

# **Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes December 4, 2023**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, December 4, 2023, 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 Mayor Cava  
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez  
Eddie Marti Kring, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins  
William Gonzalez, designee for State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle  
Patricia Harris, designee for Governor  
Theodora Long, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Board of County Commissioners  
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission  
Philip Everingham, designee for Marine Council  
Augustin Barrera, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce  
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group  
John Michael Cornell, designee for Luis Garcia  
Neal Schafers, designee for DDA Director Christina Crespi

**MRC Staff:**

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

## **I) Chair's Report**

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

On behalf of the Miami River Commission, I cordially welcome Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Christina Crespi for an exciting presentation to the MRC. DDA Director Crespi presented the MRC with a \$24,999.99 check to renew 1 year of once a week garbage pickup and landscaping along the Miami River's north shore public Riverwalk. The MRC thanked the DDA for their continued strong support of the public Riverwalk.

Happy Holidays. The Miami River Commission's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River Calendar is before you. The MRC sincerely appreciates our 15 renewed sponsors. Proceeds support the MRC's mission of improving the Miami River District.

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

Please note the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in January lands on New Years Day, therefore the next public MRC meeting will be January 8.

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

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. In addition to the maintenance professionals the MRC pays daily to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping, pressure washing, vac truck, street sweeper and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services along the Miami River, the MRC thanks the Hands on Miami volunteers for picking up garbage along the Miami River in Curtis Park on November 12 and Sewell Park on November 19.

## **II) Presentation Regarding Creating a New Public Mid River Greenspace at 1280 NW 11 ST**

Andrew Hellinger and Coralee Penabad, Urbanxo, presented plans for a New Public Mid River Greenspace at 1280 NW 11 ST. Mr. Hellinger noted the plans were created by Barry Miller, Savino Miller, whom also created the City of Miami's adopted Baywalk Riverwalk Design Standards and Guidelines, which the presented plans are consistent with. Mr. Hellinger noted there maybe a future phase to include 5-6 boat slips, and offered to present any future phase plans to the MRC.

**The MRC unanimously adopted a resolution recommending approval of the new public Mid River Greenspace at 1280 NW 11 ST with the condition that it is consistent with the City of Miami's adopted Baywalk Riverwalk Design Standards and Guidelines, and present any future Phase II to the MRC.**

## **III. Subcommittees**

The Miami River Commission's Urban infill and Greenways Subcommittee's November 8, 2023 public meeting minutes were distributed.

The MRC unanimously reaffirmed their previous unanimous vote to not be directly involved in the City of Miami's Miami River Holiday Boat Parade.

## **IV. New Business**

The public meeting adjourned.

# Miami River Commission Public Meeting

December 4, 2023 - Noon

Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Coralee Knabel	River Landung	305 442 3108	cogn@urbaneco.com
Andy Hellingere	River Landung	305 442 - 3108	andy@urbaneco.com
Mark Hellingere	River Landung	305. 442. 3108	mark@urbaneco.com
Lourdes Isalgue	self	786-597-8067	JTejeda@SFwmd.gov
Julio Tejeda	SFWMD	561-836-4261	
Christina Chespi	Miami DDA	305-379 6565	Chespi@miamidda.com
Eddie Marti Krieg	BCC DS	305-213-0118	District5@miamidade.gov
Neal Schafers	Miami DDA	305-379-6675	schafers@miamidda.com
Kilcen Brotan	mrc/sprng barden	31790-4284	
Bruce Brown	MRC	305/7886411	bruce402@bellsouth.net
Mark Bowley	Miami River Group	305 379 3500	markbowley@miamirivermarinergroup.org
PATRICIA HARRIS	MRC	305.962.3763	PATTYKAK@GMAIL.COM
AGUSTIN BARRERA	MRC	305.859.2050	abarrera@bermellogamil.com
Theodora Long	MRC	305-401-4595	riveroak901@gmail.com
Megan Kelly	MRC		megankelly065@gmail.com
JOHN MICHAEL CORNELL	MRC	(580) 214-1475	johncornell@zerbasinterests.com
James Murley	MDC/ODR	(786) 79-9155	James.Murley@miamidade.gov

# Miami River Commission Public Meeting

December 4, 2023 - Noon

Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
William Cunzaker	State Attorney's Office		
SEAN BAILEY	RMK MERRILL STEVENS	920-901-4646	SEAN@RMKMS.COM
Anil Akon	RMK Merrill Stevens	630 323 8034	or/rmkms.com
Brett Bibeau	MRC	305 644 0544	brettbibeau@miamiriver commission.org
Horacio Stuart Aguirre			
PHIL EBERINGHAM	MRC/MARINE COUNCIL		pbemsdd@hotmail.com
LUIS FERNANDEZ	DERM	305-372-6682	fernandez@miami dade. gov
Alessandra Jimenez Yap	DERM		
Nancy Jackson	ODR	786-797-1977	
Charlotte Hoffman	Kind Designs (Living Seawalls)	(914) 806-3242	charlotte@ kinddesigns. com
Sonia Brubaker	City of Miami	(305) 416-1214	sbrubaker@ miami.gov



## Food Rescue US- South Florida

- Since 2018, the South Florida location of national 501c3 non-profit, Food Rescue US has rescued unsold, unused food from a variety of donors including hotels, restaurants, markets, events, sports stadiums and convention centers, and delivered to social service agencies and shelters.
- The Federal Bill Emerson Law allows for any donations made in good faith to be free of liability for the donor. Congress recently passed the Food Donation Improvement Act making food donation every easier.
- With over 40% of all food wasted and 1 in 5 going to bed hungry, this program not only reduces food waste and feeds the food insecure, but also helps the environment by keeping food from landfills where decomposing food produces more methane gas than auto emissions. COP26 just designated food waste as the #1 cause of climate change.
- Since 2018, over 7.7 million lbs. of usable food was rescued, with over 90,000 lbs. rescued at last year's Formula 1 Grand Prix at Hard Rock Stadium.
- Our over 200 major food donors include hotels, like The Fontainebleau, Ritz Carlton, 1 Hotel and Loews Miami Beach, the Miami Beach Convention Center, DRVPINK and Hard Rock Stadiums and local restaurants Yardbird, Mila, Red Rooster Overtown, Café La Trova, Sugarcane, Kiki of the River and Red Steak South Beach.
- We are currently also rescuing at local markets including a number of Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Sprouts and recently opened Plum Market.
- Using our proprietary web based App technology, all donations are recorded and tracked and direct transferred to over 80 local shelters and soup kitchens like Kristi House, Buddy System Community Refrigerators, Cosac Shelters, Broward Partnership, Broward Outreach, Village FREEdge Pantry, Camillus House, Chapman Partnership, Coconut Grove Crisis Food Pantry, Miami Rescue Mission and Lotus House.
- With an all volunteer team of rescuers that number over 1200, we direct deliver the donated food within a 5 miles radius of donor location and do not take to warehouse to be sorted and shipped out of the community elsewhere in Florida. Donors always know where the food will be delivered and the community served.
- Once a month, we host Food Distributions in underserved communities like Overtown, Little Haiti, Little Havana and Liberty City and provide fresh food and groceries for over 300 people at each of these events.

For more information, contact Ellen Bowen @ellen@foodrescue.us and visit our website at <https://foodrescue.us/site/food-rescue-us-south-florida/>

# GOT A PLAN?

---

If you are like most food providers then you have inevitable food surplus. The question is what to do with it.

## **DONATING YOUR FOOD IS NOT ONLY EASY, IT'S BENEFICIAL.**

Donating any amount of food saves your business money, benefits our planet, and helps feed your neighbors in need.

### **Food that can be donated:**

- Fresh produce
- Dairy products
- Fresh or frozen meats
- Baked goods
- Pre-packaged foods
- Dry goods, non-perishables
- Prepared foods that have not been served

### **Food that CANNOT be donated:**

- Food that has had direct customer exposure (i.e. self-serve bars)
- Leftover prepared food that has been reheated
- Food not properly temperature-maintained
- Food with signs of spoilage
- Food in damaged packaging

### **Am I protected from liability?**

**Yes. The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, passed by Congress in 1996, protects food donors and the agencies that distribute the donated food to those in need.** The bill was written to encourage the donation of food and protects food produce that meets all quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal, State, and local laws and regulations even though the product may not be readily marketable due to appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus, or other conditions.

### **Start donating today!**

Ellen Bowen- Site Director  
ellen@foodrescue.us  
203-984-0485



**FOOD  
RESCUE  
US®**

**Miami River Commission's  
Urban Infill and Greenways Subcommittee  
December 20, 2023**

Miami River Commission's (MRC) Urban Infill and Greenways Subcommittee Chairman Jim Murley convened a public meeting on December 20, 2023, 1407 NW 7 ST, at noon. The sign in sheet is attached.

**I) Presentation Regarding Food Rescue US' Participation with Miami River Restaurant**

MRC Director Brett Bibeau presented the front page of the Miami Herald March 22, 2023, "Volunteers race to collect unused food from restaurants and supermarkets for those who need it. It's a boost for the environment, too. Taking a Bite out of Climate Change". Ellen Bowen, Executive Director of Food Rescue US, is available to present information during the MRC's January 8 public meeting, and emailed information including:

"If you are like most food providers then you have inevitable food surplus. The question is what to do with it. **DONATING YOUR FOOD IS NOT ONLY EASY, IT'S BENEFICIAL.** Donating any amount of food saves your business money, benefits our planet, and helps feed your neighbors in need. Am I protected from liability? Yes. The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, passed by Congress in 1996, protects food donors and the agencies that distribute the donated food to those in need. The bill was written to encourage the donation of food and protects food produce that meets all quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal, State, and local laws and regulations even though the product may not be readily marketable due to appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus, or other conditions

**Food Rescue US- South Florida**

- Since 2018, the South Florida location of national 501c3 non-profit, Food Rescue US has rescued unsold, unused food from a variety of donors including hotels, restaurants, markets, events, sports stadiums and convention centers, and delivered to social service agencies and shelters.
- The Federal Bill Emerson Law allows for any donations made in good faith to be free of liability for the donor. Congress recently passed the Food Donation Improvement Act making food donation every easier.
- **With over 40% of all food wasted and 1 in 5 going to bed hungry, this program not only reduces food waste and feeds the food insecure, but also helps the environment by keeping food from landfills where decomposing food produces more methane gas than auto emissions. COP26 just designated food waste as the #1 cause of climate change.**

- Since 2018, over 7.7 million lbs. of usable food was rescued, with over 90,000 lbs. rescued at last year's Formula 1 Grand Prix at Hard Rock Stadium.
- Our over 200 major food donors include hotels, like The Fontainebleau, Ritz Carlton, 1 Hotel and Loews Miami Beach, the Miami Beach Convention Center, DRVPINK and Hard Rock Stadiums and local restaurants Yardbird, Mila, Red Rooster Overtown, Café La Trova, Sugarcane, Kiki of the River and Red Steak South Beach.
- We are currently also rescuing at local markets including a number of Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Sprouts and recently opened Plum Market.
- Using our proprietary web based App technology, all donations are recorded and tracked and direct transferred to over 80 local shelters and soup kitchens like Kristi House, Buddy System Community Refrigerators, Cosac Shelters, Broward Partnership, Broward Outreach, Village FREEdge Pantry, Camillus House, Chapman Partnership, Coconut Grove Crisis Food Pantry, Miami Rescue Mission and Lotus House.
- With an all volunteer team of rescuers that number over 1200, we direct deliver the donated food within a 5 miles radius of donor location and do not take to warehouse to be sorted and shipped out of the community elsewhere in Florida. Donors always know where the food will be delivered and the community served.

For more information, contact Ellen Bowen @ellen@foodrescue.us and visit our website at <https://foodrescue.us/site/food-rescue-us-south-florida/>

MRC Urban Infill and Greenways Chairman Murley stated presenting this information at public MRC subcommittee and full MRC meetings will provide venues and public meeting minutes to provide this information to the Miami River's numerous restaurants and hotels.

## **II) Discuss Status of Public Miami River Greenway Connectors**

**Aston Martin Residences** – Chairman Murley and MRC Director Bibeau have been in email communication with Iris Escarra regarding creating a seamless public Riverwalk connection between Aston Martin which is finishing construction, and the existing Riverwalk sections to the east at One Miami and to the west at Epic. Ms Escarra will present to the MRC subcommittee in January.

**Miami River SAP** – Director Bibeau and Chairman Murley are scheduling a meeting with City of Miami Assistant Manager Zerry Ihekwa regarding creating a seamless public Riverwalk connection between the Miami River SAP portion of the public Riverwalk which is finishing construction, and the existing section of the public Riverwalk owned by the City of Miami at the riverfront SW 3 Ave dead end followed by Jose Marti Park.



**Fort Dallas Park and City Riverwalk on North River Drive south of Flagler Bridge** – Director Bibeau and Chairman Murley will schedule a meeting with City of Miami DREAM Director Andrew Frey regarding Fort Dallas Park and the City of Miami’s public Riverwalk along NW North River Drive just south of the Flagler Bridge, where a seamless connection is needed with Casa Neo’s public Riverwalk which is finishing construction.

Michele Drucker distributed a document entitled “Save the Flagler Cottage” which is located in Fort Dallas Park, advocating to transform it into an example of all the sustainable green technologies which are available for homes like solar panels, etc.

### **III) Discuss Status of Public Paid Parking in the Lummus Park Area**

MRC Director Bibeau presented a long email chain regarding the reopening of the County’s currently closed and vacant public paid parking lot located in between Lummus Park and the WASD pump station. Parking is needed in the area for Lummus Park which has very limited parking and the area’s numerous popular riverfront restaurants. An October 5, 2022 email from the County stated, “Please be advised that the subject parking lot will soon be open to the public, and it will be operated by staff of Miami-Dade County’s Internal Service Department.”

### **IV) New Business**

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission Subcommittee

Public Meeting

December 20, 2023 – noon

1407 NW 7 ST, Arts and Crafts Boardroom (facing Miami River)

Name

Organization

Telephone

Email

Brett Bibeau

MRC

305 6440544

brettbibeau@miamirivercommission.org

Jim Murley

MDC/COR

786-719-9155

James.Murley@miamidade.gov

Michelle Drucker

DHS  
employee

305-400-6192

Michelle.H.Drucker@~~ICE~~.ICE.DHS.gov



# COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL WATERWAY ACCESS INITIATIVE

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INVENTORY SUMMARY PRESENTED BY: COVER & CONTENT

Florida Inland Navigation District boldly began this initiative in July 2015 in an effort to increase awareness about the need for waterway access for small marine contractors. A myriad of public agencies own waterfront property and there is no uniform approach for providing waterway access. This initiative is intended to address access needs by providing education and sharing the results of a detailed commercial industrial access inventory conducted in each of the 12 counties in the District with local governments and other public agencies that own waterfront property, and providing grant funding to assist with providing additional access.

Opportunities are everywhere but to be of any value, you must recognize them and act on them. The hope is that this information will better prepare public agencies to take action to address this issue.

Scan the QR codes for additional data and information.

## SITE 10 WATSON ISLAND PARK

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** City of Miami - Dept of P&D  
**COMMENTS:** Small location with limited parking but good turnaround. Spencer thought this site could be a good one; great highway access. Was used as derelict vessel staging removal area. City is considering a managed mooring field here. Dingy dock is a mess. DERM has shoreline project to south of boat ramp.

## SITE 11 JULIA TUTTLE CAUSEWAY EAST & ALTON ROAD EXIT RAMP

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** FDOT  
**COMMENTS:** Exit ramp area next to bridge likely not viable due to roadway and pedestrian access. Extensive seawall along causeway. Shallow but deeper closer to bridge. Margarita - Barge staging area currently, but not very organized or formal. Provides access to Bay and Beach. Spencer - could be good site if access through congested landside/roadways.

## SITE 12 JULIA TUTTLE CAUSEWAY WEST

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** FDOT  
**COMMENTS:** Appears to be used as site currently. Barge on northeast corner of west side of causeway at seawall. Extensive seawall available. Not much land for semi turnaround. Explore but will be a challenge due to traffic congestion in area. Lower priority.

## SITE 14 MARINE STADIUM BOAT RAMP

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** City of Miami  
**COMMENTS:** Improvements needed.

## SITE 15 SR 968 BRIDGE

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** FDOT  
**COMMENTS:** Vacant lots from bridge to Jose Marti park best area. Not likely but may be potential. Has existing seawall but may need improvements.

## SITE 16 NW 13TH AVENUE DEAD END

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** Miami-Dade County  
**COMMENTS:** Big seawall adjacent to west that needs repair - partnership opportunity? Good potential water taxi spot. Large amount of parked vehicles all around the roundabout.

## SITE 17 CURTIS PARK

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** City of Miami  
**COMMENTS:** Boat ramp recently redone.

## SITE 18 SEMINOLE BOAT RAMP AT DINNER KEY MARINA

**NEEDS:** Docks need repair - missing section next to shore  
**OWNER:** City of Miami - Dept of P&D  
**COMMENTS:** Small location with limited parking and a tight turnaround. Located in a congested mooring and docking area. City redesigning currently - creates opportunity.

## SITE 19 BLACK POINT MARINA & PARK

**NEEDS:** Clearing of land would be needed to create staging area  
**OWNER:** Miami-Dade County  
**COMMENTS:** Large location - vacant lot just below ramp is owned by the county and will be adding a shrimp boat dock to the southern most point of the lot. Plenty of space to create a shared-use location. Long, busy channel in to site - channel depth is an issue.

## SITE 20 HOMESTEAD BAYFRONT PARK

**NEEDS:** N/A  
**OWNER:** Miami-Dade County  
**COMMENTS:** Large location with plenty of parking and good turnaround. Large seawall located to the right of the boat ramp with a fixed lift. Small barges go in and out now. National Park HQ here. US Tow Boat office with 4 boats @ seawall. County boats here (Pelican Island Skipper). Only users in this area would be County or National Park Service.

## OPPORTUNITY SITES

These sites are high priority due to immediate or long-term impact on access. Timing and action is critical (site currently for sale, is undergoing changes, etc).



## SITE 3 BILL BIRD MARINA

**NEEDS:** Seawall & Dredging  
**OWNER:** Miami-Dade County  
**COMMENTS:** Lack of staging area in this part of County. Could establish site north of Bill Bird Marina.

## SITE 7 LEGION PARK BOAT RAMP

**NEEDS:** Dock Repair & Dredging  
**OWNER:** City of Miami  
**COMMENTS:** PH I grant-opportunity. End of 64th St - Seawall; 50' landing/staging area next to boat ramp.



## SITE 9 1395 / WATSON ISLAND BRIDGE

**NEEDS:** Minimal  
**OWNER:** City of Miami  
**COMMENTS:** Good potential. Space under bridge. Deep water around site.

## SITE 13 PORT OF MIAMI

**NEEDS:** Minimal  
**OWNER:** Miami-Dade County  
**COMMENTS:** Site under port bridge currently used for fire boats.



SCAN TO VIEW BROCHURE



SCAN TO VIEW ENTIRE INITIATIVE

**DISCLAIMER:** The act of obtaining and protecting access is fluid and continuous. Planning Solutions Corp, in association with Cover & Content, collected the field data for the Commercial/Industrial Waterway Access Initiative from 2017 to 2018. Therefore, all information herein should be cross-checked with current data before taking action.

# DEFINITIONS

## EXCLUSIVE SITE

The main purpose of exclusive sites is commercial/industrial access.

## SHARED-USE SITE

Shared-use sites have multiple uses (recreational boat ramp, park, utilities, etc.) and allow commercial / industrial access.



# ADDITIONAL SITES REVIEWED

The following sites were identified, discussed with local industry representatives, and reviewed in the field.

## SITE 1

### WILLIAM LEHMAN CAUSEWAY EAST

**NEEDS:** N/A

**OWNER:** FDOT

**COMMENTS:** Parking garage on N. side. On south side and under bridge appears to be parking/storage of equipment. Sunny Isles Beach Public Works Dept. access under bridge. Waterway narrow per contractor. Very tight between fender and shore.

## SITE 2

### SR 826 BRIDGE EAST

**NEEDS:** Docks seem to need repair

**OWNER:** City of Sunny Isles Beach/FDOT

**COMMENTS:** Existing docks. Access under bridge (roadway). Adjacent to condos. Similar comments to #1 - waterway narrow per contractor. Barge could fit, but tight.

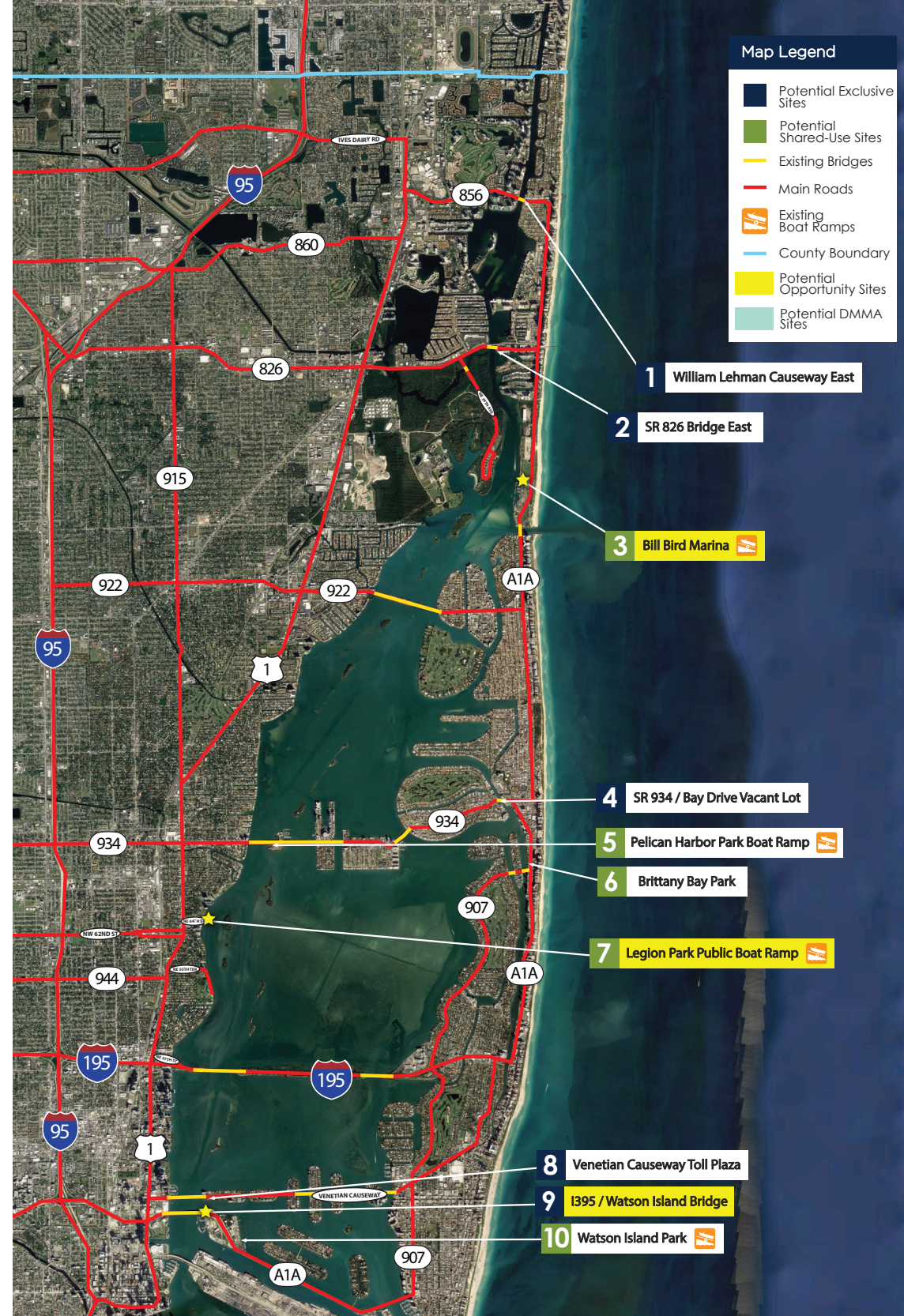
## SITE 4

### SR 934 / BAY DRIVE VACANT LOT

**NEEDS:** Needs acquisition. Needs development of land access. Seawall already exists.

**OWNER:** Marcella G. Wright

**COMMENTS:** Potential acquisition opportunity. For sale. Small, less than 1/2 acre. Approx. 50' water frontage. Margarita Wells - City of Miami Beach indicated it may have potential. Visible corner lot. Low bridge but can access waterway from other direction. IDEA: potential flex-use site? Commercial access on weekday and food trucks, farmers market, pop-up park on weekend?



## SITE 5

### PELICAN HARBOR PARK BOAT RAMP

**NEEDS:** N/A

**OWNER:** Miami-Dade County

**COMMENTS:** Good turnaround with decent parking. Could be a good potential shared-use site due to size and location. E. side has been used in past, not sure of depths - Art structures may need to be relocated to allow access. Currently getting redesigned through FIND Grant. Used to be a fishing dock at the south end.

## SITE 6

### BRITTANY BAY PARK

**NEEDS:** N/A

**OWNER:** City of Miami Beach

**COMMENTS:** Utility type buildings on site. Seawall exists for portion. barge located there currently. Brittany Bay park to north adjacent. May be a good site - may need to reconfigure high seawall. Site was improved recently.

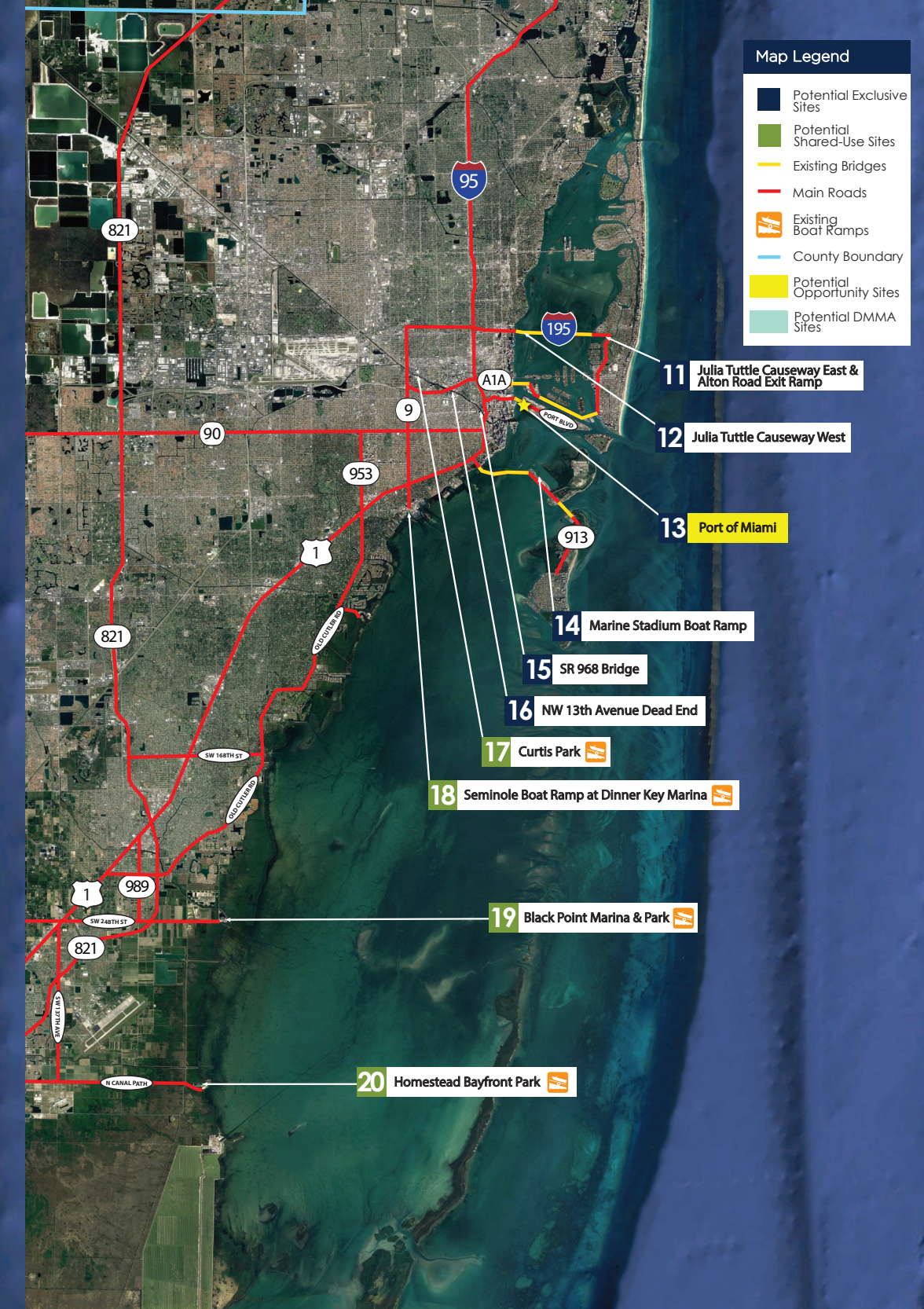
## SITE 8

### VENETIAN CAUSEWAY TOLL PLAZA

**NEEDS:** N/A

**OWNER:** Miami-Dade County

**COMMENTS:** In City of Miami. Same as Pelican. Potential backlash from condos on East side



**SITES CONTINUED ON BACK**

## **Miami River Commission's Urban Infill and Greenways Subcommittee November 8, 2023**

Miami River Commission's (MRC) Urban Infill and Greenways Subcommittee Chairman Jim Murley convened a public meeting on November 8, 2023, 1407 NW 7 ST, at 9 AM. The sign in sheet is attached.

### **I. Presentation of the Miami Dade County Department of Parks Recreation and Open Spaces' Waterfront Recreation Access Plan**

Miami-Dade County Parks Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Director Maria Nardi and Allie Davis presented the Waterfront Recreation Access Plan (WRAP). The plan was funded by a Florida Inland Navigation District Grant. The distributed Waterfront Recreation Access Plan (WRAP) Overview stated:

“The WRAP provides a strategic framework and implementation for:

- Improving public access for boating, canoeing, kayaking, shoreline fishing, walking, wading, paddle boarding, swimming, and other recreational opportunities;
- Creating an interconnected system of publicly accessible waterfront destinations that includes expanded water-based transportation;
- Increasing and enhancing nature-based recreational and eco-tourism opportunities”

Coralee Penabad and Andrew Hellinger, Urbanxo, expressed support for the “expanded water-based transportation” recommendation from the WRAP, and stated they have been trying to get permission for water-based transportation at River Landing but it has been denied by Miami-Dade County DERM. Spencer Crowley stated the DDA Urbanism Committee expressed interest in promoting and perhaps funding waterborne transportation. Mr. Crowley noted the official Miami-Dade County Manatee Protection Plan Committee.

The WRAP efforts include advocacy for education and enforcement of existing regulations. Mr. Hellinger stated the City of Miami Marine Patrol has a new vessel which could be used on the Miami River, but unfortunately, they don't have enough Marine Patrol officers to use the new vessel.

**Jim Murley and Spencer Crowley suggested the MRC support the WRAP plan and its implementation.** The WRAP will be presented at the full MRC's December 4 public meeting, noon, 101 W Flagler.

### **II. Presentation Regarding Creating a New Public Mid River Greenspace at 1280 NW 11 ST**

Andrew Hellinger and Coralee Penabad, Urbanxo, presented plans and the River Landing Declaration of Restrictions. Mr. Hellinger stated the Public Mid River Greenspace Plans were

created by Barry Miller, Savino Miller, whom also created the Baywalk Riverwalk Design Standards and Guidelines, which the presented plans are compliant with. Mr. Hellinger stated River Landing has had 4.6 million visitors. Mr. Hellinger explained the adjacent construction on 836 has delayed creation of this public greenspace. The connecting section of the public Riverwalk continuing east beneath 836 will be designed and constructed by MDX. Mr. Hellinger stated Commissioner Eileen Higgins is asking MDX to amend their current plans in order to provide a matching public Riverwalk with a new seawall, matching the connection section in the new public Mid River Greenspace at 1280 NW 11 ST. Ms. Penabad and Mr. Hellinger stated after this presented Phase I creation of the public Mid River Greenspace, they plan on submitting permit applications for Phase 2 expansion further to the east (where RMK Merrill Stevens fence is currently located), and enhancements featuring cantilevered public Riverwalks. The Phase I DERM permit is ready and they are awaiting the City Permit.

**Jim Murley suggested the MRC support the creation of the public Mid-River Greenspace.** The public Mid River Greenspace will be presented at the full MRC's December 4 public meeting, noon, 101 W Flagler. Mr. Murley suggested inviting MDX and RMK Merrill Stevens.

### **III. New Business**

Spencer Crowley distributed and presented a summary of Florida Inland Navigation District's (FIND) "Commercial / Industrial Waterway Access Initiative". Mr. Crowley indicated John Ricisak, DERM, expressed interest in the County applying for this grant opportunity to improve the currently vacant and unused county owned riverfront site on the north shore west of 27 Ave.

The public meeting adjourned.

# Miami River Commission Urban Infill and Greenways Subcommittee

## Public Meeting

November 8, 2023 - 9 AM

1407 NW 7 ST, Arts and Crafts Boardroom (facing Miami River)

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Spencer Crowley	FIND	305 982 5549	scrowley@arw.org
Jim Murkey	MDC-00R	786-719-9155	James.Murkey@miamidade.gov
Brett Bibeau	MRC	305 644 0544	brettbibeau@miamirivercommission.org
MARIA I. NARDI	MDC PROS	305 755-7903	MARIA.NARDI@MIAMIDADE.GOV
ALEX DAVIS	MDC PROS	305-755-7993	ALEXANDRA.DAVIS@MIAMIDADE.GOV
ALEX ZIZOLD	MDC PROS	786.376.6231	ZIZOLAE@MIAMIDADE.GOV
Andrew Hellinger	River Landings	305-442-3108	andy.juliano@co.com
Coralee Penabaz	River Landings	305 442 3108	cgpenabaz@co.com
Nancy Jackson	MDC 00R	786-747-1977	Nancy.jackson@miamidade.gov

**Miami River Commission's  
Urban Infill and Greenways Subcommittee  
December 20, 2023**

Miami River Commission's (MRC) Urban Infill and Greenways Subcommittee Chairman Jim Murley convened a public meeting on December 20, 2023, 1407 NW 7 ST, at noon. The sign in sheet is attached.

**I) Presentation Regarding Food Rescue US' Participation with Miami River Restaurant**

MRC Director Brett Bibeau presented the front page of the Miami Herald March 22, 2023, "Volunteers race to collect unused food from restaurants and supermarkets for those who need it. It's a boost for the environment, too. Taking a Bite out of Climate Change". Ellen Bowen, Executive Director of Food Rescue US, is available to present information during the MRC's January 8 public meeting, and emailed information including:

"If you are like most food providers then you have inevitable food surplus. The question is what to do with it. **DONATING YOUR FOOD IS NOT ONLY EASY, IT'S BENEFICIAL.** Donating any amount of food saves your business money, benefits our planet, and helps feed your neighbors in need. Am I protected from liability? Yes. The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, passed by Congress in 1996, protects food donors and the agencies that distribute the donated food to those in need. The bill was written to encourage the donation of food and protects food produce that meets all quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal, State, and local laws and regulations even though the product may not be readily marketable due to appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus, or other conditions

**Food Rescue US- South Florida**

- Since 2018, the South Florida location of national 501c3 non-profit, Food Rescue US has rescued unsold, unused food from a variety of donors including hotels, restaurants, markets, events, sports stadiums and convention centers, and delivered to social service agencies and shelters.
- The Federal Bill Emerson Law allows for any donations made in good faith to be free of liability for the donor. Congress recently passed the Food Donation Improvement Act making food donation every easier.
- **With over 40% of all food wasted and 1 in 5 going to bed hungry, this program not only reduces food waste and feeds the food insecure, but also helps the environment by keeping food from landfills where decomposing food produces more methane gas than auto emissions. COP26 just designated food waste as the #1 cause of climate change.**



- Since 2018, over 7.7 million lbs. of usable food was rescued, with over 90,000 lbs. rescued at last year's Formula 1 Grand Prix at Hard Rock Stadium.
- Our over 200 major food donors include hotels, like The Fontainebleau, Ritz Carlton, 1 Hotel and Loews Miami Beach, the Miami Beach Convention Center, DRVPINK and Hard Rock Stadiums and local restaurants Yardbird, Mila, Red Rooster Overtown, Café La Trova, Sugarcane, Kiki of the River and Red Steak South Beach.
- We are currently also rescuing at local markets including a number of Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Sprouts and recently opened Plum Market.
- Using our proprietary web based App technology, all donations are recorded and tracked and direct transferred to over 80 local shelters and soup kitchens like Kristi House, Buddy System Community Refrigerators, Cosac Shelters, Broward Partnership, Broward Outreach, Village FREEdge Pantry, Camillus House, Chapman Partnership, Coconut Grove Crisis Food Pantry, Miami Rescue Mission and Lotus House.
- With an all volunteer team of rescuers that number over 1200, we direct deliver the donated food within a 5 miles radius of donor location and do not take to warehouse to be sorted and shipped out of the community elsewhere in Florida. Donors always know where the food will be delivered and the community served.

For more information, contact Ellen Bowen @ellen@foodrescue.us and visit our website at <https://foodrescue.us/site/food-rescue-us-south-florida/>

MRC Urban Infill and Greenways Chairman Murley stated presenting this information at public MRC subcommittee and full MRC meetings will provide venues and public meeting minutes to provide this information to the Miami River's numerous restaurants and hotels.

## **II) Discuss Status of Public Miami River Greenway Connectors**

**Aston Martin Residences** – Chairman Murley and MRC Director Bibeau have been in email communication with Iris Escarra regarding creating a seamless public Riverwalk connection between Aston Martin which is finishing construction, and the existing Riverwalk sections to the east at One Miami and to the west at Epic. Ms Escarra will present to the MRC subcommittee in January.

**Miami River SAP** – Director Bibeau and Chairman Murley are scheduling a meeting with City of Miami Assistant Manager Zerry Ihekwaba regarding creating a seamless public Riverwalk connection between the Miami River SAP portion of the public Riverwalk which is finishing construction, and the existing section of the public Riverwalk owned by the City of Miami at the riverfront SW 3 Ave dead end followed by Jose Marti Park.

**Fort Dallas Park and City Riverwalk on North River Drive south of Flagler Bridge** – Director Bibeau and Chairman Murley will schedule a meeting with City of Miami DREAM Director Andrew Frey regarding Fort Dallas Park and the City of Miami’s public Riverwalk along NW North River Drive just south of the Flagler Bridge, where a seamless connection is needed with Casa Neo’s public Riverwalk which is finishing construction.

Michele Drucker distributed a document entitled “Save the Flagler Cottage” which is located in Fort Dallas Park, advocating to transform it into an example of all the sustainable green technologies which are available for homes like solar panels, etc.

### **III) Discuss Status of Public Paid Parking in the Lummus Park Area**

MRC Director Bibeau presented a long email chain regarding the reopening of the County’s currently closed and vacant public paid parking lot located in between Lummus Park and the WASD pump station. Parking is needed in the area for Lummus Park which has very limited parking and the area’s numerous popular riverfront restaurants. An October 5, 2022 email from the County stated, “Please be advised that the subject parking lot will soon be open to the public, and it will be operated by staff of Miami-Dade County’s Internal Service Department.”

### **IV) New Business**

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission Subcommittee

Public Meeting

December 20, 2023 – noon

1407 NW 7 ST, Arts and Crafts Boardroom (facing Miami River)

Name

Organization

Telephone

Email

Brett Bibeau

MRC

305 6440544

brettbibeau@mianirivercommission.org

Jim Murley

MDC/COR

786-719-9155

James.Murley@miamidade.gov

Michelle Drucker

DHS  
employee

305-400-6192

Michelle.H.Drucker@~~ICE~~.ICE.DHS.gov

**Miami River Commission's Stormwater Subcommittee  
Public Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2023**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) Stormwater Subcommittee's public meeting convened December 6, 2023, 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) provided a report covering July – September 2023. The most alarming water quality violation was detected at Wagner Creek testing station WC03 in September had E-coli of 4,090 (cfu/100ml) and Wagner Creek testing station WC04 had 1,260 E-coli, when the safe water quality standard is only 410 (cfu/100ml). 11 of 12 of the water quality samples on the Miami River were clean.

MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau distributed the MRC's November 6, 2023 public meeting minutes which stated, "The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution respectfully recommending Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection work together to determine the sources of E-coli and Enterococci Bacteria in Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal."

- 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 Sewer easement where a sewer line tunnels beneath the Miami River to the Sewage pump station on the opposite side of the River. The County is currently planning to transform the unimproved site into a small public riverfront park, and the City should repair their crushed outfall under this site before the park is completed. MRC Director Bibeau stated Billie Jo McCarley, MDC WASD, attended the MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's June public Meeting regarding this item, and provided her contact info to Elyrosa Estevez, City of Miami. Ms Estevez reported that Clara Sidan, City of Miami, indicated this project is on a list, but not identified as a priority.
- III. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline Along South River Drive West of 27 Ave** - MRC Director Bibeau thanked the representatives from the City of Miami Public Works and Parks Departments, Miami-Dade County Public Works and the South Florida Water Management District for participating in the June 2 site visit to the subject site. The MRC recommendation to provide a public Riverwalk featuring a new seawall.
- IV. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline Along Wagner Creek South of NW 20 ST** Elyrosa Estevez, City of Miami's Resilience and Public Works Department, stated the City has identified funding and a contractor for this future street improvement project which will include shoreline stabilization.

**V. Update Regarding FDEP's "Vacuum Truck, Street Sweepers, and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel" Grant Award** - MRC Director Bibeau thanked FDEP for awarding the MRC's submitted application for \$600,000 in grant funding from the State's FY 22-23'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 (\$300,000), landside garbage pickups (\$165,000), street sweeper truck (\$100,000) and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services (\$35,000) 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.

**VI. New Business**

The MRC SSC's next quarterly public meeting will be March 6, 2024, 10 AM, 1407 NW 7 ST.

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission Stormwater Subcommittee Public Meeting

December 6, 2023 – 10 AM

1407 NW 7 ST, Arts and Crafts Boardroom (facing Miami River)

Name Organization Telephone Email

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
PATRICIA HARRIS	MRC	305.262.3763	PATRYKAK@GMAIL.COM
Eileen Broton	MRC	317.90-4284	Eileen.Broton@bellsoth.net
Julio Tejeda	SFWMD	561.836.4251	JTejeda@SFWMD.gov
Juliet Ruggiero	MDC	305.372.6579	Juliet.ruggiero@MiamiDadeSOV
Arita Nash	FDEP		
Elyrosa Estevez	City of Miami		estevez@miamigo.com