

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: January 24, 2019

Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. 71 people were present.

Members In attendance: Jim Moir (MRC), George Jones (ORCA), Mark Perry (FOS), Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (River Kidz), Darrell Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of Hutchinson Island), Marty Baum (Indian Riverkeeper), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Linda Grand (American Assoc of University Women), Regina Wood (MC FL Native Plant Society), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Michelle Byriel (FOS), Jeanette Hartzell (League of Women Voters), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Dan Merritt (Seagate HOA), Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), John Gaffney (Royal Harbor HOA), Kenny Hinkle (River Warriors), Gayle Ryan (TC Democratic Environmental Caucus), Bill Evans (Palm Cove HOA), Tom Wharton (Harbour Ridge YC), George MacLean (Guardians of MC), Alex Gillen (Bullsugar), Bobbie MeMer (MC League of Women Voters), Martha Boston (Nettles Island), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Becky Bruner, Mike Meier, Merritt Matheson (Stuart City Council), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of SL County), Diane Goldberg (ST Lucie Audubon), Glenn Kellis (Stuart Rod & Reel Club), Paul Gray (Audubon), Dr. Joe Gilio, Melissa Zerka (Keep Martin Beautiful), Stacy Ranieri (The Firefly Group), Rip Fisher (Sailfish Point Yacht Club), Nicolette Mariano (Oyster Boss), Brittany Beardon (MC Farm Bureau), Richard Geisinger, Bud Jordan, Leon Abood, Kevin Henderson, Larry Crary

Chairman's Comments: Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. Led the flag salute

Current Action Items and Voting: Mark Perry Spoke on current legislation and Gov. DeSantis initiatives

- 1) 2.5 billion for Everglades restoration
- 2) to form a blue-green task force
- 3) Open an Office of Environmental Accountability
- 4) appoint Chief Science Officer.

Mark said that our job is to contact our Tallahassee rep and make them aware of our needs.

Explanation of Articles and By-laws: Mark Perry spoke of the merger into RC, Inc. Will put out new master membership list for next meeting for corrections and additions.

Special Presentation: Darrell Brand moderated the panel about the History of the RC by original founders of St. Lucie Rivers Initiative and The Rivers Coalition Defense Fund: Leon Abood, Kevin Henderson and Bud Jordan. To view the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition>.

River Kidz of Martin County: Barbara Osborn spoke of the RK and Blessing of the Fleet on Feb 9th. "Partners in Preservation of the River" were given to Richard Geisinger and Stuart Woman's Club for their recent donations.

Speakers Bureau: Jim Harter told of his speaking engagement with "Sons of the American Revolution." Barbara Osborn spoke of the recent "American Assn of University Women" speaking engagement by Todd Weissing.

Government & Agency Progress Reports:

- **Martin County:** Dianne Hughes was not present, not report was given. 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: January 24, 2019

- **State and Federal Agencies and Issues:** Dr. Paul Gray spoke for Audubon on the Lake O. conditions.
-
- **Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Update:** Charles Grande thanked the RC Leadership Team for their guidance the last years since Leon Mark Perry said the water quality is good due to flushing. The habitat loss is extreme to the oysters and seagrass. The hope is to completely restore them someday.
-
- **Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Marty Baum was at the Everglades Foundation meeting recently. The Waterkeepers of Florida have standing meeting with Noah Valenstein of FDEP twice a year. The FDEP is empowered to create a toxic algae task force and is now authorized by Gov DeSantis to control the nutrients into our waterways. There is Jazz Brunch fundraiser for Marty this Sunday at the Driftwood Motel in Jensen Beach 12-2.
-
- **Members Comments:**
 - Feb 4th Dr. Grant Gilmore at the Blake Library
 - Shari Anker – Feb 13th 6:30 pm Dr. Gary Goforth-St. Lucie County Board Chambers
 - George Jones-ORCA Feb 4th 6:00 Toxic Puzzle Vero Beach
 - Regina Wood- Native Plant Society Feb 5 6:30 IRSC Color and Native Gardens lecture
 - Feb 9-Hospice House-Tour of butterfly garden
 - Kenny Hinkle, Jr- Recognition and thank you to the founders of RCDF. He has so much respect for the “elders” especially the recently passed Karl Wickstrom and Ted Guy
 - Jacqui Trancynger and Gayle Ryan said the MC Democratic Club is accepting \$20 gift cards to give to Government employees affected by the on-going partial government shut-down.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:45 pm