

Manatee Eco Tourism Association

META
13 April 2017

General Meeting Procedures

In consideration of others, we ask that you follow a few basic rules:

1. Please turn cell phones off or place on vibrate. If you must make a call, please step outside in order to not interrupt the meeting.
2. If you must speak to someone, please speak softly or go outside in order to not interrupt the meeting.
3. Personal comments/remarks directed to the Board, Members, or the public are not allowed and are considered out of order.

There will be two Public/Member Input opportunities. At the beginning and end of each meeting. Anyone may speak on the topic of their choosing for up to three minutes.

Meetings

Call to Order: Parliamentarian

Adopt Agenda: Bryan moved, Mike second

Approve Minutes: Marty moved, Bryan second

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Save Crystal River, Marie Bienkowski and Brian Hengesbach

Public / Member Input (3 minutes):

-Save Crystal River guests informed META of recent efforts to plant eel grass with participation from 5th grade students. Students have been growing eel grass in their classrooms and will plant it under boardwalk at Hunter Springs Park on May 12. Asking for volunteers to do a cleanup of basin before planting grass. Also, asked that tour guides take customers by the plants to show them what the students did. Save Crystal River is discussing removing the last eel grass cage in Hunters.

-Mike Dunn asked about efforts to plant in 3SS. Also, inquired about efforts to limit runoff from lawn sprays/fertilizers into the bay.

-Mike Dunn-Bird, injured manatee in Kings Spring, died on way to Lowery Park. He was first tagged in 1980. Necropsy revealed 43L of water in lungs, broken ribs, and fresh small prop marks(possible trolling motor). Reminder to report sex, size, and any identifiable marks. If video is taken, please take video of entire manatee.

-Mike Milsap collected money on behalf of Crystal River cleanup efforts-Justin presented check for \$4592.43 to be used as follows:

\$2300.00-Legal Funds
\$ 500.00-Scholarships/School Projects
\$ 900.00-Cleanup Efforts of Bay
\$ 892.43-General META Operation

Old Business:

-Website up. Please put up your logos, urls, services offered, etc.

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- \$1 collection for META now that we are a 501(c). Cannot solicit donations, but can offer it as an option when booking reservation.

- Final application for Guardian Guide is out. Please look over

- META and SMC letter for press release in progress

Committee Reports:

1. **Legal:** Mike Engiles
2. **Science:** None
3. **Membership:** None
4. **Public Relations:** Mike Engiles

New Business:

- Mike E-Mike E went out with Mr. Carter to view all eel grass plugs. Meeting of SWFWMD, Gator Dredging, SCR, FWC, and residents. Residents asked to ban tour boats or to require power poles. Conclusion: cannot dictate how to anchor a vessel, so signs are to be clearly posted to indicate where eel grass plugs have been planted so that tour boats can avoid anchoring in those areas.

- Mike E-Areas to be dredged this summer are canals outside of 3SS with eel grass plugs planted after dredging; one canal at a time.

- Workshop at City Counsel to address "rogue" tour operators in city waters, annex county waters. City to enforce SUP.

- Wed 19th 3SS subset to meet with City and FWC to finalize land use of 3SS

- Discussion to approach FWS to propose rule to require a flotation device to enter 3SS. If enforced, will reduce walking in the spring.

- Guest speaker, Dr. Buddy Powell of Sea to Shore, to speak at May META meeting

- Necropsy Lab Tour volunteer-Bryan

- Capt/Guide Training volunteer-John Spann

- Organize Cleanup for Save Crystal River volunteer-Gloria

Fundraiser: Ideas to raise money for META

Meeting Adjourned