

MINUTES OF THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

The February 11, 2020 Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative (HIPI) meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by President Ralph Jones. Board members present were Jim Foley, Treasurer, Barbara Seaton, Director, Paul Laura, Environmental Director, Elizabeth Farrar, External Communications Co-Director, Sue Foley, HIPI member and advisor to the board, Patty Jones, Secretary, and participating by phone were Hilarie Davis, External Communications Co-Director, and Dottie Lanci, Vice President. Larry Gray, HIPI member was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Laura moved, seconded by Ms. Seaton, to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2019 meeting. All present voted aye, the motion passed unanimously.

**REPORT BY MS. FARRAR ON ST. LUCIE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL REQUEST:** Ms.

Farrar reported that she has been attending the President's Council meetings in St. Lucie County north of the roundabout on the Island. She reported that they are having a severe beach erosion problem and are looking to impose an MSTU to help fund beach nourishment. She stated that we on the Island in Martin County have twelve (12) beach accesses with a four (4) mile distance from the roundabout. Four (4) miles north of the roundabout in St Lucie County there are only two (2) or three (3) beach accesses. The Army Corps says they have no funds to conduct beach restoration in St. Lucie County. The cost identified by the President's Council to replenish the beach is \$17 per cubic yard of sand.

The President's Council has investigated alternative means for beach restoration and they claim they have found a process which would cost \$1.52 per cubic yard of sand. It's called "Streamside" out of Colorado and is working with fresh water sediment collection for bank erosion. However, they have had a pilot program in Galveston. The website is:

[www.stormh2o.com/erosion-control/article/13021728/beachfront-reinforcement](http://www.stormh2o.com/erosion-control/article/13021728/beachfront-reinforcement)

This is for restoration of sand beaches and involves equipment similar to a backhoe and a conveyor belt that would require manned safety to keep people from getting too close and possibly getting hurt.

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The President's Council has also investigated the Dick Holmberg Technologies method. Ms. Farrar explained that Dick Holmberg is now 83 yrs. old and this is technology he touted in the 80's and 90's. He is not a credentialed scientist but espouses a method of collecting water and discharging the sediment to restore beaches which has been tested in the Great Lakes and Saudi Arabia.

President's Council is seeking HIPI's support and endorsement with the Army Corps to seek these alternate methods which the President's Council believes will be so cheap. They also spoke to E.J. Ewing of Sailfish Point to seek their support.

Mr. Laura reported that FEMA did approve and distribute 9 million dollars for beach restoration to St. Lucie County over the past six (6) months. Mr. Laura said he thinks the President's Council is taking the wrong approach going through the Army Corps which is very bureaucratic and difficult. He suggested that they should seek grant funds and work with the political system such as State Rep. Brian Mast.

Ms. Farrar said the President's Council has been voracious in seeking her out for HIPI's formal support on these alternate means for beach nourishment. Everyone present and Hilarie agreed that using "breakwater" methods to restore beaches did not bring sand back to the beaches and proved to be unsuccessful.

Mr. Foley moved, seconded by Mr. Laura, HIPI completely supports preserving our beaches. In light of climate change predictions, we agree that finding a more cost effective method for beach restoration is a good idea. However, HIPI is not in a position to endorse any one of these methods. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Laura stated that Allen Herskowitz, Board Chair of the Florida Oceanographic, would be an excellent person to speak to about this, also, Dwayne DeVries of NEPA, National Estuary Program Association.

Ms. Farrar reported the next meeting of the President's Council is March 17<sup>th</sup> when the Army Corps and St Lucie County representatives will be guest speakers regarding Federal beach project update. Meeting location is the Island Club, 10410 Ocean Drive.

(Even though not reported at the meeting, the President's Council next meeting if February 18<sup>th</sup>, same location, speaker is Jane Cornett, Becker-Poliakoff, annual legal review.)

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Dottie Lanci disconnected her call as she could not hear and lost connection.

**REPORT ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE:** Mr. Laura reported on this year's efforts to control algae blooms from Lake Okeechobee. See <http://eyeonlakeo.com> The Army Corp and South Florida Water Management Dist. are the jurisdictions controlling the level of the Lake. Also see:

<https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/blue-green-algae-task-force>

**DATE, TIME, LOCATION AND SPEAKERS FOR ANNUAL HIPI MEETING:**

Date: Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Elliott Museum. Ms. Farrar emailed Rob Steele to ask if we could use their meeting room free of charge. If not, the Marriott had offered their room free of charge last year.

It was agreed that the following four speakers would be invited:

Don Donaldson, Deputy County Administrator (Ralph will invite him)

Mayor of Stuart, Mike Meier (Patty will invite him)

Dr. Valerie Paul, Blue Green Algae Task Force (Paul will invite her)

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, South Florida Water Management Dist. (Hillarie will invite her)

We discussed that they would be seated for a panel discussion. They would be introduced separately giving them each a few minutes to speak before being seated for a panel discussion and Q and A.

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:** Per our bylaws, "Officers will be elected at the annual meeting by a vote of all active, eligible members."

1. Any member of the organization may submit nominations.
2. A member may submit only one name as candidate for each office.

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3. The Board of Directors will accept nominations sent to the email address on record for the organization. Nominations will be accepted for seven (7) days beginning no later than one calendar month before the date of the election. The ballot with all candidates' names will be posted on the HIPI website and emailed to all members no less than ten (10) days prior to the election.

Ms. Farrar said that she would post nomination of officers will be accepted on the website.

**NEXT HIPI MEETING DATE:**

It was agreed that our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. at the Jones's, Unit 111, Sunside.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Foley moved, seconded by Ms. Seaton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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Prepared by Patty Jones, Secretary, HIPI

February 12, 2020