

# Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes: November 29, 2018

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Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. 84 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), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse Point HOA), Regina Wood (MC FL Native Plant Society), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Bob Voisinet (Cocoanut Yacht Club), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Michelle Byriel (FOS), Jeanette Hartzell (League of Women Voters), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Nic Mader (Dolphin Ecology Project & River Kidz), Dan Merritt (Seagate HOA), Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Allen Herskowitz (Sailfish Point POA), Jim Packer (Royal Harbor HOA), Kenny Hinkle & Gayle Ryan (River Warriors), Dan Zotta (IRP POA), Cheryl Bryson (Venture Three Condos), Bill Evans (Palm Cove HOA), Irene Gomes (Driftwood Motel), Tom Wharton (Harbour Ridge YC), George MacLean (Guardians of MC), Emily Mauri (Bullsugar), Bobbie Deemon (MC League of Women's Voters), (Jill Pinkham (Rio Civic Club). Bobbie (MC League of Women Voters). Marcy Pitkin (MC Unitarian Universalist Church), Dennis Phelan (27-80 Paddlers), Martha Boston (Nettles Island), Linnea Desmond (Pierpont HOA), , Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Steve Leighton (Brian Mast), Becky Bruner, Mike Meier, Merritt Matheson (Stuart City Council), Dave Dyess, Mike Mortelli, Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart Staff), Dianne Hughes (MC Water Quality

**Chairman's Comments:** Mark Perry led the flag salute, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by organizational members attending. Mark Perry gave the background of the RCDF in preparation of the upcoming merger of RCDF and RCLT into RC, Inc.

**Current Action Items and Voting:** Two new members were voted in unanimously: Indian River Plantation POA and Royal Harbor Homeowners Assn.

**Special Presentation:** Mark Perry gave the presentation on "LORS- Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule.". To view the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition>.

**River Kidz of Martin County:** Nic Mader spoke of the event at Felix A Williams Elementary in February. March 23 is Waterfest and Mutt March with "Fighting for Finn" T-shirts; Karessa Kernan spoke of the C4CW surf contest last weekend. Tyler Treadway of TC Palm will feature the River Kidz as one of the 12 days of Christmas charities to donate to. The RK want to buy a "coastal envioscape" which is an interactive water runoff model.

**Speakers Bureau:** Todd Weissing spoke of the recent speaking at Seagate Harbor where 40 people attended. Future speaking engagement will be for "American Assn of University Women" and "Sons of the American Revolution."

## **Government & Agency Progress Reports:**

- **Martin County:** Dianne Hughes reported that the Lake is at 13.12 ft. Enterococcus level is "good" everywhere except Leighton Park. Dec 12 10-2 is St Lucie Estuary Action Day. The DEP will present it's annual update. To view Dianne's report go to: [www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/](http://www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/) 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).
- **State and Federal Agencies and Issues:** Mark Perry said the WRAC meeting is Dec 6 and SFWMD governing board meeting is Dec 13. The issue discussed will be leases in the EAA being extended to agriculture.
- **Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Update:** Charles Grande spoke of the upcoming changes to the RCDF/RC. Annual meeting will be in Jan 2019. Charles thought Mark Perry should be on the SFWMDB. We should think of names to be nominated with this new State Administration.
- **Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:** n/a
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- **Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Marty had two speaking opportunities at Nettles Island Fishing Club and Nettles island Environmental Club. Sierra Club has new office in Belle Glade, they showed “Toxic Puzzle” there. Marty has put his name on a piece of legislation for a lawsuit to take back the EAA leases.
- **Members Comments:**

Kenny Hinkle mentioned that Marty Baum received the “Environmentalist of the year” from the Sierra Club.

Jackie Trancynger refused to apologize for being partisan.

Marcy Pitkin would like a summary of all the action items mentioned today so she can follow up on them

Regina Wood announced Native Plant society monthly field trips.

Darrell Brand said that if any RC members have events or flyers to give them to us for our monthly newsletter.

Mike Meier said that Ben Hogarth of the City of Stuart has been promoted to Community Affairs Liaison and will be giving reports monthly at our RC meetings. Ben Hogarth (772) 288-5333 [bhogarth@ci.stuart.fl.us](mailto:bhogarth@ci.stuart.fl.us)

Merritt Matheson will be meeting with the League of Cities and encourages people to let governor-elect De Santis know who we want on the SFWMDB.

George Jones wants our presence known at the next Legislation Delegation Meeting.

Darrell welcomes our newest River kid: Bryn Matheson (3 months), present at our meeting today

Meeting Adjourned: 12:40 pm