

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: April 25, 2019

Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Led the flag salute.

Members In attendance: Mark Perry (FOS), Jim Moir (MRC), Darrell Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), George Jones (ORCA), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Glenn Kellis (Stuart Rod & Reel Club), Alex Gillen (Bullsugar), Paul Laura (HIPI), Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Marty Baum (Indian Riverkeeper), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Nic Mader (Dolphin Ecology Project), Regina Wood and Joan Bausch (MC Native Plant Society), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of SLC), Wayner Kuster (Four Winds Condo Assn), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Martha Boston (Nettles Island Community Action), Greg Braun (Guardians of Martin County), Kenny Hinkle (River Warriors), Gayle Ryan and Jon Page (MC Democratic Environmental Caucus), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Lisa Beagle and Roselyne Rose (Surfrider Foundation), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Jim Wharton (Harbour Ridge YC), Annie Potts (TC Rowing Club), Paul Gray (Audubon of FL), Hilarie Davis (USSCMC), Bill Evans (Palm Cove Yacht Club), Bobbi Deemer (League of Women's Voter of MC), Jeanette Hartzell (League of Women Votes-SLC), Linda Grand (American Assn of University Women), Rip Fisher (Sailfish Point YC), Diane Goldberg (St Lucie Audubon),

Non-members: Merritt Matheson and Eula Clarke (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart), Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (SFWMD), Dianne Hughes and Katie Bowes (Martin County), John Haddox (Brian Mast), Will Glover (Toxic Trail Run), Dyana Voss (Marine Cleanup Initiative), Willie Montes, Sam Hay, Carl Stewart, Jim Skeoch, Richard E Hall, Beth and Jim Jurgaitis, Tom Dee, Todd Thurlow, Arleigh Greenblatt, Becky Harris. 73 people were present.

Chairman's Comments:

Mark Perry recognized Legislators: Becky Bruner, Merritt Matheson of City of Stuart, John Haddox for Brian Mast. Becky thanked FOS for the fun she, JTL and Amy Gallant had yesterday planting seagrasses. Jim Moir awarded "Partners in Preserving the River" certificate to Toxic Trail Run organizers Will Glover and Michelle Weiler for their donation of \$5,000 to RC.

Special Presentation: Topic: Getting Involved:

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch spoke of how to become informed and involved in SFWMD issues.

George Jones spoke on how to do research and advocacy to be heard by our legislators.

The Wi-Fi at City of Stuart was down but handouts and website names were given out so RC members can pursue the information themselves.

Ben Hogarth of City of Stuart announced that he and Alex Gillen are Community Advocates and they are open anytime for people to use their expertise.

Martin County Report:

Dianne Hughes said that Lake O is at 11.41 feet.

FDEP is being proactive and doing background algae samples in Lake O., no microcystins were found.

Kate Bowes of MC participated with FOS in an oyster survey. They found oysters over 4" in the St. Lucie River off Martin Memorial North, so the oysters survived these past two summers of discharges.

Dianne Explained the Martin County LOSOM Scoping Report 4.22.19

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.

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: April 25, 2019

State Report:

Dr. Paul Gray of Audubon said the eel grass is sprouting so that means the Lake O level is down enough for sunlight to get to the bottom. Dr. Gray saw over 20 kids of shorebirds, which nest in the Artic and come to Lake O to double their body weight for their flight back north, sometime flying non-stop for a week.

River Coalition Committee Reports:

Speakers Bureau: Jim Harter spoke on upcoming Speakers Bureau events on May 5, 6 and 15. "The River is still sh#\$%y."

River Kidz: Marine Resources Council gave River Kidz the Wavemaker Award.

There is a shredding event at Illustrated Properties this Saturday all proceeds will go the RK.

Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:

Mark Perry stated that there is a lot of evaporation from the Lake O. 1700 cubic feet per second (cfs) going west to Caloosahatchee, 86 cfs going to East to St. Lucie River.

STA's are not full, can take more water to water conservation areas and Everglades.

Caulkins Water Farm and C-44 can take more water.

JTL said that a lot of STA's need to be replenished and are not set up for full capacity.

The greater River region got a "B+."

Indian Riverkeeper Update:

Marty Baum stated that he cannot attend SFWMD meeting due to litigation on illegal leases signed by the previous SFWMDB.

Marty spoke at Conservation Alliance of SLC , Humanists and Pelican Island.

Waterkeepers spoke with Tom Frick of FDEP in Orlando, where Tom Frick made excuses for reducing our protections on drinking water.

The Harmful Toxic Algae Task Force will start up again.

Marty spoke of the Hep A outbreak and connection to the BioSolids spread on Palm City sod farms.

May 15th at Kimbell Education Center at Jonathan Dickinson State Park workshop on Water Quality.

John's Island Pipeline update. "We beat them this week but they are back at it again."

St Lucie County is talking about running a bridge over Herman's Bay from mainland to Hutchinson Island at Walton Road.

Members Comments:

Paul Laura stated that Martin County is starting a program to reduce plastic straws and foam packaging in restaurants. This action was introduced by FOS, Surfrider Foundation and Indian Riverkeeper Regina-MC Native Plant Society-May 7th- "Designing a Native Garden" by Amanda Martin. May 11th field trip to Pan's Garden in Palm Beach

Meeting Adjourned 12:50 pm