

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes: March 28, 2019

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Jim Moir called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Led the flag salute.

Members In attendance: Charles Grande (Pres. Council of Hutchinson Island), Jim Moir (MRC), , Darrell and Jennifer Brand (Palm Cove Yacht Club), George Jones (ORCA), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse Point HOA), Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (RC Inc), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), George McLean (Guardians of MC), Glenn Kellis (Stuart Rod & Reel Club), Alex Gillen (Bullsugar), Paul Laura (HIPI), Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Marty Baum (Indian Riverkeeper), Brittany Bearden (MC Farm Bureau), Nic Mader (Dolphin Ecology Project), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of SLC), Wayner Kuster (Four Winds Condo Assn), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Dan Merritt (Seagate HOA), Kenny Hinkle (River Warriors), Gayle Ryan (MC Democratic Environmental Caucus), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Bob Mathias (IRP POA), Rip Fisher (Sailfish Point YC), Diane Goldberg (St Lucie Audubon), Merritt Matheson (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Bob Voisinnet (Cocoanut Point YC), Tom Wharton (Harbour Ridge YC), Annie Potts (TC Rowing Club), Doug Gaston (Audubon of FL), James Packer (Royal Harbor HOA), Robert Ryba (Joe's Point HOA), Hilarie Davis (USSCMC), Greg Braun (Guardians of MC), Kim Streiber (Toxic 18), Jennie Pawlowsky (Toxic 18) Carol Guthrie (Port Sewall Waterways), Dianne Hughes and John Maehl (Martin County), Greg Langowski (Marco Rubio), John Haddox (Brain Mast) , Kathy La Martin (SFWMD). 90 people were present.

**Chairman's Comments:** Jim Moir called for a roll call of representatives of organizational members

**Special Presentation:** Dr. Beth Falls of ORCA gave the presentation on "Toxin Transfer from Algae Blooms to Humans"

**Martin County Report:** Dianne Hughes said that Lake O is at 11.97 feet. 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).

**SFWMD Report:** Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch gave a report on her first meeting on the SFWMDB. There were 5 eminent domain acquisitions in the northern part of the Kissimmee River. All should attend the workshops held the day before each SFWMD meeting.

**State Report:** Doug Gaston of Audubon spoke for Dr. Paul Gray. Lake O level needs to come down even more for sunlight to get to the bottom to improve ecosystem.

Representative from Sen Rubio reported that Sen. Rubio is requesting the \$200 million be put back into Federal budget for local agencies such as ACOE and SFWMD.

John Haddox spoke for Brian Mast about the "Local Water Protection Act" to study the point source of pollution and get more money for local governments.

### **River Coalition Committee Reports:**

**Speakers Bureau:** Todd Weissing stated that "An educated public is a smart voter." Jim Harter reported that he spoke at the Ballantrae Lady Anglers luncheon. They will donate \$2,500.

**River Kidz:** Jim Moir reported that the River Kidz will receive the "Wave Makers" Award from MRI on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Nic Mader mentioned the April 6<sup>th</sup> event at Environmental Studies Center where RK will do face Painting. Becky Harris' dog, Pandora, almost died from liver failure. There were 6 dogs, who all lived on St Lucie River,

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became seriously ill within two weeks. One dog, Finn, died from liver failure and had BMAA in the brain discovered during the autopsy. She had letters to sign to the ACOE.

**Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:** Pam Hopkins of Florida Oceanographic Society presented the water quality report. The greater Riverregion got a "B."

**Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Marty Baum stated that he was so proud of all the Rivers Coalition presence at the LOSOM meetings. The Indian Riverkeeper organization will be writing and sending a position letter to the ACOE. Saturday –Wolf Technology Center at IRSC 1:00 pm Dr Larry Brand and Dr. Edie Widder. March 31<sup>st</sup>, Conservation Alliance of SLC will have a walking tour at Spruce Bluff on Edible Plants. Paul Laura of HIPI will be on KC Ingram Show Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>. April 10<sup>th</sup> Conservation Alliance of Martin County meeting. Marty will meet again in Orlando with Noah Valenstine of FDEP.

## **Members Comments:**

Bullsugar: Alex Gillen spoke more of LOSOM and letters to ACOE.

Annie Potts asked if anyone is keeping track of the microcystins? Jim Moir responded that Harbour Branch is.

Hillarie Davis introduced herself as the new rep from the USSCMC

Lisa Beagle of the local Surfrider Foundation introduced herself as the new rep to replace Benjamin D'Avanzo.

Meeting Adjourned 1:00 pm