

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: July 25, 2019

Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the flag salute.

Members In attendance: 74 people were present. Mark Perry (FOS), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of H.I.), Todd Weissing (Seagate Harbor HOA), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Nic Mader (Dolphin Ecology Project), Mike Conner, Alex Gillen (Friends of Everglades), Marty Baum (Indian Riverkeeper), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Regina Wood (MC Native Plant Society), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of SLC), Doug Gaston (Audubon of FL), Ric and SueAnne Hall (River Warriors), Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing), Linda Grand (American Association of University Women), Carol Ann Leonard (Treasure Coast Environmental Caucus), Irene Gomes (Driftwood Motel), Drew Martin (Sierra Club-Loxahatchee), Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Mike Glenn (Locks Landing HOA), Jerry Snyder (CBYCSC), Pat Eltz (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Jackie Pakonis (Surfrider Foundation), Brian McGann (The Estuary HOA), Daina Karol (FL Native Plant Society),

Non-members: Ed Ciampi (Martin County Commissioner), Merritt Matheson and Becky Bruner (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart), Dianne Hughes, John Maehl (Martin County), John Maddox (Brian Mast), Carl Stewart, Jim Skeoch, Mike Knepper, Michelle Byriel (FOS), Becky Harris, Bruce Osborn (RC Speakers Bureau). Drew Bartlett, Kathy La Martina, Sean Cooley (SFWMD), Richard Geisinger, Kim Streiber, David Cross, Blake Faulkner, Todd Thurlow, Linda Miller, Nicolette Mariano

Chairman's Comments:

Mark Perry recognized local legislators: Merritt Matheson and Becky Bruner of City of Stuart, Ed Ciampi of Martin County, John Haddox of Brian Mast. All RC organization member representatives were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

Current Action Items:

HR 3324: Todd Weissing made the motion to accept the RC Resolution in support of HR 3324, Charles Grande 2nd it.

Discussion:

Marty Baum spoke for 4:20 and asked not to be interrupted. At the end he said he would abstain from the vote.

Alex Gillen stood and objected that Marty had made "False Claims" towards himself in the remarks.

Blair Wickstrom spoke in favor of the resolution.

JTL stood and reprimanded Marty and Alex for their interaction and Marty's language since she brought students with her.

Carol Ann Leonard (proxy for Gayle Ryan rep for TC Environmental Caucus) made a motion that the vote be delayed. Since there already was a motion on the floor to accept the resolution, Carol Ann's motion was moot. Carol Ann said that TC Env, Caucus would abstain.

VOTE: 24 voting members were present, 15 voted in favor (2/3) so the motion to support the resolution was passed.

Jackie Trancynger said that the Martin County Conservation Alliance board (of which she is the rep for) voted in favor but she personally wouldn't vote in favor.

"Partners in Preserving our River" certificate given to Richard Geisinger for the generous donation to River Kidz. Thanks to Dr. Wright for allowing parking on this property during the July 4th fireworks and Troy Dutton (10 yrs old) for coordinating the parking.

New member vote: Friends of the Everglades. Charles 1st and Todd 2nd. Alex Gillen spoke of how they were started by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas in 1969. Motion to accept was unanimously approved.

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: July 25, 2019

Special Presentation: Topic: St. Lucie Watersheds: SFWMD “Works of the District” and how it affects the River and IRL . His PPT can be seen on RC website.

Martin County Report: Dianne Hughes said that Lake O is at 11.53 feet. Her PPT can be seen on RC website. 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.

SFWMD Report:

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch introduced Veronica Dalton, who was a speaker when she was 10 at the first Locks Rally in 2013. Veronica is now pursuing Marine Biology and is not afraid of public speaking.

Nicolette Mariano spoke of her growing up on Sewall’s Point and now her career is with monopods (oysters and clams).

Drew Bartlett of SFWMD said that the next board meeting is August 8th. Next “Lunch and Learn” is July 31st.

State Report: New replacement at ACOE for Lt Col Jennifer Reynolds is Todd Polk. He will be in the area August 14-16.

Integral Delivery System (IDS) is getting updated in Sept and finalized in Oct. Due to 200 million in Federal and 200 million on State funds so calendar is being accelerated.

Delegation Meeting-Chastain Campus of IRSC to start process of new legislation of forming committees/bills/legislation.

LOSOM: August 20 is LOSOM meeting in Clewiston.

Alex Gillen stated that “Operations” will save us in the next decade. “Infrastructure” (CERP) will take 40 years

River Coalition Committee Reports: Speakers Bureau: Todd Weissing spoke at Sunset Rotary. Todd emphasized that there are two goals 1) educate people to lower the lake level 2) promote legislation to stop ACOE from sending toxic algae to us.

Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality: Mark Perry said the water is “pretty good.” Right now they have 40 water testers. Working with MRC to expand network. Mark encouraged all to “enjoy the water while you can” “There are a lot more voices now so keep our voices strong.”

Indian Riverkeeper Update:

Mart Baum spoke on June 30 to Unitarian Universalist on “Water is Life.” He spent many days on the water with Jim Moir and Georgia Aquarium observing the right whales. Animal Planet filmed and interviewed Marty.

Members Comments:

Michelle from FOS said August 5 is Oyster bagging and seagrass matting; August 21 is Seagrass Survey
The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm