



## SFWMD RECREATIONAL FORUM MINUTES

December 14, 2020, 5:00 PM  
via Communications Media Technology  
[www.SFWMD.gov](http://www.SFWMD.gov)

### 1. Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions and Purpose

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM.

Executive Director Drew Bartlett thanked everyone for attending and thanked Mr. Cook for facilitating the meeting.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2045&Format=Agenda>

### 2. Overview of the South Florida Amateur Astronomers Association (SFAAA) - Monroe Pattillo, President SFAAA

Mr. Pattillo provided an overview of the South Florida Amateur Astronomers Association.

Mr. Cook thanked Mr. Pattillo and stated there were numerous comments on social media regarding the recent meteor showers.

Public Comment:

- Paul Gray, Audubon Florida
- Mike Elfenbein

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### 3. Alico Ranch Acquisition – Dr. Tom Reinert, Regional Director, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Dr. Reinert provided an update on the Alico Ranch Acquisition and stated that it was also known as the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area.

Public Comment:

Richard Martinez  
Kyle Archacki

Mike Elfenbein  
Matt Garske

John Rosier  
Mike Elfenbein

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4. Indian River Lagoon South Restoration: C-23/24 and C-44 Design and Construction Update - Beth Kacvinsky, Lead Project Manager, SFWMD

Ms. Kacvinsky provided an update on the design and construction of the C-23 and C-44 components of the Indian River Lagoon CERP project and outlined the proposed recreational features.

Comments were made regarding recreational and hunting opportunities. Mr. Coughlin stated that as the project nears completion, all recreational opportunities will be looked at and an update will be brought back to the Recreational Forum.

Public Comments:

- Nyla Pipes
- Richard Martinez
- Tom Van Note, SCI South Florida Chapter

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5. Kissimmee River Restoration Project Update - Michelle Ferree, Lead Project Manager, SFWMD

Ms. Ferree provided an update on the Kissimmee River Restoration project stating land acquisition for this project were nearing completion and the remaining construction was expected to be completed by May 2021.

Public Comments:

- Nyla Pipes
- Matthew Burke
- Joseph Richter

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6. Gardner Cobb Marsh Restoration Project - Jim Schuette, Section Leader, SFWMD

Mr. Schuette provided an update on the Gardner Cobb Marsh Restoration Project and outlined recreational usage. Mr. Schuette also informed participants that the purpose of the

project was not to create a reservoir, but rather lengthen the hydroperiod and expand the footprint of a healthy wet prairie habitat.

Participants thanked Ducks Unlimited for their partnership.

Public Comments:

John Rosier  
Emily Purcell, Ducks Ltd.  
Paul Gray, Audubon Florida  
Tom Van Note

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#### 7. Public Use Facility Updates - Dan Cotter, Land Stewardship Section Leader

Mr. Cotter provided updates on Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Kissimmee River Blanket Bay Marsh, Loxahatchee River, C-23, C-24 and C-25 Vegetation barriers installation, access to District lands and a new shelter volunteer project in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.

Public Comments:

BJ Kattel  
Brad Weihrauch

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#### 8. Recreation Discussion, Updates and Future Topics

Mr. Cook thanked Mr. Dan West from Broward County, District staff, contractors and Executive Managers for allowing additional hunts on the stormwater treatment areas. Participants commented on high water levels and closures of boat ramps.

Ms. Ann Broadwell, Environmental Manager, Florida Department of Transportation, provided a brief history of US-27 Broward County Boat Ramps.

Participants inquired on obtaining access to District canals and waterways for paddle recreation.

In response to permit denials Dr. Reinert, stated that due to unforeseen catastrophic water levels, permits will continue to be denied until water recedes.

In response to the inquiry of a February 2021 outlook, Mr. Bartlett explained that this date was a projection for getting to the regulation schedule and that current high-water levels were very troubling. Mr. Bartlett stated the District has been working diligently on the cataclysmic event and the District had deployed temporary pumps to help with conditions. Mr. Bartlett provided detail actions taken by the Governing Board, deviations issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the opening of structures.

Public Comments:

Daniel Watson	Zachary Mattei	Brandon James
Kyle Archacki	Richard Pinsky	Daniel Watson
Dewey Mixon	Steve Twitchell	Shawn Scanlon
John Rosier	Brad Morris	Mike Elfenbein

Mr. Cook and Mr. Bartlett thanked all for participating.

9. Adjourn

The forum adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM