Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway (IRLNSB) Coalition Meeting

 Held Virtually Via Microsoft Teams

March 4, 2021; 10:00 am

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order – 10:01 a.m. /Roll Call/Introductions

Board of Directors:

Nick Sanzone, City of Satellite Beach, President

Robert Day, Resident, Vice-President

Tim Ford, City of Titusville, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Marsha Cantrell, Resident

Nicole Broquet, Marine Resources Council (MRC)

Members/Guests:

 Karen Ford, Atkins

Mike Palozzi, Atkins

John Cooper, City of Rockledge

Claudia Calzaretta, FDOT District 5 Scenic Highway Coordinator

Dr. Leesa Souto, CEO MRC

Sarah Kraum, Brevard Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

1. Presentation – Dr. Leesa Souto, CEO MRC, Health of the Indian River Lagoon Annual Report Card. Ms. Souto provided a health assessment of the Indian River Lagoon. It was noted that the Lagoon has been monitored for the past 25 years. The MRC’s assessment involves comparing actual monitoring data to state target criteria to see if the Lagoon is improving or not. Five (5) indicators are measured and looked at. Four (4) indicators involve water quality and one (1) indicator involves habitat quality which is sea grass. The Lagoon has been broken up into ten (10) management regions. Twelve (12) tributaries were added to the measurements to see if there were improvements to the tributaries based on projects that have been done. Ms. Souto went over the assessment of the management regions from north to south. Generally, the south end of the Lagoon, from Indian River County southward has better water quality than the northern part. The latest study found that the Lagoon’s water quality was steady or had slight increases in quality while the data showed sea grass habitat has declined. Dr. Souto noted that additional parameters such as dissolve oxygen, herbicides/toxins, salinity and bacteria need to be measured to possibly explain why water quality is generally steady and improving but sea grasses continue to decline. Dr. Souto believes the system can recover. MRC goals to improve the Lagoon include lagoon wide bacteria testing, bringing back mechanical aquatic weed harvesting and decreasing the spraying of herbicides/pesticides, and advocating for Low Impact Development techniques for stormwater management. Things that people can do to help the Lagoon include decreasing or eliminating the use of lawn fertilizer, contain car washing runoff to pervious areas instead of to drainage outlets, and picking up pet waste.
2. 2021 Coalition Meeting Schedule/Guest Speakers – Nick Sanzone said that a speaker on hurricanes at the May meeting might be considered as he saw where hurricane season is going to be moved up to the middle of May due to climate change. It was noted that John Scott of the Brevard Emergency Management could be contacted. Another topic could be sea turtles as nesting begins in May. The future of the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and its future could be discussed as many of the EELs properties are located on or near the Byway. Sarah Kraum would reach out to Mike Knight, EEL Manager to see if he can present at the May meeting. A speaker on hurricanes could possibly be scheduled for the November or later meeting. Sarah Kraum was the September guest speaker on the TPO’s Resiliency Plan.
3. Byway Map Display at the Ted Moorhead Lagoon House Scenic Byway Welcome Center – Nicole Broquet informed the attendees that she has emailed the Harris Corp. contacts who are still working from home regarding the map and is waiting to hear back.
4. Kiosks Update – Bob Day reported that there was virtual meeting held with Cocoa Beach city staff, some IRLNSB Board members, Atkins staff and Claudia Calzaretta regarding kiosks in Cocoa Beach and Satellite Beach. Bob Day was going to check with Jennifer Brusso, Cocoa Beach about the status of the project.
5. Adoption of Minutes - Motion was made by Bob Day to approve the meeting minutes of January 7, 2021 and seconded by Marsha Cantrell. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. Website Update – Tim Ford stated that he could not obtain website metrics due to a possible account issue. Karen Ford, Atkins, will send Nick Sanzone and Tim Ford the new account credentials.

Tim Ford provided the attendees with the organization’s Facebook metrics and demographics. Karen Ford announced that the Byway’s web hosting is now free with Dreamhost.

Nick Sanzone will send information for a volunteer outreach project involving a clam, oysters, and sea grasses at a Lagoon location in Satellite Beach.

1. Greater Sebastian River Chamber of Commerce Update – It was announced that Cheryl Thibault is the new Operations Director at the Chamber
2. Report of Officers
3. President – Nick Sanzone talked about a Sampson Island tree planting project with residents. Nick said that new bus shelters are being planned for Satellite Beach. He asked if Byway information graphics could be placed on the bus shelters. Sarah Kraum would contact the Space Coast Area Transportation office to start the conversation.
4. Vice President – Bob Day mentioned the Cocoa Beach – Satellite Beach kiosk projects.
5. Secretary/Treasurer – Tim Ford informed the attendees that the organization’s Sunbiz annual registration was updated and paid. The cost was $61.25 and was paid with the organization’s debit card. The Coalition’s bank account balance was $1,398.06.
6. Florida Scenic Highways Program Update – Claudia Calzaretta provided the following update:
7. Roadside Chats Program – Yesterday’s Chat was on the State’s Bear Management program. This video was posted on the Central Florida Byways YouTube Channel, linked [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIM4eRMq0OYkvPO5HqA4XA). The next Chat will be a presentation on the River to Sea Scenic Byway to be held April 7th at noon.
8. Roadside Travelers Recording – History of Pemberton - A first podcast dealing with roadside travelers and the history of places found along the byways/state was completed. The first session was on Pemberton, a defunct town in Sumter County. This video was posted on the Central Florida Byways YouTube Channel, linked [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIM4eRMq0OYkvPO5HqA4XA).
9. Byway Annual Reports – The IRLNSB’s Annual Report was submitted. Reports from all of the byways statewide will be compiled to create a statewide report.
10. 2021 FSHP Calendar – Claudia noted that the month of June included a photo of Garry Balogh, former District 5 Scenic Byway Coordinator. It was noted that Garry was the godfather of the Scenic Highway program. No hard copies of the calendar are available.
11. Future Garry Balogh Award Nomination Cycle – June 1st nominations open for people that have been influential with the Byway Program.
12. National Scenic Byway Legislation – Mike Palozzi reported that the grant cycle will soon be announced. DUNS numbers, FEIN numbers, etc. will need to be provided along with checking account numbers. Mike and Karen will work with Tim Ford to update the organization’s information. Claudia Calzaretta stated that funding has not been approved yet contrary to the January meeting minutes.
13. New Business – Sarah Kraum reported that an article states that the start of hurricane season will be moved up to May 15th.

Bob Day asked if Ruth Stanbridge was contacted regarding the Roadside Chats program. Ms. Stanbridge has not been contacted yet.

1. Public Comment – None

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.