THE MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION

ONE COLE for the river

In the fall of 2004, the long-awaited maintenance dredging of the Miami River began.

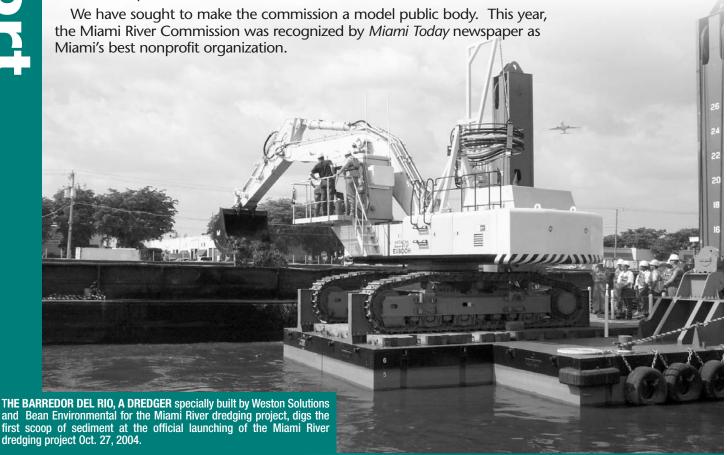
Dredging has been the signature mission of the Miami River Commission since the Florida Legislature created it in 1998. Yet the real roots go back to 1972, when the late Sen. Claude Pepper sponsored the resolution that launched the process to maintenance dredge the Miami River.

By removing nearly 1 million tons of contaminated sediment, this maintenance dredging – the river's first - will restore the navigable channel to its federally designated 15-foot depth. Restoring the channel and the additional "bank-to-bank" dredging will allow vessels to move at full capacity regardless of tide, resulting in more efficient shipping terminals, thereby promoting trade and employment.

Of equal importance, dredging will make the river vastly cleaner. Vessels and rainfall cause the contaminated river sediments to stir into the water column and flow into Biscayne Bay. Over the past decade, over 40,000 tons of contaminated sediments have migrated from the river into the bay, and dredging is the only way to remove them.

This \$74 million project was made financially feasible largely because of the commission's work in partnership with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Senators Bob Graham and Bill Nelson, and the entire Dade congressional delegation, who worked together in 1999-2000 to increase the federal cost share from 20 to 80 percent.

We thank them and the following indispensable partners in this venture: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gov. Jeb Bush and the Florida Legislature, Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami, the Florida Inland Navigation District, the South Florida Water Management District and the Miami River Marine Group.



For years, the Miami River was greatly studied, but little understood. Its neighborhoods were neglected, its pollution a continuing problem, and public awareness was generally either non-existent or negative.

Two grand jury reports in 1991 and 1998 issued scathing reports on the river's neglect, and urged dredging and a comprehensive approach to improving the river. A 1997-98 study commissioned by the Florida Legislature and chaired by Robert L. Parks issued a blunt "call to action" urging the community to forge the political will to save the river.

In early 1998, the Florida Legislature answered the study's call and created the Miami River Commission to improve the 5.5-mile Miami River and its surroundings, including the 69-square-mile water basin that includes much of the City of Miami and a portion of Miami-Dade County.

THE LAW - SPONSORED BY current Miami-Dade County Commissioner and MRC Board member Bruno Barreiro - created an 18-member board of Miami River stakeholders, including elected officials, neighborhood representatives, marine industrial business owners, environmentalists and members-at-large.

Today, two legislative acts govern the commission:

- The 1998 act (F.S. Chapter 163.06) established the commission as "the official coordinating clearinghouse for all public policy and projects related to the Miami River." The act charges the commission with uniting government agencies, businesses and residents to "speak with one voice" on river issues.
- The 2000 Miami River Improvement Act (Chapter F.S.163.065) authorized the commission, Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami to develop a comprehensive plan for the river with "a range of varied components essential to a health urban environment, including cultural, recreational, economic and transportation components."

Since its inception, the full commission and executive committee have held public meetings

every month, as have subcommittees dedicated to dredging, greenways, stormwater, public safety and economic development. You can read their minutes and reports at the commission's website, www.miamirivercommission.org

The MRC's immediate priorities remain completing the maintenance dredging of the Miami River and implementing its strategic plan. Once formed, the commission immediately went to work to create, maintain and harness the political will to improve the river, and coordinate efforts among the more than 30 local, state and federal agencies that share responsibility for the river and its surroundings.

PAYING FOR THE DREDGING was the greatest challenge. The local cost share was 80 percent of the \$74 million project, thus unfeasible. In 1999-2000, the commission was instrumental in changing that by working with elected and appointed officials to reduce the local cost share for dredging to 20 percent – finally making it financially feasible.

Under a joint planning agreement, the city, county and MRC conducted a two-year planning process and hosted 42 public hearings to create the award-winning Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan in 2002. The private sector has used this blueprint in planning more than 8,000 mixed-income residential units along the Miami River's multicultural corridor. Most of these are near downtown, creating a 24-hour neighborhood.

only two years after the commission adopted the plan, nearly half (31) of its "implementation steps" have been brought to fruition, including dredging of the river; development of sections of the Miami River Greenway - in partnership with the Trust for Public Land - decontamination vessel services, storm water system retrofits, redevelopment, creation of six new waterfront parks, increased tree canopy, removal of derelict vessels, environmental education programs, volunteer clean-ups, extending the hours of Metromover stations near the river, and expansion of the Enterprise Zone economic incentives.

"We are excited that our efforts to revitalize the Miami River over the past six years are paying off. Once again, the Miami River is a source of jobs and an engine of growth for the South Florida community, ensuring that trade and the flow of goods between the Sunshine State and our partners in the Caribbean Basin continues to grow in a more secure and cleaner environment.

- Governor Jeb Bush, State of Florida Dredging of the Miami River is critical to water quality and the business environment of the marine industries in my district. A Miami River free of the current constraints to boat traffic is expected to have a significant economic impact on employment, cargo volumes and new business investment, which is why I have long championed dredging of the Miami River.

- Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen The Miami River Commission has helped us see the Miami River as a major artery for urban infill development, a key location for marine-related industry and a great place for riverwalks and greenways."

- Chairman Joe Sanchez, Miami City Commission My research indicates there will be an emerging 'niche' opportunity for Miami River shippers to increase Caribbean cargo trade dominated by short sea routes and shallow draft ports. The Marine Industries Symposium is a good platform to present what I see – as the trade trends best capitalized on by a newly-dredged port of Miami River.

Kevin Horn,

Port Economics Expert

"

The commission's departing – and founding - chair Bob Parks did South Florida a great service by forging common cause among the river's stakeholders, implementing a long-term plan for the river and surrounding neighborhoods, and – above

all – getting the river dredged. We thank Bob for his work. He is as responsible as any one person among the many who have contributed to the river's renaissance.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO

maintaining the balance of uses on the Miami River among the marine industrial, residential and public interests. We want to make the river a great place to trade, work, visit, live and play.

The Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan – mandated by the Florida Legislature - divides the river into three distinct zones

so all of the river's vital stakeholders not only coexist, but thrive together. We believe that a shallow-draft port for the Caribbean is as critical to Miami's economic benefit as parks, greenways, water taxis and residential development. The Urban Infill Plan is our commonly accepted foundation for planning and action.

As chair, I will work to build stronger relationships with our stakeholders and with our partners in city, county and state government. We will continue to put the

Urban Infill Plan to work, while adapting to the river's evolving requirements.

IN THE COMING MONTHS, your Miami River Commission will conduct a goal-setting session with the full

commission to address questions such as: What's next for the MRC post-dredging? Who will manage greenways and riverwalks once constructed? How can we deal most effectively with mixed uses on the river? We will revisit successful river revitalization efforts elsewhere and learn from them.

Balancing development with water-dependent commercial uses is not only desirable, but necessary. Even if the Urban Infill Plan is not followed exactly as proposed, it is critical and accepted guide for making

decisions. In openly discussing our differences, we will seek and find common ground to develop a plan that will help the river's different communities flourish. Then we can all truly serve as "One Voice for the River."

Sincerely, Irela Bagué, Chair

Dates:

1998: Florida Legislature establishes Miami

1999: Commission works with the federal

2000: Florida Legislature passes Miami River

2002: MRC adopts Miami River Corridor Urban

recommendations have been implemented.

for the Miami River Corridor.

2004: Miami River dredging begins.

government to reduce local government's

share of dredging the river from 80 percent to

Improvement Act to establish a strategic plan

Infill Plan and since then nearly half of its

River Commission

20 percent.



Irela Baqué

Chair's Report

Farewell from Bob Parks

After more than six years as chair, Robert Parks stepped down from the Miami River Commission. Here are some parting words...

As the Miami River Commission's chair, I have been blessed with a great team of volunteers, staff, public servants and river stakeholders who have made so many good things happen. I have long believed that a chair of any organization should provide the opportunity for new leadership, with fresh ideas and approaches to ever changing needs.

In six years, the Miami River Commission has:

- Made dredging possible by working with elected representatives and federal officials in making it affordable for the city, county and state;
- Launched the dredging to clean the river and make navigation easier, aiding trade, commerce and employment;
- Worked with the Legislature to create the Miami River Improvement Act;
- Created the award-winning Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan after two years and 42 public hearings with a host of river improvement initiatives and a master plan for the river's future;

■ Changed the river landscape into a necklace of greenways, new and enhanced public parks and mixed-use residential projects with riverwalks to make the river a vibrant home for city dwellers of all levels of income and a source of jobs and trade for thousands.

The Miami River's current renaissance was made possible through the public-private partnership forged by the MRC board members and stakeholders. I extend my utmost appreciation to the South Florida Water Management District for providing the MRC with its future operational budget. I wish my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Irela Bagué, the new chair. I wish her and the entire MRC continued success. Finally, I extend my thanks to Governor Jeb Bush for his support and for allowing me the privilege to serve as his Member-at-Large appointee to the Miami River Commission, as well as the MRC staff and the entire MRC board for making our long-awaited vision of the Miami River Corridor a reality.

Sincerely, ROBERT L. PARKS

DREDGING WORKING GROUP

Dick Bunnell and Scott Mitchell, Co-Chairs

Working Group Repor

DREDGING IS THE MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION'S BIGGEST JOB.

On April 9, 2004, the Army Corps of Engineers signed a contract with Weston Solutions and Bean Environmental to maintenance dredge the Miami River. The project commenced Sept. 25, and the official launching ceremony followed Oct. 27.

Planning for the Miami River's dredging took far longer than the dredging itself. Funding, planning, permitting and contracting for the \$74 million project took 32 years and involved cooperation in Washington, Tallahassee, Jacksonville and local government. The dredging is expected to take two to four years.

In fact, the river had not been dredged since the first channel was dug more than 70 years ago. In ports large and small, maintenance dredging is routine.

The Miami River can lay claim to rivaling Tampa as Florida's fourth largest port – with an estimated \$4.1 billion in goods moving through the river each year.

The contractors are coordinating with P&L Towing to allow for continued navigation as the dredging proceeds from west to east. To minimize traffic disruption, the dredging company will restrict dredging near bridges

to night hours, and limit temporary closures to one bridge per night. More information on the dredging schedule is available at the contractor's website at www.ourmiamiriver.com. The dredging committee's minutes are available at www.miamiriver commission.org.

Dredging has begun on the upper river, where the shipping industry is centered, and will proceed toward the river's mouth. The Barredor Del Rio (River Sweeper), a dredger built especially for this project, scoops the sediments from the river's bottom and swings them onto the barge.

From there, the sediments go first to an upland staging area on NW North River Drive near the salinity dam at the end of the river's federally navigable channnel. There, major debris is separated from sediments, which are processed into a "filter cake" and placed into 100 sealed trucks a day for transport to two existing Class 3 landfills.

In response to the concerns of the community, the Army Corps is prohibiting open-air drying of the sediments, which environmental



VOLUNTEERS FROM HANDS ON MIAMI and the Miami River Commission plant trees donated by Carnival Cruise Lines at a pocket park in the historic Grove Park neighborhood on NW South River Drive and NW 16th Ave.

agencies have determined as contaminated but not toxic, and therefore not presenting a public health hazard.

In addition to the website updates, the dredging subcommittee will continue to host monthly public meetings. The Corps, the county, the city, contractors and the MRC will make joint presentations before a variety of local community-based organizations.

URBAN INFILL WORKING GROUP

James Murley, Chair CORRIDOR URBAN INFILL PLAN, WAS ADOPTED AS the Miami River Commission's strategic plan in October 2002. It was

prepared by the

THE MIAMI RIVER

Miami River Commission, the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County. In 2003, the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects recognized the Infill Plan with an "Award of Excellence."

After just two years, nearly half of its implementation steps have been brought to fruition, including dredging, greenways development, cleanup vessel services, pocket parks, and 8,000 residential units, among other measures. The public and private sectors have requested hundreds of copies of the plan to assist their planning and river improvement initiatives. The plan is available for downloading at

NW Fifth Street Bridge:

River traffic is captive to its weakest link. Immediately after it was built in 1929, the NW Fifth Street Bridge was deemed a hazard to navigation, as it was built into a navigational channel, is askew to the river, and has no spillways – thereby creating a strong current. The piers also overhang the fenders. All this has resulted in the bridge being struck 12 times in 10 years, twice knocking out service for eight months.

We commend the Florida Department of Transportation for appropriating more than \$44 million to replace the bridge. We encourage FDOT to remove the existing bridge, so dredging can take place right before the new bridge is built.

Working in proper sequence is best for the surrounding neighborhoods and provides the opportunity to remove contaminated sediments, which would otherwise be left behind.

www.miamirivercommission.org.

At the heart of the plan is a vision of the river in three distinct sections, described in greater detail on the map at the bottom of Page 6.

Near the western end of the river, the \$1.3 billion Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) project promises to transform the neighborhood and to serve as a transit point for rail, bus, taxi, rental car, private auto, bicycle, and pedestrain traffic. The Florida Department of Transportation is designing the MIC to serve the same sort of function as New York City's Grand Central Station and other multimodal facilities in major cities around the world.

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AND
COMMERCE
WORKING
GROUP

Megan Kelly, Chair ON SEPT. 27, 2004, THE MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION hosted a Miami River Marine Industries Symposium.

The meeting emphasized the economic importance of the marine industry on

the river (see the testimonials on Page 2) and its importance to the local economy. The key presentations were on shipping and recreational boatyards. The Miami River holds a critical niche market in Caribbean trade. It is Florida's only shallow-draft port, serving more than 50 Caribbean ports which require Miami River's shallow-draft vessels for trade and humanitarian goods.

The recreational boat industry is equally important for Miami River's

future. Every time a megayacht pulls into a recreational boatyard for servicing, the direct and indirect economic benefit is estimated at \$385,000, according to a report by Thomas J. Murray and Associates.

The river's industry includes commercial fishing businesses, which provide fresh stone crab,

lobster, shrimp and other seafood to local restaurants and markets. The multiple components of the Miami River's Marine Industry generates 8,000 local direct and indirect jobs, according to a Beacon Council study.

At the Miami River Marine Industries Symposium, participants identified a series of action steps. The Economic Development and Commerce Working

Group plans to implement these steps, which include

- Develop a designated boat slip bank to protect against further net loss of existing slips;
- Continue to advocate for federal Homeland Security dollars for security initiatives in the Miami River;
- Market currently available business incentive programs to attract marineindustrial businesses to the appropriate sections of the Miami River Corridor.

GREENWAYS WORKING GROUP

Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair THE GREENWAY WILL UNITE MIAMI'S MULTICULTURAL NEIGHBORHOODS, provide direct access to the riverfront and create a destination landscape for residents and visitors alike.

The Miami River Greenway Action Plan, prepared by the Trust for Public Land, was





CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDS ON BRICKELL ON THE RIVER'S RIVERWALK. All new projects along the river are providing publicly accessible riverwalks.

unanimously adopted by the Miami River Commission, the Miami City Commission and the Miami-Dade County Commission in 2001. The plan is being put to work, as some greenway sections are under construction, with others about to break ground.

On Nov. 2, 2004, Miami-Dade voters passed the general obligation bond, with \$7.5 million for the Miami River Greenway. The City of Miami has been awarded \$6.16 million from the Florida Department of Transportation, and has another \$2 million in the city's bond issue for the Miami River Greenway. Additional sections will break ground in early 2005. The Trust for Public Land has been awarded \$2.5 million from the Knight Foundation, which will be used for engineering documents for future greenway sections.

The private sector has been an invaluable partner in creating the Miami River Greenway. Public riverwalks are included in every private development along the Miami River, including Brickell on the River, Neo Vertika, Latitude on the River, One Miami, Dupont, Riverfront East and West, Royal Atlantic, Riverhouse Lofts, Terrazas River Park Village, Hurricane Cove, One Riverview Square, Agua Clara, River Run South, Brisas Del Rio and Reflections on the River.

Sixteen new restaurants adjoining the riverwalk are in permitting stages.

In the next year, visitors will see historical signage along the greenways,

funded by Villagers Inc. The Miami River Greenway Action Plan is available on our website at www.miamirivercommission.org

STORM WATER **WORKING GROUP**

Sallye Jude and **Arsenio** Milian. **Co-Chairs**

THE MAIN SOURCE OF **POLLUTION INTO THE MIAMI RIVER** and

Biscayne Bay is an antiquated stormwater drainage and sanitary sewer system serving the 69-square-mile Miami River Basin.

The stormwater

subcommittee is implementing the Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Report, which was expressly designed to address this problem.

The subcommittee includes representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the

Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, City of Miami and the South Florida Water Management District. The report (available at www.miamiriver commission.org) contains 32 recommendations at an estimated cost

of \$18.4 million; \$7 million of

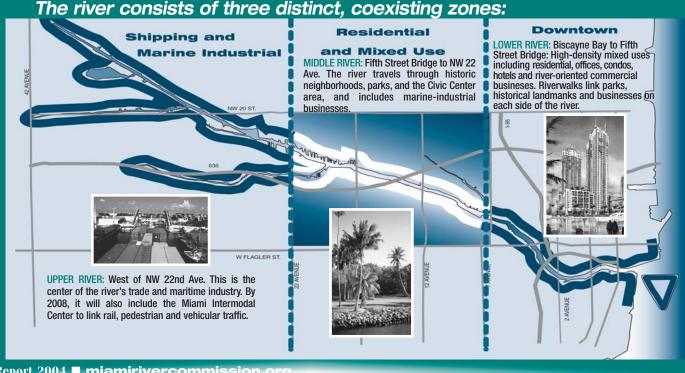
THE OLD DUPONT PLAZA WAS TORN DOWN to make way for twin residential towers and a riverwalk connecting the Miami River with Biscayne Bay. The Brickell on the River project is under construction in the background, just west of the Brickell Avenue Bridge.

DON'T POLLUTE DRAINS TO THE RIVER NO CONTAMINE LOS DRENAJES AL RIO

IN 2004, 75 OF THESE ADVISORY SIGNS were placed by storm drains along the Miami River as part of a public information program to discourage polluters.

those items have been completed, including stormwater retrofitting projects in East Little Havana, downtown and Allapattah.

Further funding has become available as residents approved on Nov. 2 additional money for stormwater improvement projects. The Miami River Commission, in partnership with Florida International University, installed environmental messages adjacent to storm drains throughout the river, warning against polluting near drains which flow into the river.



THE MIAMI RIVER MARINE GROUP - A CONSORTIUM of private shipping-related industries on the river was awarded more than \$2 million in

Department of Homeland Security grants in 2003-2004 to help bring the river's private terminals into compliance with the nation's new Homeland Security laws.

The Federal Maritime Security Act required all international ports to adopt a security plan by Dec. 31, 2003, and implement it by July 1, 2004. The river's businesses and terminals not only met but

exceeded the requirements, and the U.S. Coast Guard cited the Port of Miami River's security plan as a national model.

The \$2 million in grants were spread among 22 terminals, with cameras strategically located up and down the river and in terminals. All agencies can tap into these cameras at any moment from any number of remote locations. Those agencies include the Department of Homeland Security, Drug Enforcement Administration, City of Miami Police Department, Miami-Dade Police Department, Coast Guard, Customs,

> Border Patrol, and the Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife, among other agencies.

The terminal security improvements include fencing, lighting, ID systems, 24/7 security quards and a search of all boats. Three days before a boat's

Outreach

- The Miami River Commission produced the Eighth Annual Miami Riverday on April 10, 2004, in Jose Marti Park, The free festival celebrates the unique environment, heritage and culture of Miami's working river. Attendees were provided free riverboat tours, water taxi rides, environmental education, live music on stage, historical re-enactors and much more.
- The MRC was nominated for Miami-Dade County Public Schools as the county's best nonprofit for continuing to provide 5,000 students with annual Miami River historical and environmental education boat tours.
- The commission continues to partner with Hands on Miami volunteer cleanups and creation of pocket parks.

arrival, all law enforcement agencies are informed of which vessels are arriving, what and who will be on the boat, and the destination terminal of each vessel. If a serious question arises on any background check, law enforcement officers board the vessel at sea before it enters the Miami River. The river's businesses were commended by the Coast Guard for their diligence in attending to the community's and nation's security.

Awards & recognition: Miami River Commission named best nonprofit

- organization by Miami Today
- Miami River Greenway named the most positive development by the Urban Environment League
- **Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan was** recognized with an "Award of Excellence" from the Florida Chapter of American Landscape **Architects**
- Miami River Commission recognized by Miami-**Dade County for the Adopt-A-Tree program**

Miami River Commission's Current Operational Budget

In 2004, the South Florida Water Management District allocated \$250,000 to the Miami River Commission. The following is the MRC's estimated operational budget from that source.

PAYROLL

Managing Director = \$64,000 Assistant Managing Director = \$35,000 Payroll Expenses (Social Security, Medicare, etc.) = \$7,420

SUBTOTAL = \$106,420

ANNUAL REPORT

Graphic Design and Writing = \$5,000 Printing = \$3,000

SUBTOTAL = \$8,000

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S INSURANCE = \$2,000 (estimate)

AUDIT = \$12,000ACCOUNTING = \$3.000

OFFICE

Rent = \$3,600 (annual lease) Equipment = \$1,500 Supplies = \$5,000 Insurance = \$2,000 Postage = \$3,600 Phone Service (x2) = \$744.48 Fax Service = \$390 Letterhead and Envelopes = \$1,000 Long Distance = \$1,200 Cell Phone Service = \$720 Copies = \$5,000MRC Name Signs = \$100

SUBTOTAL = \$24,854.48

TRAVEL

Local Travel (tolls and parking = \$4,926 One trip to Tallahassee = \$800 One Trip to Washington DC = \$900 SUBTOTAL = \$6,626

SUBSCRIPTIONS = \$176 INTERNET

Domain Name \$27.50 (2) Network Connections = \$730 Site Maintenance = \$1,200 **SUBTOTAL = \$1,957.50**

MEMBERSHIP DUES/FUNCTIONS = \$1,000

Reports

Vorking Group

COMMISSION

CHAIR: IRELA BAGUÉ

South Florida Water Management District

VICE CHAIR: MR. PHIL EVERINGHAM Chair of Marine Council

FLORIDA GOV. JEB BUSH

Designee: Dr. Pamella J. Dana

SEN. RODOLFO "RUDY" GARCIA

Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation Designee: Representative Gustavo "Gus" Barreiro

MAYOR CARLOS ALVAREZ

Miami-Dade County Mayor Designee: Mr. Roman Gastesi

MAYOR MANUEL A. DIAZ

Mayor of the City of Miami Designee: Mr. Otto Boudet-Murias

COMMISSIONER BRUNO BARREIRO

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Designee: Ms. Betty Gutierrez

CHAIRMAN JOE SANCHEZ

City of Miami Commission Designee: Mr. Steve Wright

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, ESQ.

Miami-Dade State Attorney Designee: Gary Winston, Esq.

MR. NICOLAS J. GUTIERREZ, JR.

Chair, Governing Board, South Florida Water Management District Designee: Irela Bagué

MR. CHARLES "BUD" MORTON

Chair, Miami River Marine Group Designee: Mr. Richard Bunnell

MR. DANA NOTTINGHAM

Executive Director, Downtown **Development Authority** Designee: Mr. Adam Lukin

MR. GEORGE FOYO

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Designee: Ms. Megan Kelly

DR. ERNEST MARTIN

Neighborhood Representative appointed by the City of Miami Commission

Designee: Mr. Michael Cox

MS. SALLYE JUDE

Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County

Commission Designee: Ms. Jane Caporelli

MS. SARA C. BABUN

Member at Large Appointed by Miami-Dade County Commission Designee: Mr. Eddie Rodriguez

MR. MANNY PRIEGUEZ

Member at large appointed by City of Miami Commission

CAPT. JAMES MAES, USCG

Captain of the Port of Miami (Ex-Officio)

CONGRESSWOMAN **ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

(Ex-Officio)

Designee: Debbie Zimmerman

REPRESENTATIVE FROM

ENVIRONMENTAL OR CIVIC ORGANIZATION APPOINTED BY THE

GOVERNOR: To be designated

MEMBER AT LARGE APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR:To be designated

Managing Director MR. BRETT BIBEAU

Assistant Managing Director MS. ASHLEY CHASE

PREPARED BY:

Mark Sell Communications, Inc.

DESIGNED BY: Toni Kirkland

Learn more about the river's history, view records of our meetings, download all our major reports at our web site at www. miamirivercommission.org a great resource for what's happening on and near the river.

