

**Miami River Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2013**

Mr. Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman of the Miami River Commission (MRC), convened the public meeting at noon, September 9, 2013, 1407 NW 7 ST, Miami, FL.

**Miami River Commission (MRC) Policy Committee Members and/or Designees attending:**

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman

Jay Carmichael, Vice-Chairman

Patty Harris, designee for Governor

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro

Marlene Avalo, designee for County Commissioner Barreiro

Philip Everingham, designee for Marine Council

Orin Black, designee for Miami River Marine Group

Ernie Martin, Neighborhood Representative appointed by the City of Miami Commission

Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative appointed by the County Commission

**MRC Staff:**

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

**Others attending interested in the River:**

Please see attached sign in sheets.

**I. Chair Report** – Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

The rotating PowerPoint presentation featured pictures from the MRC's Miami River Greenway beautification efforts in July and August.

As you recall, since the Governor and FL Legislature required the South Florida Water Management District to drastically cut their budget a couple years ago, they have been forced to phase out their funding for the Miami River Fund Inc. Therefore the MRFI is seeking new funding sources, including but not limited to \$150,000 from the State of Florida, which created the Miami River Commission yet hasn't provided any funding since then, \$120,000 from the County's reoccurring Storm Water Utility Fee, \$50,000 from a NOAA grant, and a few smaller private sector grants.

Patty Harris suggested creating a list of all the great work MRC does.

Vice-Chairman Jay Carmichael provided the following report:

The following Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) items were addressed in July and August:

- 1) After a river resident contacted the MRC in June, the MRC painted over graffiti and picked up litter along sections of the public riverwalk in July and August

- 2) After receiving a report from the MRC, we thank the City of Miami Public Works and Solid Waste Departments which removed invasive species and massive illegal dumping which have taken over the City owned south shore of the Miami River from NW 27 Ave to NW 20 ST. This effort was part of a larger multi-jurisdictional raid on the Paradise Trailer Park, where they also found numerous toilets flushing directly into the River's North Shore tributary, therefore DERM issued a cease and desist order and several of the lines have been capped, so this effort is ongoing.
- 3) After receiving a complaint from a River resident, the City of Miami has designed and funded the repair of 15 broken bollard lights located along the City's public Riverwalk's north shore, adjacent to and beneath the 2 Ave Bridge. The work is estimated to be completed this month.
- 4) After receiving a complaint from the River Park Hotel, the City of Miami has agreed to remove several structures in Fort Dallas Park which have roofs collapsing onto the public riverwalk.
- 5) Director Bibeau asked for a meeting with the City of Miami Police Department Environmental Crimes Division SGT Tapanes. SGT Tapanes indicated they had a role in the Paradise Trailer Park Raid, are currently working on sources of water pollution in the Allapattah Produce Market which is a well-documented source of storm water pollution draining into the Miami River, and agreed to continue working along several additional stretches of the river.
- 6) I thank Miami-Dade County's Transit Department which filled a sink hole next to a bench on the public riverwalk beneath the "Riverwalk" Metro-Mover Station, after it was reported to them by the MRC.
- 7) After receiving a complaint from a resident, the MRC asked FDOT to repair broken lights along the public riverwalk beneath the 1 ST and Brickell Bridges.
- 8) MRC reported an overflowing sanitary sewer manhole, which was being caused by storm water entering the system via an adjacent missing sanitary manhole cover. I thank Miami-Dade County for replacing the missing sanitary sewer manhole cover, which kept the system from overflowing in subsequent rain events.

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Greenways Subcommittee - Chair Dr. Ernie Martin -**

I thank the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County and private sectors, all of which are currently constructing new sections of the public riverwalk. We continue to encourage permitting agencies to execute permits for additional riverwalk sections before September 30, in order to secure recently awarded FIND grants.

MRC has three major volunteer Miami River Greenway Beautification events on October 9, 12, and 19, picking up litter, planting, removing invasive plant species, painting, etc.

The Greenways subcommittee's next monthly public meeting is Wednesday, September 18, here.

**Stormwater Subcommittee, Chair Sallye Jude** – The Stormwater subcommittee conducted a public meeting last Wednesday, and the draft minutes will be distributed later this month. The agencies are very pleased with the yearlong trend of improved water quality along the Miami River. Of the total 54 “Action Items” in the Plan, 44 have been successfully “completed” and there have been no water quality violations on the Miami River in over a year.

Robert Weinreb, City of Miami, stated the City of Miami will be contracting for the Wagner Creek / Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project soon. Mr. Weinreb indicated the project is being accelerated by City of Miami Assistant Manager Alice Bravo. Thus far the fully designed and permitted estimated \$20 million project has \$2.7 million in appropriated City funds, matched by \$2.7 million in awarded FIND grants, for a total of \$5.4 million. Mr. Weinreb stated a small portion of the City of Miami's annual reoccurring Storm Water Utility Fee would be used as a source to pay back a potential loan for the remaining balance due (\$14.6 million) over a long term.

**Urban Infill Subcommittee, Chair Jim Murley** – The Urban Infill subcommittee's next public meeting is September 18, 3:30, here. The agenda includes DERM's 1<sup>st</sup> draft revisions to the Manatee Protection Plan, and a Warrant Application for the 5 ST Marina to have an accessory Fitness Center in their existing renovated warehouse building which has no waterfront setback. Ms. Lisa Morales stated the Audobon Society was hosting a public meeting on September 9, 7 PM, regarding DERM's 1<sup>st</sup> draft amendments to the adopted Manatee Protection Plan. Chairman Aguirre noted the MRC's October 7, public meeting agenda will feature these important voting items, therefore encouraged all MRC board members to participate.

**New Business:** The MRC recognized and thanked their excellent long standing subcommittee Chairs Sallye Jude, Ernie Martin, and Managing Director, Brett Bibeau.

The meeting adjourned.

MRC 9/9/13

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