

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: July 26, 2018

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. 91 people were present. Members In attendance: Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (River Kidz), Charles Grande (President's Council of Hutchinson Island), Darrell Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), Marty Baum (Indian Riverkeeper), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Kenny Hinkle (River Warriors), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse HOA), Linda Grand American Assoc of University Women), Paul Gray (Audubon), Paul Laura (TC Dem Environmental Caucus), Toby Overdorf, Sandy Thurlow (JTL's Mom), Jim Skeoch (Venture Harbor), Regina Wood (MC FL Native Plant Society), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County), Allen Herschkowitz (Sailfish Point POA), Dianne Hughes (MC Water Quality), Greg Nolte (MC Eco), Jennifer Brand, Amy Galante (Brian Mast), Becky Bruner (Stuart City Council), John Haddox (Brian Mast), Matt Theobald (Candidate for State Rep), Robert Pelosi, Wayne Kuster (Four Winds Condo Assn), Michelle Byriel (FOS), Joe Banfi (Candidate for County Commission), Melissa Keyes (Democratic Environmental Caucus), Douglas Ashley (River Club), Emily Mauri (Bullsugar), Tony Polito (TCDEC), Paul Laura (TCDEC), Roseann Ryba (MCDEC), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Rich Dickerson (Stuart Flyrodders), Brittany Beardon (MC Farm Bureau), Tyler Treadway (TC Palm), Nic Mader (River Kidz), Annie Potts (TC Rowing Club), George McClean (Guardians of MC), Sharon Russell (27-80 Paddlers), Herman Oleson (PSL Anglers), Dan Merritt (Seagate HOA), Kim Steiber (Toxic#18), David Carlsen (Rio Vista HOA), Dave Young (TC Runners), Wayne Mills (ORCA), Charles Brantley (PSL Anglers Club), Rob Levy (Candidate), Joe Gilio (scientist).

Chairman's Comments: Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch led the flag salute, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Organizational members present introduced themselves. JTL asked all others to introduce themselves.

Special Presentation: Dr. Edie Widder of ORCA (Ocean Research and Conservation Assn). To view the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition>.

Current Action Items and Voting: Darrell Brand eulogized recently deceased Nathaniel Reed.

River Kidz of Martin County: Nic Mader updated us on RK activities

Speakers Bureau: Todd Weissing encouraged people to book RC speakers.

Government & Agency Progress Reports:

- **Martin County:** Dianne Hughes reported that the Lake O. level is at 14.31'. 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 of Audubon: Commented on how they need to lower the lake level
- **Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Update:** Charles Grande stressed how important it is to VOTE for the water next election.
- **Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:**
- **Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Marty Baum reported on the Captains for Clean Water rally in Clewiston which was "hijacked" by local farmers and politicians; Marty, Paul Laura, Maggy Hurchalla, Donna Melzer met with Gov. candidate Phillip Levine and Pam Keith; This Tuesday all FL waterkeepers will meet in Tallahassee with Noah Valenstein of FDEP.
- **Member Comments:**
JTL reminded the group that the RC is a non-partisan 501c3; Paul Laura would like data on Brandon Tucker's push for deep well injections; Will, a commercial Fisherman, has been ill and out of work due to the water issues.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:30 PM