

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes: June 24, 2021

**Mark Perry** called the In-person meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**Members In attendance:** 45+ people, Mark Perry (FOS), Charles Grande (Pres. Council of H.I.), Jim Moir (Marine Resources Council), Blair Wickstrom (Florida Sportsman), Todd Weissing (Lighthouse Point HOA), Todd Thurlow (North River Shores HOA), Eve Samples and Gil Smart (Friends of The Everglades), Paul Laura (Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative), Joanne Swann (St. Lucie Sailing Club), Jim Harter (Stuart Flyrodders), Rich Hall (River Warriors), Nic Mader (Dolphin Ecology Project), Jim Skeoch, Rosanne Ryba (Joe's Point HOA), Dave Derrenbacker (MC Realtors of TC), Harvey Alligood and Len Amato ((Pres. Council of H.I.), Brian McGann (The Estuary HOA), Carol Ann Leonard (MC Democratic Environmental Caucus).

**Non-members:** Merritt Matheson (Stuart City Council), Ben Hogarth and Caryn Hall (City of Stuart), Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch (SFWMD), Dianne Hughes, John Maehl, Carly Batts, Katie Bowes (Martin County), Blake Faulkner, Mike Knepper, Douglas Ashley, Becky Harris, Erica Welch, Missy Harris, Matt Mozzachio, Greg Gardner, Jan Robertson, Rob Lord

**Chairman's Comments:** Mark Perry welcomes all back in person from a COVID-19 induced hiatus since February 2020.

**Presentation:** Blair Wickstrom introduced Rob Lord, President of Martin Health Systems/Cleveland Clinic of Florida. To see recording of presentation go to [www.rivercoalition.org](http://www.rivercoalition.org) or [Rivers Coalition Facebook page](#).

**Martin County Report:** **Dianne Hughes:** Martin County said that none of the LOSOM proposed plans meet Martin County requirements. They will continue to work with USACE.

Lake Level: 12.59'. Blue Green Algae seen at S-3 Port Mayaca and is up and downstream. Algae is seen halfway down to S-80 Although none at S-80 as of now.

Salinity: pretty good

Chlorophyll levels are low except near St. Lucie inlet.

Dissolved oxygen levels look good

Turbidity is good except South Fork

"No fertilizer" ban is effective for the summer. MC has mailed letters to stores stocking fertilizer on shelves telling them pesticides are not allowed to be use in summer months. The County is printing LARGE signs to be posted on all the shelves selling pesticides.

**City of Stuart:** **Ben Hogarth** showed several slides comparing the LOSOM Plans on graphs. Discussion followed.

**SFWMD:** **Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch** : Reminded us of the LOSOM workshop on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 at SFWMD. Governors of SFWMD meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (July 8), PDT on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Lake O Update:** **Dr. Paul Gray** was absent. Mark Perry said that the Lake is at 12.5 and high lake levels are a concern for Dr. Gray.

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

**Coalition Reports:**

**River Kidz:** **Nic Mader** : Read a letter from Shannon Estenoz of the Dept. of Interior in response to the RK letter writing campaign. Shannon said that the Manatees are on only the "Threatened" list because there are not in imminent danger of Extinction,, only those get on the "Endangered" list.

Nic is planning on a mid-July event with the Food Truck near the Ohana Surf Shop.

The new RK Workbooks were delivered this week. Many thanks for Sabrina Glover for her pre-printing work.

**Speaker Bureau:** **Todd Weissing:** With our 100+ organizational members RC represents over 300,000 people. Lets get out organizations to rally for the LOSOM plan CC.

**Local Issues & Estuary Water Quality:**

**Mark Perry** -FOS Water Quality Report the water quality is B seagrass starting to recover.

**Seagrass Update:** **Todd Thurlow** : Showed [photos and graphs from his eyeonlakeo.com website. Discussion followed.

**Indian Riverkeeper:** **Mike Conner** was absent.

**Lake Worth Riverkeeper:** Reinaldo Diaz was absent

**Member Comments and Announcements:**

Next RC meeting July 22 24, 2021 11:00 in person meeting at City of Stuart Chambers

Adjourned 1:00 p.m.