

Miami River Commission’s Stormwater Subcommittee Public Virtual Workshop Minutes June 1, 2022

The Miami River Commission (MRC) Stormwater Subcommittee’s quarterly public virtual workshop convened at 10 am, June 1, 2022.

I. “Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Plan” Agency Quarterly Implementation Progress Reports – Mr. Omar Abdelrahman, Miami Dade County’s Department of Environmental Resource Management’s (DERM) deferred his Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Plan’s progress report.

II. Presentation Regarding “Water Quality Assessment Report (Revision 2) Miami River Basin, Miami, FL – Prepared For: Miami-Dade County Dept of Regulatory and Economic Resources Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) – Prepared By: Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. [Wood Task4 Miami River Sampling Report PE Signed 7-22-2021.pdf](https://www.miamirivercommission.org/PDF/Special%20Project/UpperNorthRiverDr%20April%202022.pdf) ([miamirivercommission.org](https://www.miamirivercommission.org))

<https://www.miamirivercommission.org/PDF/Special%20Project/UpperNorthRiverDr%20April%202022.pdf>

<https://www.miamirivercommission.org/PDF/Special%20Project/County%20RR%2005.18.22.pdf>

Mallika Muthiah, DERM, stated Miami-Dade County will prioritize the Miami River in their next TMDL Permit Cycle covering 2023-2028. Ms Muthiah stated DERM is planning additional water quality sampling activities.

The Assessment noted the area just west of the salinity dam is a source of contamination. Bryan Palacio, SFWMD, stated they remove garbage captured by the turbidity curtain on the Miami River west of the salinity dam structure every other week, and they service the turbidity curtain on the Little River several times a week.

Attendees discussed the following excerpts from the assessment:

“the structures MRSS1-4 and MRSS1-7” in need of maintenance service

“MRSS1-2 Observations - Observed excessive trash and poor conditions to the south of the gas stations.”

“MRSS1-5 Observations – Observed run off from the rear of a property located on the south side of MR approximately 370 feet from sample site. Property appeared to be Kings Brothers Metal Recycling, junkyard property.”

“MRSS 1-6 Observations – Unkept Surrounding area.”

“MRSS1-11 Observations – Observed excessive trash along the northern bank of MR...Observed small white particles descending from Ferrous Processing and Trading C Miami. White particles covered water surface. Strong odor coming from processing plant?”

“MRSS1-14 Observations – Iguanas in the area. Excessive trash debris observed stagnant along western curtains and water structures, excessive trash along the banks of MR.”

“MRSS1-15 Observations – Homeless area located on west side of bridge, excessive trash in this area.”

The provided links feature additional concerning pictures of these subject areas.

Ms Muthiah stated her division had provided the assessment to their Compliance division to take necessary actions to eliminate the sources of contamination identified in the assessment.

III. New Business

As suggested in the last meeting by Irela Bague, Miami Dade County Chief Bay Officer, MRC Director Bibeau emailed a new page on www.miamirivercommission.org titled “Water Quality Resources” with links to all the Miami River Water Basin’s previous reports i.e., the Miami River Walk the WBID, Wagner Creek Walk the WBID, Miami River TMDL, recent Woods Study, etc.

MRC Director Bibeau stated the MRC will be applying to the State of Florida for \$600,000 in grant funding from the State’s FY 22-23’s \$20 million for improving water quality in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, by increasing frequency of vacuum truck services in stormwater manholes along the Miami River, landside garbage pickups, and street sweeper truck services along the Miami River. Both were identified as sources of pollution in the County’s recent helpful Miami River Water Quality Assessment, which will be reviewed during the MRC Stormwater Subcommittee’s next quarterly public virtual workshop.

The MRC SSC’s next quarterly public virtual workshop will be September 7, 2022, 10 AM. The public virtual workshop adjourned.