

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE**

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Johnson. Members present: Greg Fossum, Renee Heil, Greg Holmes, Steve Johnson, Jennifer Rusk, Mary Rose Spalletta and Sarah Torgerson.

Staff: Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz.

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. NOMINATE MTRF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

MOTION: MRTF Member Spalletta nominated MRTF Member Johnson for Chair;
second by MRTF Member Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: MRTF Member Spalletta nominated MRTF Member Fossum for Vice Chair;
second by MRTF Member Heil.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 12, 2020

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to approve the minutes; second by MRTF Member Spalletta
with correction to Chadd's last name spelling.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. SFWMD CERP PROJECT UPDATE PRESENTATION

Phil Flood from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) utilized PowerPoint for his presentation. Slides included: Overview of Responsibilities; Pre- and Post-Development; Everglades Drainage District; The Entire Region Flooded in 1947, 1950 & 1951; Central and Southern Florida Project; Chronology of Water Management Changes; Water Management System; Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP); Kissimmee River Restoration Project; Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation; Clean Water for the Everglades; Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement Project and Expansion; C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility; Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir; Package 1 – Preload & Demolition; Package 2 – Irrigation PS S-476; Package 3 – Inflow Pump Station C-470; Package

4 – Dam and Canal Typical Sections; C-43 Reservoir Water Quality Feasibility Study; Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir; Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project; Key Priority Project Milestones; FY2020-21 Legislative Appropriation; Lake Okeechobee Inflow and Caloosahatchee Estuary Inflows. Mr. Flood discussed utilizing plants to clean the water.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Year-Round Landscape Irrigation & Water Shortage Ordinances

Mr. Flood noted a model ordinance was sent to municipalities to create consistency throughout the state. Environmental Project Manager Chustz indicated the Town’s draft ordinance was similar to the model ordinance. He stated the document would repeal and replace the current ordinance. Manager Chustz suggested MRTF Members review the draft ordinances before the next meeting.

Public Works Director Chelsea O’Riley stated that she would send a draft of the lighting study for MRTF to review before their next meeting. She encouraged members to contact her with questions or feedback.

B. Create Water Wise Education (not on agenda)

Council Liaison Veach explained that they were tasked with creating a brochure describing how to conserve water in an environmentally-friendly way. Mr. Flood noted that he would send information from SFWMD. MRTF Member Spalletta suggested they provide residents with information regarding ways to lower their water bill.

C. Beach Driving Guidelines (not on the agenda)

Council Liaison Veach indicated there was room for interpretation regarding driving on the beach. Environmental Project Manager Chustz sent policy documents to MRTF for their review. MRTF Member Spalletta noted they needed to work with Beach Patrol regarding turning on lights before sunrise to protect the turtles. Discussion was held concerning working with Turtle Time to coordinate activities. Manager Chustz commented that he trained staff and provided guidance in line with Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) guidelines.

D. Good Citizen Award aka the “Murphie”

Council Liaison Veach described projects that MRTF was involved with. He suggested writing an article concerning single-use plastics. MRTF Member Spalletta suggested that MRTF Member Heil write an article concerning sunscreen for next month. Chair Johnson felt that topics should be current and relevant. MRTF Member Heil agreed to write the first article.

MOTION: MRTF Member Spalletta nominated Island Winds; second by MRTF Member Heil

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

MRTF Member Rusk noted that a streetlight was missing a cover near a nest on Canal St. Manager Chustz was aware of the situation.

MRTF Member Spalletta commented that information regarding turtles was not easily accessible on the Town's website. She suggested that they add a quick link to bring the information up without searching through pages. Manager Chustz will discuss the issue with IT. MRTF Member Spalletta brought up recognizing volunteers who came from other areas to help during turtle season. She questioned the status of the bulldozed dune areas from Flamingo going north. Manager Chustz indicated that he had not received complaints. He noted there was a dune restoration requirement in an ordinance. MRTF Member Spalletta encouraged members to make sure pets were up-to-date with heartworm medication due to mosquitos.

MRTF Member Torgerson looked forward to serving on the committee.

Chair Johnson questioned the status of the speed reduction at the south end. Manager Chustz replied that it was ongoing. Chair Johnson questioned the effect of the fertilizer ordinance. Manager Chustz responded that they would work with the Public Information Officer to provide education. Chair Johnson questioned street lights with sodium bulbs. Manager Chustz will research the lights. Chair Johnson questioned whether BASE could carry shovels to fill holes on the beach.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING – July 8, 2020

Add Estero Blvd. lighting and newspaper articles.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: MFTF Member Spalletta moved to adjourn the meeting; second by MRT Member Heil

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Adopted _____ with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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