

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: February 27, 2019

Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Led the flag salute.

Members In attendance: Mark Perry (FOS), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of Hutchinson Island), Jim Moir (MRC), , Darrell Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), George Jones (ORCA), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Jill Pinkham (Rio Civic Club), Glenn Kellis (Stuart Rod & Reel Club), Alex Gillen (Bullsugar), Paul Laura (HIPI), Tom Wharton (Harbour Ridge YC), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Nic Mader (Dolphin Ecology Project), Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Wayner Kuster (Four Winds Condo Assn), Regina Wood (MC FL Native Plant Society), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders, Jeanette Hartzell (League of Women Voters), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Dan Merritt (Seagate HOA), Kenny Hinkle (River Warriors), Gayle Ryan (TC Democratic Environmental Caucus), Bobbie Deemer (MC League of Women Voters), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Diane Goldberg (St Lucie Audubon), Todd Thurlow, Becky Bruner (Stuart City Council), Toby Overdorf (Palm City Chamber & FL Representative), Merritt Matheson (Stuart City Council), Stacey Hetherington (Martin County Commissioner), Richard Geissinger. 67 people were present.

Chairman's Comments: Mark Perry reported that the LOSOM meeting was well attended by RC members with 200 comments. He thanked everyone who came and spoke. March 14th 9 am is the next SFWMD meeting.

Current Action Items and Voting: New member Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative was represented by Paul Laura. Charles Grande made the motion to approve the HIPI, Darrell Brand 2nd it, the voting members all said "Aye." Paul Laura spoke a bit about how HIPI started by fighting the lights on H.I. so as to not interfere with nesting sea turtles.

Blair Wickstrom wanted the RC to send a position paper to ACOE and SFWMD. Mark Perry said that a letter in the Name of RC with a list of all RC organizational members attached to it was already written and hand delivered to ACOE at recent LOSOM meeting. Alex Gillen will send a letter for people to "Sign On" to.

Special Presentation: Alex Gillen of BullSugar gave the presentation on Lake Okeechobee Operations: From the Central and Southern Florida project, to LORS, LOSOM, and the future.

Martin County Report: Dianne Hughes said that Rhett Keene from Captec Engineering died last week from 11 years fighting cancer. We held a moment of silence. Lake O is at 12.75 feet. ACOE started discharges last Saturday at 500 csf/week. Dianne stated that Martin County is very involved in the LOSOM process. 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 Report: Toby Oberdorf (State Representative) spoke of how the ACOE needs to look more north to the Kissimmee basin to stop the Lake O damage. Tamiami Trail now has 2 sections of 2.5 miles of raised road for the water to flow south.

River Coalition Committee Reports: River Kidz: Barbara Osborn spoke of Mutt March and Waterfest that RC and RK will both be having booths at on March 23rd 10-2 at Memorial Park. "Fighting for Finn" T-shirts will be handed out.

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Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality: Mark Perry said that since the discharges started last Saturday the Salinity at Roosevelt Bridge is 3 parts per million (as of this morning per Jim Harter). If it is like this in the Spring the Estuary won't spawn new fish.

Members Comments:

Regina Wood, Native Plant Society of Martin County: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:30 IRSC 6:30 pm Native Trees for Your Landscape; March 9 Field Trip MC Farms

George Jones: March 12 9:00 am Indian River Administration Complex, Stop the John's island Wastewater Effluent Pipeline from being drilled. *Save The IRL.org*

Jim Harter, Bacteria showing up in produce that has been watered by water from Lake O.

Diane Goldberg is doing a lecture on butterfly and moths at Kilmer Library in Ft Pierce. 1:00 Date:?

Tom Tomlinson, Martin County Conservation Alliance: March 30 1:00 IRSC Dr. Larry Brand lecture on neurotoxins and BMAA

George Jones, ORCA: Dr. Edie Widder Friday 3/1/19 St. Lucie Community Center (2195 S.E. Airoso Blvd. Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984)6:30 **What Goes Around, Comes Around: Where Water and Health Meet**

Bobbie Deemer, Martin County League of Women Voters: Monday March 18th 11:30 Kane Center Former Governor Bob Graham

Douglas Ashley thought we should have more rallies holding signs. Darrell Brand encouraged him to join the RC Events Committee

Meeting Adjourned 7:35 pm