



Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway Coalition Meeting

The Ted Moorhead Lagoon House – 3275 Dixie Highway NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

June 6, 2013; 10:00 am

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions

Board of Directors:

Tim Ford, City of Palm Bay – President

Richard Stillwagon, City of Titusville – Vice President

Marsha Cantrell, Brevard County Parks and Recreation – Secretary

Robert Day, MRC, Anglers for Conservation, Resident

Nicole Holbrook, Treasurer

Members and Guests:

Mike Palozzi, Shaw Environmental

Mary Williams, Brevard County Parks and Recreation

Chris Hudon, Press Journal

Kathy Hill, IRLNEP

Beth McMillen, MRC

2. Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2013 Meeting

Bob Day made a motion to approve the May Minutes. Richard Stillwagon seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

3. Presentation – Julie Albert, Coordinator - The North Atlantic Right Whale Monitoring Program started in 1994 and this is her 15th season with MRC. She distributed a brochure on the Right Whales and passed around samples of copepods (orange colored whale food they eat in the Northeast), whale lice, and baleen (whale teeth).

Copepods are little crustaceans, individual organisms, similar to shrimp that are the size of a pin and are free flowing in the ocean and feed on phytoplankton. Whale reproduction depends on how much they eat. While the whales are usually fasting the months they are here, they eat 2,600 lbs. of food a day 6 months out of the year. By opening their mouths the copepods get stuck to their baleen and they use their tongue to brush them off and swallow. Their baleen grows and breaks off just like fingernails.

Whales are born with different callosity/callous patterns on their heads which identifies the whales like fingerprints on a human. The whale lice live on the callous. Photos are taken of the whale's heads to identify them so there is no need to tag them as each one is different. Typically 150-250 individual whales are seen each winter here. When the water gets cold in New England



and Canada they migrate south to the Southeast U.S. to give birth as the calves have less blubber to keep warm. Water temperature here in the winter is the same as in the summer up north.

The Program is successful because no one else is monitoring our area and there is critical habitat for the whales down to Sebastian. Whale sightings reported from the public are reported to the ships so they can slow down or change their course. There have been good responses and support from the pilots in preventing the ship strikes.

The population of the North Atlantic right whale is about 500 and they have been protected for 75 years internationally since 1935. A female whale may get pregnant every 3 years and have up to 8 calves in her lifetime with a year gestation period. While weaning a calf for a year, 3 out of 5 may survive and can live to be at least 60 or even 100 years old. Studies show no changes or issues on the health of the whales. The Program is mostly concerned in preventing ship strikes and entanglements so they may live long enough to reproduce. Right Whales were named for being the easiest whale to kill as they were the “right” whale to kill as they swam slowly and they would float after they were harpooned for their valuable oil and baleen.

4. Committee Reports

A. Sustainability Committee – Marsha Cantrell – There was a May 29 teleconference meeting.

- Donor Plan – Kathe Brewer has sent letters to the PNC Bank and to Capt. Hiram’s requesting a meeting to discuss donations and kiosk installations.
- Kiosk and Mobile Phone App – Garry Balogh to authorize these projects to go forward.
- Diversified Revenue Source Planning – Mike Palozzi – The Gannet Foundation has a grant opportunity 2 times a year and one is due in August and we intend to request funding for kiosks. There is a License plate grant due in December. Marsha stated Troy Rice of IRL contracts a grant writer and perhaps they could assist with some grant writing.
- PowerPoint Presentation – Tim is scheduled in August to talk to the Brevard County City Manager’s Association so the PowerPoint is being updated. It will be distributed to the Coalition when finalized.

B. Website Committee – Nicole Holbrook – For the Web report May 6 – June 5, there were 502 visits, average page was 2.5 pgs. per visit, average time on site 1.32 seconds, 92% new visitors, 7.8% returning visitors, 469 visitors from U.S., 4 from Germany, UK, India and Sweden, 3 from China, 2 from Australia and Italy and 1 from Brazil. U.S. States: FL-293, CA-18, NY-16, GA-14, TX-13, NJ-8, MA & PA-7, TN-5. Florida Cities: Vero Beach-24, Orlando-21, Sebastian-21, Melbourne/Palm Bay-18, Ft. Pierce-17, Port St. Lucie-13, Miami-9, and Goldenrod-8. Key word searches: Indian River Lagoon, IRLNSB, and Dale Wimbrow Park. Referrals: 36 from CityofFellesmere.org, 5 from visitspacecoast.com, Indianriverchamber.com and portcanaveral.org. There were no emails or inquiries for brochures and our domain names were renewed for \$33.51. Nicole will follow up with Garry as to what is the next step for the web updates.



C. FDOT Scenic Byway Coordinator – Garry Balogh (absent) No Report.

5. Reports of Officers

A. President – Tim Ford – Tim will be speaking to the City Managers in August and will present the PowerPoint.

B. Vice President – Richard Stillwagon – The City has a kiosk on a strip of property south of Rotary Park on US 1 in Titusville that may be available for our use. It has picnic shelters and is right across the river from the VAB where a lot of people stop for viewing launches. The City Engineer has approved the kiosk for the Coalition’s use and there may be other locations in Titusville as well. Mike Palozzi asked what is needed to convert the kiosk for use. Richard will get the dimensions and take a picture and will email to Mike. The Coalition needs to agree on what the content will be. Richard made an in-kind donation and renewed the 501c3 certificates that should be posted on the website. He will send the receipts to Nicole.

C. Secretary – Marsha Cantrell

- “Adopt” a Meeting for 2013 – The October & December Meetings at the Lagoon House need Presentations and we need a central area location/presentation for our November meeting. For reference, the central area generally begins at Pineda Causeway South to South Palm Bay.

D. Treasurer – Nicole Holbrook

- Status of Bank Account – Nicole advised there is \$724.08 in the account with no activity. The Quarterly report is due in July and there are two in-kind donations to report in August.

6. Old and Unfinished Business

A. North Byway Extension - Adkins was approved to proceed with the Byway Extension and the Task Order should be approved mid-July. The FDOT is coming out with guidelines and what is required for Byway Extensions and the process should be about a 6 month exercise. Richard advised there was a Rails to Trails preconstruction meeting and the Garden St. crossover was approved. He also advised the Governor partially vetoed the coast-to-coast project to phase it in instead of funding the entire project in a lump sum.

7. New Business –

- Nicole reported the Sebastian Chamber of Commerce received \$2,500 for printing the Coalition brochures in the 2012/13 TDC budget that must be spent by 9/30. Per a proposal from ABC Printing we can print 5,000 brochures. Please email Nicole with any minor changes that need to be fixed in the brochure.
- Bob Day reported there was a New Adventure Guide Book printed by Brevard TDC.



- It was suggested that Vince Lamb might present at a future meeting on the Wildlife Corridor Expedition as there will be a round two next year.
8. Public comment – Beth McMillan advised the MRC has been very busy with school groups visiting for the summer.
 9. Adjournment – 11:22am

NO meeting in July
Next Meeting is: August 1, 2013, 10:00 am
The Ted Moorhead Lagoon House – 3275 Dixie Highway NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905
Presentation: Leigh Holt, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization,
Re: Complete Streets Project