

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: February 20, 2020

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

Members In attendance: 62 people present, 33 members, Mark Perry (FOS), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of H.I.), Darrell and Jennifer Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), Jim Moir (MRC), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse Point HOA), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Annie Potts and Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Walter Deemer (League of Women's Voter of MC), Ric Hall (River Warriors), Allen Hershkowitz (Sailfish Point), Rene DeLaHunty (Surfrider Foundation), 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), Mike Conner (Indian Riverkeeper), George Jones (ORCA), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of SLC), Nic Mader (River Kidz, Wild Dolphin Project), Linda Grand (Am Assoc. of University Women), Diane Goldberg (St. Lucie Audubon), Aliie Preston (Bullsugar.org), Eve Samples (Friends of the Everglades), Jim Skeoch (Venture Three), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Mike Myers (Windjammer Condo Assn), Regina Wood (MC Florida Native Plant Society), Kenny Hinkle (River Warriors), Carol Guthrie (Port Sewall Homeowners Assn),

Non-members Becky Bruner (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth and Mike Mortell (City of Stuart), Stacey Heatherington (Commissioner Martin County), John Maehl (Martin County), Jackie Thurlow-Lippisch (SFWMD), Steve Leighton (Brian Mast Office), Renaldo Diaz (Lake Worth Waterkeeper), Mike Knepper, Todd Thurlow, Becky Harris, Todd Thurlow, Dr. Joe Gilio, Sam Hay, Oz Vasquez (OZ for Congress), Blake Faulkner, Beth Miller, Anne Coz (Florida Lands Remembered), Tom Dee

Chairman's Comments: Mark reported on the Everglades Action Day "Rally in Tally." Mark announced tonight's meeting where Dr. Gary Goforth will be speaking at Wolf Tech Center at IRSC sponsored n Martin County Conservation Alliance.

Mark asked current RC organizational group reps to stand and introduce themselves.

Special Presentation: Dr. Jennifer Rehage of FIU spoke on the Health of Florida Bay. See her presentation at Facebook and RC website.

Martin County Report: John Maehl spoke on the water quality and LOSOM. <https://www.martin.fl.us/LOSOM>
Dianne Hughes is receiving the MRC award this Saturday. <https://www.martin.fl.us/WaterQuality>

City of Stuart Report: Ben Hogarth, Public Liaison, reported LOSOM-PDT Team. Read a letter from City Commissioner, Merritt Matheson, who is on a research trip to Florida Bay.
<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/LOSOM/> for upcoming LOSOM meetings.

SFWMD Report: Jackie Thurlow-Lippisch reported on the recent PSL workshop because the C-23, C-24, C-25 drain from PSL into the St. Lucie River. The Meeting was on Consumptive Use Permits. State purchased 20,000 more acres for STAs. WRAC workshop on Feb 27th at 10:00 am link to mtg:
<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/water-resources-accountability-and-collaboration-wrac>

State and Federal Agencies: n/a

Lake O. Update: Mark Perry said the Lake is at 12.8 ft.

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State Legislation Report: n/a

River Coalition Committee Reports:

River Kidz: Nic Madersaid there are new “Toxic Algae Sux” stickers on back table. Next event is “NO Plastic in the Park” March 7th at Sewalls Point Park- Lisa Beagle, Surfrider Foundation, will speak on ocean plastics after a beach clean up.

Speakers Bureau: Todd Weissing encouraged all to use the Speakers Bureau for their events.

Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:

Mark Perry stated that the water quality is at B- .

Indian River Keeper: Mike Conner, the new IRK, reported on IRL and showed slides of Sailfish Flats with no seagrass.

Members Comments:

Announcement of March 5th FIT lecture by Dr. Ken Lindeman “Changing Climate, Changing Oceans.” 6:00 Morningside Library in PSL

Darrell Brand announced March 10th 7 pm Dr. Edie Widder of ORCA is speaking at Temple Beit HaYam

Jim Moir announced MRC Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet 2020: Saturday, February 22, 2020 5:00 pm–8:00 pm The Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront Hotel

Paul Laura of Hutchinson Island Preservation Intuitive March 26 Dr. James Sullivan-Blue Green Algae Task Force-IRSC, Wolf High Tech Center, 2400 SE Salerno Rd-6:30PM

Regina Wood announced the March 3rd lecture on Butterflies by Diane Goldberg by MC Native Plant Society

George Jones of ORCA announced fundraiser on a Triton Submarine on March 29th with Dr. Edie Widder 6:00

JTL suggested we go the “eye on Lake O” to see Todd’s pollution maps and Kissimmee River map

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm