

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: April 26, 2018

Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M pm. 84 people were present. Members In attendance: Jim Moir, George Jones, Darrell Brand, Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Marty Baum, Gayle Ryan, Nic Mader, Jill Pinkham, Alan Herskowitz, Richard Erth, Jackie Trancynger, James Harter, Wayne Kuster, Regina Wood, Joanne Swann, Kenny Hinkle, Todd Weissing, Jennifer Brand, Linda Grand, Jeanette Hartzell, Greg Braun, Nyla Pipes, Annie Potts, Jim Wharton, Dave Carlson, Paul Gray, Dyana Voss, Paul Laura, Marcy Pitkin, Leanna Desmond, David Carlson, Alex Gillen, Pat LaBalbo, Dianne Hughes (MC Water Quality), Terry Rauth (MC Public Works).

Chairman's Comments: Mark Perry welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. with The Pledge of Allegiance. Mark Perry gave a report on their trip to Washington DC that week to meet with Federal ACOE and Brian Mast about the "Feasibility Report." Mark encouraged all to write personal letters to get the funding request in for the water to go south. Today's speaker Noah Valenstein was held up in Wash DC working with Dept of Interior on the FL water projects.

Current Action Items and Voting: George Jones mentioned that Lace Vitunac of the Conservation Alliance of SLC died on Earth Day. We held a moment of silence for her.

River Kidz of Martin County:

The April 7th RK event of Beach Trash Art at Sewall's Point Park and a celebration of the RK workbook V.3 was a terrific success. Nic Mader said that the River Kidz want to donate the proceeds from the Beach Trash Art Event to the Right Whale Festival. Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch is distributing the Beach Art Trash postcards to Local/State/Fed politicians. RK received \$1,100 from Harbor Ridge Yacht Club. 1/2 is to go to Rivers Coalition and 1/2 to River Kidz.

Speakers Bureau: Todd Weissing announced that the Ballantrae Lady Angler's Club luncheon on March 26 donated \$3,300 to RC.

Special Presentation: Mark Perry introduced Tom Frick of Florida Dept of Environmental, Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration, who gave a talk on the waterways. Tom.Frick@dep.state.fl.us (850)245-7518 To view the presentations and all reports: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition>.

Government & Agency Progress Reports:

- **Martin County:** Dianne Hughes reported that the Lake O. level is at 13'. Next water Ambassador Class is May 19. To view Dianne's report go to: www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/ Go to the following websites for water quality updates: www.martin.fl.us ; www.martin.floridahealth.gov ; www.dep.state.fl.us and www.reportalagalbloom.com.
 - **State and Federal Agencies and Issues:** Dr. Paul Gray: Lake O is losing its grasses. Lake O needs SB10. Right now it is too deep, too muddy, plants have no light when they are 2-3 feet under water
 - **Coalition Reports:** N/A
 - **Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Update:** Charles Grande wasn't present.
 - **Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Marty Baum said there is not enough light in the river, too much turbidity. Marty had a "blast" at the River Kidz Beach Trash Art Event. The Surfriders have a "Ban the Bag" program starting soon. On Tuesday Marty and Dr. Gilmore are putting hydrophones in the St. Lucie River to determine the health of the lagoon by listening to the fish.
 - **Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:** Michelle Byriel of FOS reported that Katie Tiling will be conducting seagrass surveys of the St. Lucie River Estuary. They are needing research volunteers for oyster restoration on May 17, seagrass survey on May 24 and seagrass matting on May 30. The sea turtle nesting season is here and the night tours start May 30.
 - **Member Comments:**
Jim Harter of Stuart Flyrodders said there is a video of worldwide flyrodders on May 11 at Ohana Surf shop as a benefit for BullSugar.org \$15 and food trucks.
Tiffany Parisi announced that she is running for State House of Representatives, Mike Meiers of Ground Floor Farm announced his campaign for Stuart City Council, Robert Levy announced his campaign for Senate District 25.
George Jones of ORCA said they will be doing fish collecting on May 15 to test the skin for toxicity.
Regina Wood of MC Native Plant Society announced a field trip on May 5th by Sarah Martin of the "Coastal Wilderness on a Barrier Island."
- Mary Perry announced that the next RC meeting is June 28th and Lt Reynolds of ACOE will be speaker.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:28 p.m.