

# **Miami River Commission's Stormwater Subcommittee Public Meeting Minutes April 16, 2025**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) Stormwater Subcommittee's public meeting convened April 16, 2025, 10 AM, 1407 NW 7 ST. The attendance sheet is attached.

- I. **"Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Plan" Agency Quarterly Implementation Progress Reports** – Ms. Juliet Ruggiero, Miami Dade County's Department of Environmental Resource Management's (DERM), emailed a report covering October – December 2024 in advance of the meeting. The most alarming water quality violations were detected at Wagner Creek testing stations WC02 & WC03 in October had enterococci Bacteria of 24,196 (cfu/100ml) when the safe water quality standard is only 130 (cfu/100ml). Attendees encouraged the authorities to locate and eliminate the source(s) of the bacteria using cameras in the sanitary sewer lines.
- II. **Discussion Regarding 169 NW South River Drive** – Attendees discussed the City of Miami owned crushed stormwater outfall, located beneath the County owned 169 NW South River Drive. The County riverfront parcel is a sanitary sewer easement where a sewer line tunnels beneath the Miami River to the sewage pump station on the opposite side of the River, there is often sanitary odor and sanitary manholes are clogged. MRC Director Bibeau will be working with Debbie Griner, WASD, on this.
- III. **Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline Along South River Drive West of 27 Ave**

The MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's December 4, 2024 public meeting minutes state:

"NW South River Drive from 27 Ave to 20 ST proceeds along a portion of the Miami River which has an unconsolidated shoreline, and several large and growing areas where the shoreline is collapsing into the River. When one of several large sink holes previously grew past the street's steel safety barrier, the City of Miami placed temporary plastic barricades around the hole to keep pedestrians and cars from falling into the Miami River. As the shoreline sink hole(s) grew larger over time, the ground under one of the plastic barriers fell into the River, along with the temporary barricade. Now the large sink hole (one of several) is slightly into the actual street's paved asphalt, and erosion has hollowed out under a portion of the street, where there is no longer solid ground beneath a portion of the street's asphalt. School buses etc. drive on this street (which has no sidewalks, no drainage, no curb and gutter, etc.) On March 6, 2023 the MRC adopted a unanimous resolution stating in part, "encouraging the City of Miami to apply for a TAP (FDOT – TPO) grant or seek a State / Federal cost share / earmark to repair the additional 2 adjacent shoreline collapses, while constructing a public Riverwalk and new stretch of the riverfront portion of South River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave, featuring landscaping, decorative lighting, etc.

The eastern most section of the subject collapsed shoreline is around a broken stormwater outfall (owned by FDOT) which drains 27 Ave. During the MRC's March 6, 2023 public meeting FDOT representatives presented construction engineering documents to repair this collapsed area, while

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planning to reconstruct a small portion of NW South River Drive (still with no sidewalks, no drainage, no curb and gutter, etc.) The distributed MRC Urban Infill and Greenways subcommittee's September 23, 2024 public meeting minutes with this item on the agenda state, "The FDOT representatives stated the City of Miami indicated they maintain this portion of South River Drive, but do not own it, and the City granted a permit for the planned FDOT repair. The City of Miami clarified that the permit issued for the FDOT collapsed shoreline restoration project was issued for work and Maintenance of Traffic within the City right-of-way (25 feet from Southerly R/W line of the Miami Canal to the south).

Attendees reviewed and discussed several maps and plats previously emailed from the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and or SFWMD. For the eastern half of the subject riverfront portion of NW South River Drive (east of the stone bridge over tributary), the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County Representatives stated they believe South River Drive and the shoreline are part of the Miami River ROW, and therefore owned by SFWMD. Armando Vilaboy, SFWMD, provided numerous titles etc. supporting SFWMD's belief that they only own the water in the subject area, and no land. Mr. Vilaboy indicated if SFWMD is wrong, and the City and County are correct in that SFWMD indeed owns the shoreline and this portion of South River Drive, SFWMD does not own or reconstruct streets therefore would be unable to assist with the needed project, but SFWMD would be willing to provide ownership of the subject area to the City free of charge. Ms. Molina, Miami-Dade County, stated since the City has been maintaining the subject portion of South River Drive, therefore the City could claim ownership from SFWMD. The City clarified that the City only has maintenance responsibilities within its right of way. Ms. Molina agreed to research the amount of impact fees the County recently collected from the immediate areas 3 large developments which are currently under construction, and if those impact fees may be used for the subject project. City of Miami Public Works Director Santana indicated he will be discussing these issues in the future with the City Manager.

City of Miami Public Works Director Santana stated the City of Miami owns the western half of the subject riverfront portion of South River Drive (west of the stone bridge over the tributary) in addition to 4 City of Miami owned riverfront folios which are managed by the City of Miami Parks Department. Director Santana suggested the MRC contact City of Miami Assistant City Manager Barbara Hernandez, whom oversees the Parks Department, as they are leading the City's efforts to repair the 2 large and growing collapsed portions of the shoreline in these City owned riverfront folios, and Public Works will coordinate with the Parks Department to include reconstructing this City owned portion of South River Drive in the subject future City of Miami project.

In addition to the TAP (FDOT / TPO) grant opportunity, attendees noted the subject project ("repair the additional 2 adjacent shoreline collapses, while constructing a public Riverwalk and new stretch of the riverfront portion of South River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave, featuring landscaping, decorative lighting, etc.") is a good fit for a large Federal grant."

Attendees reviewed and discussed a new color-coded aerial exhibit prepared by the MRC, showing the subject area and noting ownership of the 4 connecting areas. Attendees noted since the City of Miami owns a 25' wide easement between the private properties and the street, therefore there is sufficient space to shift the street towards the upland, which increases the space for the public Riverwalk. Attendees noted there is a new residential development under construction in the

subject area, with another planned development in planning, therefore the number of pedestrians and vehicles will be increasing. Jim Murley noted the following next four steps to bring this MRC recommendation to fruition:

- 1) Resolve Ownership
- 2) Design
- 3) Funding including City Applying for grants
- 4) Construction

The MRC continues to recommend enforcing the shoreline ordinance by making expedited emergency repairs to the collapsed shoreline and encouraging the City of Miami to apply for a TAP (FDOT – TPO) grant, Federal Grant, or seek a State / Federal cost share / earmark to construct a public Riverwalk featuring a new seawall, and a new stretch of the riverfront portion of South River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave, featuring landscaping, decorative lighting, drainage, curb and gutter, etc.”

A City of Miami representative stated the City commenced design only on the section they agree they own and are responsible for, which is the western half located to the north west of the low tributary fixed bridge. The City of Miami issued a permit to the Miami River Rapids Developer to reconfigure the subject portion of South River Drive, therefore perhaps they do own it.

#### **IV. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline Along Wagner Creek South of NW 20 ST**

The MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's December 4, 2024 public meeting minutes state:

“Carolina Zamora, City of Miami, presented the following: “Project Scope: Wagner Creek Canal embankment stabilization between NW 20 St and NW 19 St and restoration including all impacted adjacent roads, any other impacted infrastructure, lighting, and landscaping. Construct a new sidewalk path along the west side of the Wagner Creek Canal from NW 20th Street to NW 15th Avenue and on the east side of the Creek connecting NW 15th Avenue to NW 20th Street, adjacent to the impacted area to be restored by the shoreline stabilization improvements.”

Ms. Zamora stated the project has \$1.6 million secured and is expecting a \$2.3 million resilience grant to hopefully be awarded in 2025. The project's Technical Memo Design is estimated to be complete in April 2025.”

On April 9 Ms. Zamora emailed the following update:

“Good morning Mr. Brett,

I hope you are doing well. The consultant has provided the 15% Technical Memo on 2-28-2025. As per the 15% Technical Memo meeting conducted on 3-7-2025 the city will move forward with the following recommendations:

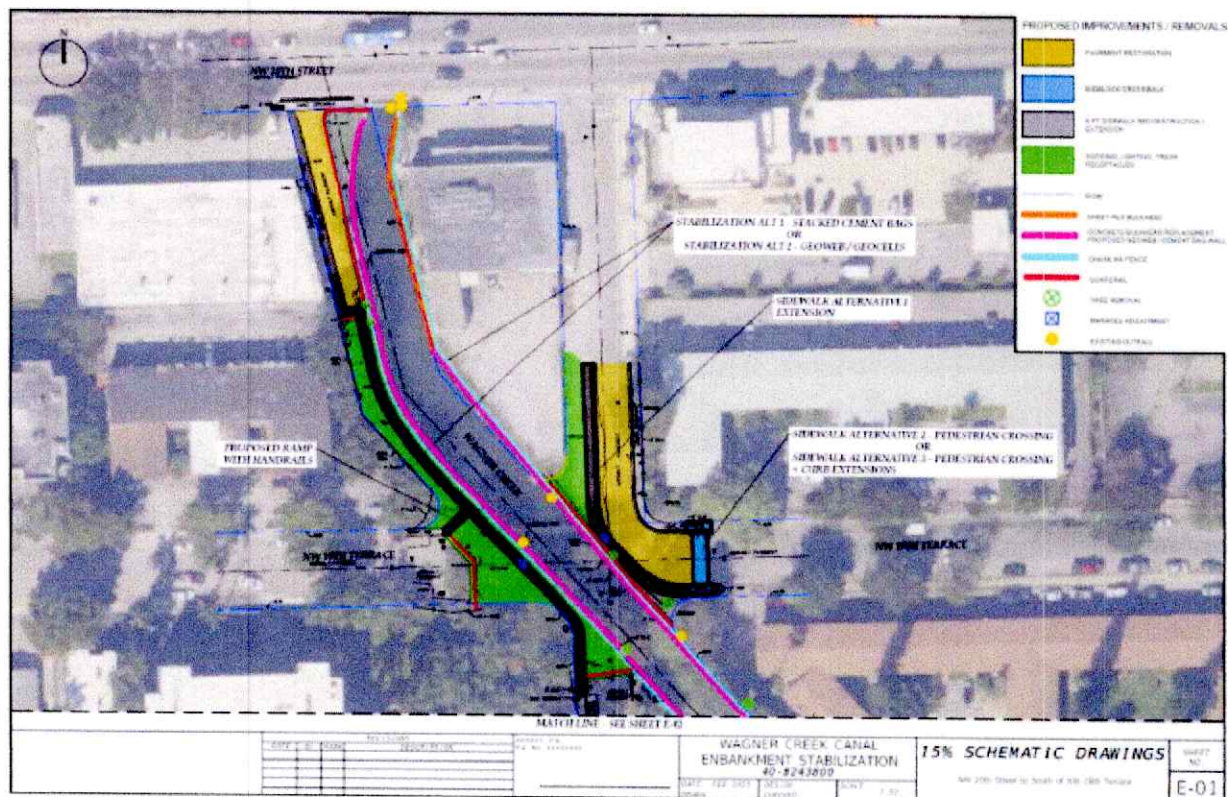
- \* Stabilizing the embankment using sheet piles adjacent to the AC Delco property and using

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geoweb/geocell in all other areas. Embankment will be elevated as needed to meet minimum elevation requirements.

- \*Implementing a midblock crossing on NW 19th Terrace, rather than extending the sidewalk.
- \* Constructing a new sidewalk path along the west bank of the canal.
- \*Reconstructing the roadway, as illustrated in the exhibit.
- \* Installing fencing, guardrails, drainage/outfall adjustments/upsizing with manatee grates where necessary.
- \*Installing tidal valves within the project limits



The city is anticipating receiving 30% Plans by the end of May 2025.

Updated March 2025 Project Estimate Cost: \$3,209,096.81.

The Resilient Florida Implementation Grant = \$2,336,954. As per the email received from Lilian Blondet on 3-5-2025 the project was not recommended for funding. On 3-13-2025 City applied for State Appropriation Grant \$2,00,000. (Pending for Approval). The city is anticipating receiving the status of the State Appropriation grant by July 2025.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

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**V. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline at NW North River Drive and NW 25 Ave**  
The MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's December 4, 2024 public meeting minutes state:  
"MRC Managing Director Bibeau reported the City owned shoreline at NW North River Drive and NW 25 Ave around a City owned stormwater outfall is collapsing into the Miami River."

Charles Alfaro, Assistant Director City of Miami Public Works, recently emailed, "We have a project 40-B253603 and a project manager and design consultant have been assigned. I am looping [@Marquez, Giraldo](#) for him to provide more details and any schedule they might have."

**VI. Update Regarding FDEP's "Miami River Basin Stormwater Management" Grant Award** - MRC Director Bibeau thanked FDEP for awarding the MRC's submitted application for \$500,000 in grant funding from the State's FY 23-24's \$20 million for improving water quality in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, by increasing frequency of vacuum truck services in stormwater manholes along the Miami River, landside garbage pickups, and landscaping i.e. removal invasive plant species along the Miami River. The stormwater system was identified as a source of pollution in the County's recent helpful Miami River Water Quality Assessment, which was reviewed during a previous MRC Stormwater Subcommittee public virtual workshop. In 2023 the MRC removed estimated 4,680 cubic yards of garbage (30 cubic yard dumpster filled three times per week) from the Miami River Basin. This grant is currently expiring, FDEP did not renew the grant application for the subsequent fiscal year, and the MRC will apply again in the future to be considered again to continue this grant funding.

**VII. New Business**

MRC Director Bibeau stated the Stormwater subcommittee will commence tracking the following additional repairs of collapsing shorelines:

1. City of Miami owned Miami River's North Shore at Flagler Bridge – FIND awarded a Phase 1 grant for design and permitting – City needs to hire engineer
2. City of Miami owned Miami River's South Shore at Flagler Bridge (Simon Bolivar Park - 1 SW North River Drive) – City needs to hire engineer
3. Private Owned 1175 NW North River Drive – owner indicated stabilization starting soon followed by repairing the collapsed seawall – Pool is closed and boats not docking on collapsed area

The next quarterly public MRC Stormwater Subcommittee meeting is scheduled July 2, 2025. 10 AM, 1407 NW 7 ST.

The public meeting adjourned.

# Miami River Commission's Stormwater Subcommittee

## Public Meeting

April 16, 2025 – 12:00 PM

1407 NW 7 ST, Miami, FL

Name

Organization

Telephone

Email

Eileen Proton

SLCA/MRC

3790-4284

Richard Murphy

" "

786.525.5353

Armando Vilaboy

SFWMD

305-336-0711

avilaboy@sfwmd.gov

Brett Bibeau

MRC

305 644 0544

brettbibeau@miamiriver  
commission.org

Maria Molina

MDC