

Miami River Commission's Stormwater Subcommittee Public Meeting Minutes June 5, 2024

The Miami River Commission (MRC) Stormwater Subcommittee's public meeting convened June 5, 2024, 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 October – December 2023. The most alarming water quality violation was detected at Wagner Creek testing station WC04 in November had enterococci Bacteria of 22,400 (cfu/100ml) and Wagner Creek testing station WC03 had 7,270 enterococci bacteria, when the safe water quality standard is only 130 (cfu/100ml). The maximum amount the test is able to detect is 22,400, therefore that result exceeded the maximum amount which the test is able to determine.

MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau stated in 2023 DERM's monthly water quality samples at 3 locations along Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal failed 33 of 36 tests (93%).

MRC Director Bibeau cited a April 12, 2024 Memo Mayor Cava to the County Commission stating in part, "Addressing Pollution Using Technology Solutions... The main objective of the project is to identify and eliminate pollution... and this work includes characterizing sources of pollution reaching the Miami River... Thanks to the use of smart covers being strategically located where sewage spills have been known to occur, 39 sewage spills have been prevented... currently there are three pilot locations in the Little River Canal... RER-DERM is currently preparing the procurement of an additional five pilot locations for further testing and construction."

Director Bibeau presented two Miami Dade County Domestic Wastewater Discharge / Abnormal Event Notifications and pictures he took:

1. The 2/6/24 notification was in response to Director Bibeau finding and reporting sanitary sewage spilling out the top of a sanitary sewer manhole cover in Little Havana at 10 SW South River Drive resulting in 800 gallons of sanitary sewage entering the Miami River.
2. The 2/27/24 notification was in response to Director Bibeau finding and reporting sanitary sewage spilling out the top of a sanitary sewer manhole cover in Little Havana at SW South River Drive and the I ST Bridge (close to the previous location) resulting in an additional 135 gallons of sanitary sewage entering the Miami River.

Considering these repeated sanitary sewer manhole overflows in the same portion of Little Havana directly on the Miami River, Director Bibeau recommended the County install Smart Covers at least in this portion of NW South River Drive, in addition to other areas directly along the Miami River.

MRC Managing Director Bibeau noted in 2022, the Miami River passed 36 of 48 (75% = "C") water quality tests for enterococci bacteria, while in 2023 the Miami River passed 39 of 48 (81% = "B-"), increasing the passed tests by 6%.

- 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. MRC Director Bibeau stated Billie Jo McCarley, MDC WASH, attended the MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's June 2023 public Meeting regarding this item, and provided her contact info to Elyrosa Estevez, City of Miami. Ms. Estevez reported that a private sector development in the area may be required to conduct the repair of the subject City of Miami owned crushed stormwater outfall beneath this County owned site.
- 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 a site visit to the subject site. The MRC recommends a public Riverwalk featuring a new seawall in the subject area. Elyrosa Estevez, City of Miami Public Works, stated the City of Miami's Parks Department is going to create a "scope" for this project.
- 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, and her Department will work towards creating a design.
- V. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline at NW North River Drive and NW 25 Ave**
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.
- 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, landscaping ie 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.

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission Stormwater Subcommittee Public Meeting

June 5, 2024 - 10 AM

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

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