

# Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: September 26, 2019

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

**Members In attendance:** 67 people, 26 organizational member reps were present. Mark Perry (FOS), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of H.I.), George Jones (ORCA), Dan Merritt (Seagate HOA), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Alex Gillen (Friends of The Everglades), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), George MacLean (Guardians of Martin County), Gayle Ryan (Indian Riverkeeper), Carol Ann Leonard (MC Democratic Environmental Caucus), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Annie Potts (TC Rowing Club), Paul Gray (Audubon of FL), Bobbi Deemer (League of Women's Voter of MC), Diane Goldberg (St Lucie Audubon), Ric Hall (River Warriors), James Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Allen Hershkowitz (Sailfish Point POA), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Bob Voisinet (Cocoanut Point Yacht Club), Nic Mader (Dolphin Ecology Project), Kenny Hinkle, Shari Anker (St Lucie Conservation Alliance), Dennis Phelan (27-80 Paddlers), Linda Grand (Am. Assn of University Women), Carol Ann Leonard (MC Democratic Environmental Caucus)

**Non-members:** Merritt Matheson (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart), Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (SFWMD), John Maehl and Katie Bowes (Martin County), Sarah Heard (Martin County Commissioner), Dave Derrenbacker, Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch and Kathy La Martina (SFWMD), Tom Campenni, Maggy Hurchalla, Tyler Treadway of TC Palm, Angela Rozier of WPBF

## Chairman's Comments:

Mark Perry recognized Legislators: Merritt Matheson, Ben Hogarth and Becky Bruner of City of Stuart, Sarah Heard of Martin County, All RC organization member representatives were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

**Current Action Items:** "Partner in Preserving the River" certificate given to James Immesberger for monthly donations.

**Special Presentation:** Topic: US Sugar Lawsuit vs. ASCOE by Lisa Interlandi of Everglades Law Center

**Martin County Report:** John Maehl said that Lake O is at 13.96 feet. He gave a PPT on the ongoing projects. Go to the following websites for water quality updates: [www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us); [www.martin.floridahealth.gov](http://www.martin.floridahealth.gov); [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us) and [www.reportalagalbloom.com](http://www.reportalagalbloom.com).

**SFWMD Report:** Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch reported that the SFWMD board continues to change its culture.

- 1) Open up bottom of system-Tamiami Trail/Wall to help AG in Homestead/ Faster on the EAA reservoir.
  - 2) Open up "Rule making" on the "Works of The District" brought up to deal with by Mark Perry. There is no mechanism for enforcement. The monitoring needs rules so there can be enforcement or a "cultural Expectation."
  - 3) Programs to deal with invasive animals (pythons) and plants.
  - 4) Rep. Toby Overdorf brought legislators to SFWMD meeting to expose them to our plight.
- Mark Perry said there is an Oct 10<sup>th</sup> SWMD mtg, not sure if there is a Oct 9<sup>th</sup> workshop.

## **Lake O Report:**

Dr. Paul Gray of Audubon said there is 10-% chance of releases or 10% chance of drought.

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**State Report:** George Jones: Gov De Santis recently wanted “continuation funding” and “recurring funding” of water projects during the length of his term as Gov. George told RC of how to check on Committees through “My Florida Senate” and “My Florida House.”

**LOSOM:** Alex Gillen said that the ACOE is recognizing “Human Health” and Hoover Dike/ Flood Control/Algal Bloom as factors. Alex said that the “Highest value” is to change the 1948 law and Mast’s House Bill #3324 does that.

Maggy Hurchalla stood to say that we need to coordinate groups to speak a “simpler and honest” message. There are monthly PDT “Project Delivery Team” webinars.

Mark said there is an IDS “Integrated Delivery System” meeting on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **River Coalition Committee Reports:**

**Speakers Bureau:** Dan Merritt said the Speakers Bureau is available for bookings.

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

Mark Perry stated that the turbidity in the water is because of high winds that stir up the silt.

## **Indian Riverkeeper Update:**

Gayle Ryan said that Marty could not be present due to an eye infection which requires multiple procedures.

## **Members Comments:**

Jackie Trancynger spoke of the growth in Martin County and City of Stuart

Walter Deemer brought attention to the New York Times Article on Maggy Hurchalla last week.

Alex Gillen reminded all of Dirty River Jam Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at Tako Tiki in Jensen Beach. Benefit for Friends of the Everglades.

Michelle Byriel of FOS announced the “Rally for the River” Sat Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at Flagler Park

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The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm