

**Miami River Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 15, 2013**

Mr. Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman of the Miami River Commission (MRC), convened the public meeting at noon, April 15, 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

Sandy Batchelor, South Florida Water Management District

Frank Balzebre, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Gimenez

Javier Betancourt, designee for Downtown Development Authority

Richard Dubin, Miami River Marine Group

Christian Larach, designee for Sara Babun

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

Chairman Aguirre stated the rotating PowerPoint presentation features pictures from the Free 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami Riverday, held April 6. Several regular attendees noted this was the best Riverday ever. On behalf of the MRC, Chairman Aguirre thanked all of the generous sponsors, and presented a few remaining plaques of appreciation to a few of the sponsors whom were unable to accept their plaques of appreciation on stage during the festival.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River Map and Guide were distributed. On behalf of the MRC, Chairman Aguirre thanked all the advertisers.

Vice-Chairman Jay Carmichael stated the following Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) items were addressed in March:

- 1) After receiving an email from a River resident, we are appreciative of Miami-Dade County providing maintenance of the public riverwalk on the north shore beneath and adjacent to the County's 2 Ave Bridge.
- 2) Consistent with an email from a River resident, FPL, Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami are working towards fixing the broken lights along the public riverwalk beneath and adjacent to the 2 Ave Bridge.

**II. Review the City of Miami's request for the U.S. Coast Guard to temporarily modify the Miami River drawbridge regulation: 33CFR117.305 (c) and (d); which regulates the opening schedule of the following bridges: Miami Avenue, SW 2nd Ave, and Brickell Ave. The proposal will ask to extend the afternoon curfew 30 minutes to encompass 4:35 pm - 6:30 pm and that no tugs/tows be allowed to pass during the existing morning and proposed afternoon curfews (7:35 am- 8:59 am / 4:35 pm - 6:30 pm). This request includes starting impacts at the end of April through the end of the year - December 2013.**

U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Jennifer Makowski stated since receiving the City of Miami's request, they have been communicating with international shipping terminals and other marine industrial businesses along the Miami River's federal navigable channel. LT Makowski stated the USCG denies the City's request. Mark Bailey, Miami River Marine Group, stated the job generating marine industrial businesses along the Miami River can't survive with even more Bridge opening limitations than those already allowed under Federal Law. Javier Betancourt, DDA, noted the importance of facilitating Downtown vehicular traffic while one block of South Miami Ave, between SW 7 and SW 8 ST, is closed for reconstruction from April – December 2013. Alice Bravo, City of Miami, stated the City of Miami may submit a revised proposal to the U.S. Coast Guard for consideration, which would still extend the evening rush hour lockdown 30 minutes to 6:30 PM, yet leave the exemption in place for vessels under tow. MRC Chairman Aguirre stated the MRC would be willing to consider additional potential requests at future monthly MRC public meetings, along with position papers, data and analysis from all sides.

### **III. Committee Reports**

**A. Greenways Subcommittee** – MRC Greenway's subcommittee Chairman Dr. Ernie Martin thanked the City of Miami, Miami Dade County, and private sectors, all of which are currently constructing new sections of the public riverwalk.

The next monthly volunteer Miami River beautification event is this Saturday, April 20, Jose Marti Park to SW 2 Ave Bridge, featuring 220 new plantings, painting an artistic mural, picking up litter, pulling weeds, and spreading recycled mulch.

The Greenways subcommittee's regular monthly public meeting schedule remains the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 2 PM, here. Therefore our next public meeting is May 8, 2 PM, 1407 NW 7 ST.

**A. Stormwater Subcommittee** – MRC Chairman Aguirre recognized Marc and Mastriano, owner of the Scavenger Water Clean-Up Vessel, which picks up floatable debris, oxygenates the water, and treats the water through a decontamination system. Mr.

Mastriano stated Water Management Technologies Inc, the copyrighted owners of the Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel, remains under contract with the City of Miami for paid hours in Biscayne Bay, and they donate to the City 5 hours of services per week along the Miami River. In addition, they are under contract with the Miami River Fund, Inc for additional service hours along the Miami River. Mr. Mastriano provided copies of pictures taken during recent service hours along the Miami River, and offered to answer any questions.

MRC Managing Director Bibeau stated the multiple efforts to improve water quality within the Miami River, including but not limited to the excellent work of the Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel have resulted in the County's monthly water quality test results over the past year of available data, the Miami River met the established water quality goals, and did not have any water quality violations.

The meeting adjourned.

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Noon  
1407 NW 7 ST  
Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE / FAX / E-MAIL</u>
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