



## **SFWMD RECREATIONAL FORUM MINUTES**

March 15, 2021, 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. Mr. Bartlett also acknowledged team efforts on managing the water levels in Water Conservation Area 3. Mr. Bartlett also provided project updates on Allapattah Wetland Restoration and C-139 FEB groundbreaking in Hendry County.

Mr. Cook thanked Mr. Bartlett and the Governing Board for their leadership.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2056&Format=Agenda>

### 2. Overview of the Audubon of Martin County – John Nelson, President, Martin County Audubon

Mr. Nelson provided an overview of Audubon of Martin County the birding tours provided on Lakeside Ranch STA in partnership with the District, and a brief video was played.

Mr. Cook thanked Mr. Nelson

Public Comment:

Thomas Van Note, SCI South Florida Chapter

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2056&Format=Agenda>

### 3. Update on the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Services Plan Initiatives – Rolf Olsen, Project Leader

Mr. Olsen provided an update on the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge visitor services plan initiatives. Mr. Olsen informed the Forum of new camping, youth hunts, and fishing opportunities. Mr. Olsen also informed the Forum of expansions to hunting areas.

Participants expressed concern over the new airboat fee structure requiring \$100 for each recreational use. Participants stated that this was exorbitant and requested this fee be revisited by the Wildlife Refuge.

Public Comments:

Mike Elfenbein  
Richard Martinez  
Mike Nelson  
Daniel Watson

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2056&Format=Agenda>

4. Everglades Region-Land Management Update, Christina Stylianos, Sr. Manager, Land Stewardship Section, SFWMD

Ms. Stylianos provided updates on land management and recreational opportunities provided on District managed lands within the Everglades Region.

Public Comments:

Daniel Watson  
Eula Clarke, Mayor, City of Stuart  
Mike Keaten  
Mike Elfenbein

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2056&Format=Agenda>

5. Public Use Project Updates – Jerry Krenz, Sr. Project Manager, Land Stewardship, SFWMD
  - A-1 FEB & STA 5 Public Access Changes due to Construction
  - US 27 Boat Ramp Update
  - Recap of STA FWC Waterfowl & Alligator Hunts
  - Overview of FWC Youth & Veteran Service Hunt Programs

Public Comments:

John Rosier, Conservation Club  
Thomas Van Note, SCI South Florida Chapter  
John Monte  
Mike Elfenbein  
Daniel Watson

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2056&Format=Agenda>

## 6. Recreation Discussion, Updates and Future Topics

### Public Comments:

Harry Pickering

Richard Martinez

Thomas Van Note, SCI South Florida Chapter

Kyle Archacki

Dr. Thomas Reinert, Fish and Wildlife Commission informed participants that, in partnership with SFWMD, 1500 to 1700-acre prescribed burn was planned for Lake Okeechobee, Moonshine Bay. Dr. Reinert also informed participants that in partnership with SFWMD, Broward County and FWC, a plan is being developed to maintain and refurbish S-27 boat ramp.

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

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmp2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2056&Format=Agenda>

## 7. Adjourn

The forum adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM