

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes: October 25, 2018

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George Jones called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. 82 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), Marty Baum (Indian Riverkeeper), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Linda Grand (American Assoc of University Women), Paul Gray (Audubon), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse Point HOA), Paul Laura (TC Dem Environmental Caucus), Jim Skeoch (Venture Harbor), Regina Wood (MC FL Native Plant Society), Jackie Trancynger (MC Conservation Alliance), Greg Braun (Guardians of MC), Bob Voisinet (Cocoanut Yacht Club), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Shari Anker (Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County), Dianne Hughes (MC Water Quality), Jennifer Brand, Becky Bruner (Stuart City Council), Michelle Byriel (FOS), Joe Banfi (Candidate for County Commission), Jeanette Hartzell (League of Women Voters), George McLean (Guardians of MC), Marcy Pitkin (TC Unitarian Universalist), Nic Mader (River Kidz), Dan Merritt (Seagate HOA), Kim Streiber (Toxic#18), Michelle Weiler (TC Rowing Club), Dr. Joe Gilio (scientist), Wayne Kuster (Four Winds Condo Assn), Allen Herskowitz (Sailfish Point POA), Rip Fisher (Saifish Point Yacht Club), Jan Harton (Harbor Ridge YC), Jim Packer (Royal Harbor HOA), Annie Potts (TC Rowing Club), Gayle Ryan (River Warriors), Allie Preston (Bullsugar), Dave Carlson (River Vista HOA), Kevin Lo (Lauren Baer for Congress), Amy Gallante (Brian Mast), Greg Langowski (Marco Rubio), Steve Leighton (Brian Mast), John Haddox.

**Chairman's Comments:** George Jones led the flag salute, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by candidates and organizational members attending.

**Current Action Items and Voting:** n/a

**Special Presentation:** Dr. Gary Goforth gave the presentation on "Water Quality of Lake Okeechobee and the St Lucie Estuary Watershed". Dr. Paul Gray continued the presentation speaking on the water levels of Lake O. To view the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition>.

**River Kidz of Martin County:** Nic Mader spoke of the successful Environmental Studies Center and Rally for the River events. Eula Clarke donated \$100 from her closed campaign account to RK. We will deliver 2 RK workbook boxes to Gertrude Walden Center this week.

**Speakers Bureau:** Todd Weissing spoke of the recent speaking engagements of the Stuart Flyrodders and Allegro Senior Living. Future speaking engagement will be for "American Assn of University Women."

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

- **Martin County:** Dianne Hughes reported that the Lake is at 13.92 ft. There has been a lot of evaporation. Discharges stopped on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>; salinity is increasing, water temp is decreasing. Red Tide appeared in Martin County on Sept 29<sup>th</sup>. Enterococcus level is "good" The algae skimmed off by vendor is treated and put in fracking tanks for deep well injection. 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 was on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and SFWMD board meeting was Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. Next ones are WRAC-Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and Board Mtg Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. Water is being sent south to EAA for irrigation. The water is not going as far south as STAs for cleaning for the Everglades or Florida Bay. Mark says we need to move the water farther South.
- **Rivers Coalition Defense Fund Update:** n/a
- **Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:** Mark Perry said local seagrass loss is critical, the flats are barren. Paddles grass and Queen Conchs are appearing, please don't take them, they are protected. Nine events of red tide around the east coast of FL with fish kills. There is continued research on the long term effects of airborne exposure to the red tide neurotoxin. Appreciation for all those that participated in the Rally for the River on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.

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- **Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Marty attended many events “Ais Across the Lagoon” “Rally for the River.” There is a fight at John’s Island to stop the grey water pipeline for golf course, possible future leakage into drinking water. Red Tide is detected going into Sebastian Inlet. Betty Osceola , the tribes might be invited to speak soon to RC.
- **Members Comments:**  
Shari Anker of St Lucie Conservation Alliance spoke of “The Plastic Ocean” movie to be shown on October 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Jackie Trancynger encouraged people to vote.  
Rep from TC Veterinary Assn said that our pets are not safe from river toxins.  
Regina Wood announced the Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Aquascaping lecture and Nov 10<sup>th</sup> and field trip on public lands and wetlands.  
George MacLean -Guardians of MC Fall Newsletter is available  
Dianne Hughes reminded people of the IRL ScienceFest coming up.  
Gayle Ryan announced that Dr. Gary Goforth should run for FL Governor.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:44 am