

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes: May 21, 2020

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Mark Perry called the ZOOM meeting to order at 11:05 am.

**Members In attendance:** 38 people present on ZOOM call

**Chairman's Comments:** Mark Perry commented that the seagrass is in recovery and the river is in good shape, no discharges for two years.

Welcome to Todd Thurlow, newest member of the Board of Directors.

**Special Presentation:** Dr. Grant Gilmore's presentation was on the Endangered Species of Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River. See his presentation at Facebook and RC website.

**Martin County Report:** John Maehl spoke the Martin County Board of Commissioners sent a letter to US Congress to keep "Water Savings Clause" out of LOSOM. The County has rested its challenge to BMAP. John said they have achieved 90% nitrogen load allocation and 40% phosphorus. They have a RFP out for a vendor to create a new update for next round of updates to storm water projects. They are in a critical stage in LOSOM as they ramp up in next couple of months so the modeling team can define performance impacts. Full report can be seen on RC website. <https://www.martin.fl.us/LOSOM> <https://www.martin.fl.us/WaterQuality>.

**City of Stuart Report:** City Commissioner, Merritt Matheson, said the City is supporting Dr. Grant Gilmore and the County on their Endangered Species Report. The City is working with the County in the RECOVER effort to track the freshwater coming into the estuary. The City is creating a Vision Statement stating "zero discharges out of S-80."

**SFWMD Report:** Jackie Thurlow-Lippisch reported on the recent positive items by the SFWMD such as: C-44 filing up the C-44 EAA STA; District working on removing Tamiami Trail; District is obtaining permits for the intact canal for the EAA canal. Recent negative items: 40E-61 rulemaking; removing EAA reservoir from CERP, not allowing funding until next year. JTL wants to push back on the "New Start Status."  
<https://www.sfwmd.gov/event/water-resources-accountability-and-collaboration-wrac>

**State and Federal Agencies:** n/a

**Lake O. Update:** Dr. Paul Gray said the Lake is at 11.14 ft. It is a good start for the summer for no discharges. Snail kites did not nest last year or this year the Lake was too low. There is a bloom over ¼ of the open lake water. Mark Perry stressed that we need to push for water to go south into FL Bay during the dry area.

**State Legislation Report:** n/a

**River Coalition Committee Reports:**

**River Kidz:** Nic Mader said the River Kidz workbook printing will be postponed a year due to COVID closing the schools. Nic said that there is a wish to coordinate with Dr. Grant Gilmore to create a poster of the endangered species for use in the school system.

**Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:** Mark Perry stated that the water quality is at B+ GOOD .

**Indian River Keeper:** Mike Conner, the new IRK, showed a video by Dave Preston showing healthy seagrass by the Sailfish Flats.

**Members Comments:** n/a

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm