Gary Goforth, JTL and Gayle Harrell spoke at it.

## **Members Comments:**

Michelle Byriel of FOS reminded us that Terra Fermata is doing a benefit for FOS Sat night.

Becky Harris relayed Alex Gillen's request that more of us join the LOSOM sub committees.

Jackie Trancynger encouraged us to attend MC BOCC meeting to stop the majority from altering the Comp Plan.

Anna Bergalis stated that in Australia rivers are legally obtaining "personhood."

Regina Wood said there is a Native Plant Sale on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>

Greg Braun said this month's Guardians of MC newsletter is on the table in the back

Mark Perry said Everglades Coalition Annual meeting is in Jan on Captive Island.

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The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 pm