

# Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: February 21, 2018

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George Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M pm. 55 people were present. Members In Attendance: Jim Moir, George Jones, Charles Grande, Marty Baum, Gayle Ryan, Paul Gray, Jackie Trancynger, James Harter, Wayne Kuster, Regina Wood, Joanne Swann, Jeff Thornton, Shari Anker, Mike Conner, Nic Mader, David Cross, Todd Weissing, Dianne Hughes, Deborah Drum, Alex Gillen, Darrell and Jennifer Brand, Richard Erth, Linda Grand, Frank Miller, Jay O'Laughlin, Jeanette Hartzell.

**Chairman's Comments:** George Jones welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 6 p.m. with The Pledge of Allegiance

## **Current Action Items and Voting:**

American Association of University Women officially voted into RC as organizational member. Charles Grande made the motion and Jim Moir 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Voted in unanimously. Linda Grand told us they have 170,000 members nationally and 100 members in Stuart

George Jones gave update on SB10 and asked to keep the pressure on Tallahassee

## **River Kidz of Martin County:**

Nic Mader thanked The Blessing of the Fleet on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> for the donation of \$500.

April 7<sup>th</sup> is RK event of Beach Trash Art at Sewall's Point Park and a celebration of the RK workbook V.3. Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch is distributing the workbook in Tallahassee.

**Speakers Bureau:** Todd Weissing says Marty Baum will speak at Ballantrae Lady Angler's Club luncheon on March 28. March 6<sup>th</sup> is a speaking engagement at Stuart Yacht and CC.

**Special Presentation:** Jay O'Laughlin of Guardians of Martin County and Joe Gilio spoke on "Options to the EAA Reservoir/STA Projects." He recommends using portions of the Holey land and Rotenberger lands for STA use.

To view the presentations and all reports: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition>.

## **Government & Agency Progress Reports:**

- **Martin County:** Deborah Drum reported that she is leaving her position with Martin County and Dianne Hughes will replace her as liaison to the RC. Dianne reported that the water quality has been good. To view Dianne's report go to: [www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/](http://www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/) 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).
- **State and Federal Agencies and Issues:** Dr. Paul Gray reported the Lake at 15+ feet is too high, he wants it at 13' for the birds on the west side marshes. To view Dr. Gray's report go to: [www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/](http://www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/)

## **Coalition Reports:**

- **Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Update:** Charles Grande spoke of Joe Negron's SB10
- **Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Marty Baum reported on "Party in the Park" on 2/10 by Conservation Alliance of SLC and how successful it was.
- **Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:** Mark Perry said the water quality is "good" and the oyster restoration projects have resumed. He reported that septic tanks are only 4% of the river problems. He reminded all of FOS Coastal Lecture Series.
- **Member Comments:** Jeff Thornton of Ft Pierce Yacht Club announced their "Poker Run" on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> the funds will go to pay for a Summer Intern for Harbor Branch from IRSC.

Regina Wood of the MC Chapter of FL Native Plant Society announce a lecture on March 6 by Roger Hammer, author and botanist on "Enjoying the Cypress Swamps without dying a horrible death."

Jim Moir announced at the IRL NEP is conducting a vote on listening to the five counties on the IRL's priorities

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Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 p.m.