

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 - 5:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F
		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22
Manny Chamizo	2	P	P*	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P
Daniel Tormo	3	P	P*	P*	-	*	*	*	-	P	A	*-	P
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	P	P	P	P*	*	*	*	E	P	P	*-	P
Alex Stancioff	1	-	-	-	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P
Anthony Lopez	4	-	-	-	P*	*	*	*	A	P	A	*-	-
Douglas Yoder	CR	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P
Bertram	7	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P
Goldsmith													
John Swain	2	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P
Andria Codina	6	P	E	E	P	*	*	*	A	A	P	*-	P
Miyares													

APPOINTED BY:

Vince Lago
 Jorge L. Fors
 Rhonda Anderson
 Kirk Menendez
 Michael Mena
 Peter Iglesias
 Commission-As-A-Whole
 Commission-As-A-Whole
 Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
 P*- Present (zoom)
 E – Excused Absence
 A – Absent
 (-) – No Appointment
 (*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Jorge Acevedo, Utilities & ROW Division Chief/Board Secretary
 Tiffany Crumbley, Recording Secretary
 Guido Antezana, Marine Patrol
 Tiffany Troxler, PHD, Institute of Environment, Florida International University

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by the vice-chairman. The roll call was done and quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of December 1, 2021” with minor changes. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

The Board members held a brief discussion on the process of adding items on the agenda. Mr. Acevedo stated that the items for discussion should be submitted thirty days in advance.

FIU Water Quality Project Update

Dr. Tiffany Troxler, of Florida International University provided a presentation on the Coral Gables Water Quality Assessment Analysis. She collaborated with several colleagues from the University of Miami, University of Massachusetts, Florida International University, NOAA, Miami Water Keeper and the Village of Key Biscayne.

The goal of the water quality assessment and habitat conditions in the Coral Gables waterway is to inform management and restoration.

- Design and implement a water quality monitoring program to understand nutrient loading impacts on water quality in the Coral Gables Waterway and Tributary Canals, to include stormwater outfall.
- Characterize the nutrient loads into and from Watershed.
- Undertake field data collection at select critical junctures of the waterway system for tidal stage and velocity measurements in order to inform model development.
- Develop education and outreach materials and contribute to policy development.
- Report on data synthesis and project management.

The outcomes and benefits of this project for the City of Coral Gables are to provide a guide to municipal managers of the cost-effective management of nutrient sources in the watershed to improve water quality the canal system and the discharge to Biscayne Bay. Further, this will identify which portions of the watershed are contributing the most load from different land use types and explore the potential contribution of associated septic systems.

The project will also assist the City of Coral Gables with watershed nutrient management and infrastructure planning for the adaptation to ongoing rising sea levels and planning for potential future accelerated rise rates. It will support education and outreach that engages residents to be part of the water quality solution. There will be extensive and intensive surface water sampling at eight stations collected bi-weekly, during the wet season (Jun- Oct) and monthly, during the dry season (Nov-May), which will be complemented with analysis of fecal indicator bacteria, including microbial assay. She stated by using a DNA fingerprinting, we can get an idea of whether any of that bacteria is human derived, which can give us an idea of whether it's wastewater. Dr. Troxler mentioned additionally, they're looking at different micro chemical tracers, which include things like sucralose that would only be found in wastewater and it's not something that's produced, naturally in the environment.

Preliminary Recommendations

- Regularly clean debris around G93 structure and other areas of the canal where debris may accumulate.
- Consider signage to limit feeding of wildlife and prohibiting dumping of debris around public access points.
- Improve nutrient pretreatment from direct stormwater outfalls to Coral Gables Waterway
- Consider incentivizing central wastewater connection and introduce septic system management program.
- Consider options for increased treatment within distributed stormwater features.
- Promote fertilizer use awareness and education.

The Board held a lengthy discussion on the presentation.

Mr. Acevedo stated that this is a multi-year project that was started eighteen months ago and Dr. Troxler will be providing reports annually. He stated once the report is received, it will be forwarded it to the Board. Mr. Galan requested a copy of the preliminary draft to the Board for their review and provide input.

A motion was made to “Request a preliminary draft of the Water Quality Report for the Board and the City of Coral Gables to review”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

Marine Patrol Report

Mr. Chamizo reported to the police a Boston Whaler traveling around 45mph underneath Blue Rd bridge, he thought the boat was stolen. He stated that there needs to be some education for safety on the waterways. There was discussion about implementing signage possibly electric signs and cameras.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Chamizo is going to request to go before the City Commission regarding past motions that have been sent before the City Commission to get some action on them.

Mahi Waterway Canal Discussion

Board member Juan Galan stated the need to develop a committee to establish minimum standards for the Mahi Waterway (as a pilot). The intent is to develop a committee to create minimum

standards for the remaining waterways in the City of Coral Gables. Mr. Chamizo appointed Board member Alex Stancioff as the chair of the committee and Board member Juan Galan to assist.

The Board held a lengthy discussion on this subject.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:46PM

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.