

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes September 8, 2025

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, September 8, 2025, in the Downtown Library Auditorium, 101 W Flagler. Sign in sheets are attached.

Miami River Commission (MRC) Policy Committee Members and/or Designees attending:

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman, Appointed by the Governor
James Murley, Vice-Chairman, designee for Miami-Dade County Daniela Levine Cava
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez
Eddie Marti Kring, designee for County Commissioner Eileen Higgins
Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council
Manny Prieguez, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the City of Miami Commission
Theo Long, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Board of County Commissioners
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Richard Murphy, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Gary Gunness, Miami River Marine Group
Richard Dubin, designee for Miami River Marine Group
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the County Commission
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor
Neal Schafers, designee for Miami Downtown Development Authority

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report and "Voluntary Improvement Plan" (VIP) Update

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their July public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Aguirre provided the following report:

I would like to welcome Gary Gunness, Someone To Do It Marina and Boatyard, 3201 NW South River Dr. and Richard Dubin, Maritime Agency Inc, on behalf of the Miami River Marine Group.

Please note Spencer Crowley is unable to be with us today, as is his designee Mike Simpson. Therefore Spencer appointed Manny Prieguez to serve as his designee today. The MRC welcomes back Manny whom was a MRC board member for years, owns several properties on the Miami River, and Chaired the County's Manatee Protection Plan Review Committee.

On behalf of the MRC thank you to all the advertiser's whom renewed in the again sold-out Miami River 2026 Calendar which is in final design before being sent to the printers.

The free 27th Annual Miami Riverday will be held April 11, 2026, 1-6 PM, Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive, featuring free boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic reenactors, children's activities, food and drinks. If you would like to sponsor Miami Riverday, or advertise in the MRC's 23rd Annual Miami River Map & Guide, please contact MRC Director Bibeau.

MRC Vice Chairman Jim Murley provided the following Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) Update:

The MRC recently participated in a publicly noticed Miami River inspection tour within the DDA district with the new DDA Chairman City Commissioner Rosado, etc. Subsequently the DDA had a positive Urbanism subcommittee meeting with Miami Beach regarding water transportation.

The Miami River Commission has been actively assisting the efforts of the City, County, State, and private sector to clean up the Miami River District. The MRC pays professional maintenance companies every day to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping, pressure washing, and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services along the Miami River.

The MRC thanks the Hands-on-Miami volunteers whom picked up garbage along the Miami River in Sewell Park on July 20 and August 24 and in Curtis Park on August 3 and September 7. In addition, the MRC thanks the 40 employees from Kiki's on the River for volunteering to clean the riverfront in Curtis Park on August 12.

II) Update Presentation Regarding the Back Bay Study and the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

Christian Kamrath, Miami-Dade County, presented a PowerPoint regarding the Back Bay Study and the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study.

Abbegail Preddy, Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District, presented a PowerPoint regarding the Back Bay Study.

Tim Gyson, Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, presented a PowerPoint regarding the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study.

When the studies are completed the included projects will become eligible for a 65% Federal cost share.

III) Discussion Regarding The Manatee Protection Plan

The MRC's previously approved recommended revisions to the Manatee Protection Plan were distributed.

Manny Prieguez stated he chaired the County's Manatee Protection Plan Review Committee, which MRC Director Brett Bibeau and MRC member Spencer Crowly served on as well. The Committee operated for over a year with numerous public meetings, data and analysis. Mr. Prieguez noted he was surprised the recommended revisions to the Manatee Protection Plan are yet to be considered by the County Commission, and he recommends they vote on the amendments.

Jim Murley noted later in September the County Commission will finalize their budget which may include a reorganization of the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management (DERM), which may result in a change of the employees working on this item.

IV) Subcommittee Reports

The MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's July public meeting minutes were distributed. Director Bibeau stated for over 25 years DERM has provided monthly results of water quality sampling in Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal, which have almost always been significantly over the State's clean water standards. For example, the minutes reflected samples detecting a level over 9,000 for E- Coli Bacteria, when the States safe water quality standard is only 130. Thankfully for the past full year Fast Cleaning Solutions LLC built, installed, operated and maintained a solar powered machine which injected oxygen into Wagner Creek. The minutes include a table of DERM's 12 monthly water quality sample results at the testing location before and after the machine was installed. After the machine was installed the level of E-Coli Bacteria was reduced by 84%. Operating 5 of these machines spread evenly along Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal would cost only \$18,000 per year.

V) New Business

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission

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September 8, 2025 - 12:00 PM

101 W Flagler, Miami FL - Main Library Auditorium

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