

# Rivers Coalition

## Meeting Minutes: October 28, 2021

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Charles Grande called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. 82 people on ZOOM call  
Minutes taken by Barbara Osborn, Administrative Assistant

### **Opening Comments:**

Eve Samples commented on the significant announcement made the day before by USACE re: LOSOM. At this critical moment for the SLR and Everglades, the 8 model runs had disappointingly HIGH volumes of average annual basin runoff coming to the SLR.

Eve asked is there was a shift in the USACE Philosophy?

Why not use the other model runs closer to original Plan CC?

There are questions on the recovery period of Lake O. When the Hoover Dike is completed will the Lake be kept higher? Will there be even more volumes released to SLR to trigger the recovery of the lake after being so high? The EAA makes out much better in these 8 models. This will be a much worse outcome than the original Plan CC .

### **Presentation:**

University of Miami Harmful Algal Bloom Study: Addison Testoff, MPS and Kim Pependorf, Researcher.

This DISPEL HAB Study is funded by FL Dept of Health. They explained their protocols and are looking for more participants.

LOSOM Update: US Army Corps of Engineers Team:

Tim Gysan responded to Eve's questions: The goals and philosophy of the USACE are still the same. Striving for flexibility and maximize the water flow to the South. There are a lot of variables: The Seminole Tribe, the protected entitlements, the flow to the West.

Charles Grande-The higher Lake Level is nothing but bad news to us. Who benefits from the increase in Lake Level? Is it for water supply to the EAA? We are very disappointed on these model runs chosen.

John Maehl, Martin County - Project Delivery Team

Ben Hogarth City of Stuart - Project Delivery Team

Brad Stewart of Brian Mast's office

*ZOOM RC meeting recording can be seen at [www.riverscoalition.org](http://www.riverscoalition.org)*

### **Discussion: (summary of discussion-not verbatim)**

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

**Martin County:** Dianne Hughes deferred her report to John Maehl from Martin County.

**City of Stuart/LOSOM-** Ben Hogarth spoke in main presentation

**SFWMD:** Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch- appreciated the USACE coming to this meeting with 10 on their team to spend so much time with the stakeholders.

**USACE:** Tim Gysan- spoke in main presentation

**Lake O Update:** Kelly Cox of Audubon gave the report in place of Dr. Paul Gray. Lake is at 15.8' No releases into SLR in foreseeable future.

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## **Coalition Reports:**

**River Kidz:** Nic Mader reported on the successfully fun Environmental Studies Center Open House. The RK had an emphasis on the Manatees. RK working closely with the Save The Manatee Club.

**Water Quality Report:** Mark Perry is on long overdue vacation.

**Seagrass Update:** Todd Thurlow visible algal bloom on Lake O by Clewiston. see [www.eyeonlakeo.com](http://www.eyeonlakeo.com)

**Indian Riverkeeper Update:** Mike Conner took Charlotte Roman, gov board member of SFWMD, out on his boat to show her IRL, which she had not been on previously. "Day on IRL" the 35 kids learned about the waterways. Mike went to Kissimmee River to observe the 45 miles of oxbows and restoration. It is imperative for CERP to get done.

**Speakers Bureau:** Todd Weissing to speak Tuesday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at Stuart Yacht & CC after the Poker Run to benefit RC.

## **Public Comments:**

Blair Wickstrom- a high lake level is not our friend.

Drew Bartlett-we will send more water south when the STA's , which have had the plant life damaged and are now being repaired.

Charles Grande- SLR is the ONLY outlet from Lake O where releases are NOT beneficial.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm