

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes February 2, 2026

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, February 2, 2026, 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
Jim Murley, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Cava
Frank Castaneda, designee for City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela
Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Richard Murphy, designee for Eileen Broton
Gary Gunness, Miami River Marine Group
Raffaele Mandis, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor
Neal Schafers, designee for Miami Downtown Development Authority
William Gonzalez, designee for Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle
Mike Simson, designee for City of Miami Member at Large
Theodora Long, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by the City of Miami

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

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

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

The Miami River Commission Unanimously adopted their January public meeting minutes.

On behalf of the Miami River Commission we warmly welcome Honorable Commissioner Ralph Rosado, Chairman of the Miami Downtown Development Authority, and their Executive Director Cristina Crespi. The MRC sincerely appreciates the DDA's continued funding used to help maintain the public Riverwalk within the DDA with garbage removal, landscaping, pressure washing, painting over graffiti, coordinating the City of Miami's Police Department and Homeless Assistance Department, etc. Commissioner Rosado and DDA Executive Director Cristina Crespi thanked the MRC for their continued assistance and presented a \$25,000 check to continue providing maintenance along the public Miami River Greenway within the DDA District.

At the last MRC meeting I invited members to submit a few ideas to work on, and we have received numerous excellent ideas which are in progress. For example, I would like to recognize Miami River resident and MRC member Richard Murphy to advise us of his recent recommendation re Miami River Cams, and MRC Director Bibeau's quick implementation of the recommendation.

Mr. Murphy stated for marketing purposes he recommended Miami River Cams which the public may view to see live images of the beautiful Miami River. Director Bibeau presented 2 River Cams available to the public (i.e. "Miami River Camera Live" on YouTube), with views of the mouth of the River and the 5 ST Bridge, area. The Brickell Bridge Miami River Camera is AI controlled and moves 180 degrees with views as far east as Port Miami and as far west as Miami Ave Bridge.

Before you is the design at the printers for 7,500 front and back bilingual flyers inviting everyone to the free 27th Annual Miami Riverday which 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. Thank you to our generous 48 sponsors which make this free opportunity available to the public, many of whom can't afford boat rides on the Miami River.

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

The Miami River Commission has been actively assisting the efforts of the City, County, State, and private sector to keep the Miami River District clean. 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 University of Miami students whom volunteered to pick up garbage along the Miami River in Curtis Park on January 24.

II) Update Regarding Connecting the Existing Public Riverwalks Between Latitude on the River and the 2 Ave Bridge

MRC Director Brett Bibeau presented a photo showing the area needing a connection between existing public riverwalks at Latitude on the River and the 2 Ave Bridge, in addition to emails between DERM and Latitude's consultants Cummins Cederberg, and DERM's Recent 2nd Request for Additional Information.

III) Discussion Regarding Continued Use of CITT Funding to Construct the Remaining 3 miles of On-Road Miami River Greenway

Miami-Dade County collects a half penny sales tax for Transportation, a portion of which is provided to the City of Miami for various projects, with a small percentage spent on bike / pedestrian transportation projects. MRC Director Bibeau stated the County sends the City an average of \$2.5 million per month in CITT funding. Director Bibeau presented a spreadsheet of City of Miami bike / ped projects currently using a CITT cost share, including \$1,946,000 for the

100% designed on-road Miami River Greenway which will break ground soon from NW 24 Ave to NW 19 Ave.

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre thanked City Commissioner Gabela for recently meeting with him and MRC Director Bibeau advocating for the remaining 3 miles of yet to be funded on-road Miami River Greenway to be constructed on City owned streets using funding from the City's share of the CITT provided by Miami-Dade County.

IV) Discussion Regarding Miami River Walk the WBID to Search and Locate Sources of Contamination

Malika Muthiah, Miami Dade County, presented the "Miami River WBID's Bacteria Pollution Control Plan (BPCP)". The County hired GHD consultants to help the County search for and locate sources of bacteria contamination in the Miami River and its tributaries, including Wagner Creek. The County hosted the "Maps on the Table (MOT) Stakeholder Event on 12/19/25. Multiple agencies will physically search for sources of Bacteria contamination in the Miami River and its tributaries on February 3-5. MRC Director Bibeau noted the agencies conducted a Miami River walk the WBID around a decade ago, which located over 100 sources of contamination. William Gonzalez, designee for Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, recommended the effort include the Environmental Crimes Division of the Miami-Dade County Sheriff's Office.

V) New Business

Theo Long suggested the MRC place Bridge Openings on a future public meeting agenda for discussion, and Chairman Aguirre agreed for the MRC's May Agenda.

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission

Public Meeting

February 2, 2026 – 12:00 PM

101 W Flagler, Miami FL - Main Library Auditorium

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