

SAVE THE HOMOSASSA RIVER ALLIANCE MEETING
7:00 p.m. - 03/14/2019
Homosassa Civic Club

Frank welcomed members and guests. Gordon Colvin introduced the four students who would be receiving awards for their Science Fair Projects. He gave mention to the three members involved in judging: Gordon Colvin, Jane Perrin and Karen Johnstone.. Our thanks to Rosey Rendueles, who was the moving force in getting the River Alliance involved in the judging at the Science Fair again.

Awards were given and each student gave a brief presentation of their projects. Refreshments were served; Rochelle Kaiser came and took pictures for the Chronicle. Meeting commenced after refreshments and students left.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning balance	\$10,887.42
Deposits	140.00
Checks/Withdrawals	1,522.27
Ending Balance	\$ 9,504.75

Report was approved and seconded

Minutes:

It was voted to dispense of reading of the Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- HRA joined the Florida Conservation Coalition who will keep us up to date about environmental issues.
- Frank has been asked to speak to Too Far in May. Hopefully Steve Minguy can join him.

OLD BUSINESS:

Diver Down Flags -Met with Bob Kane who supplied us with 50 Diver Down Flags. We just need to decide when to present to FWC.

Picnic – April 11 – 4 p.m. Awards will be presented and new officers will be announced.

Shrimpapalooza – 3/17. We will have our tent there. Frank asked for help to man the booth.

Officers -Officers were elected last year for a period of two years. Same officers will serve on the Board next year. He asked for any nominations from the floor. None were made.

River Restoration Project -Steve and Cindy Minguy just returned from Tally. The word has gotten out about all the good things happening in our area.

Senator Simpson said the money from last year is still there and the project should eventually receive those funds. A Continuing Funding Resolution is what is being proposed by Senator Simpson so they don't have to continually keep asking for money. He will be there for the next two years and he is on our side and working on our behalf. Money for septic and sewers are on the forefront also. Things are good for us right now.

Springs Algae – Don Heirs, who lives on Springcove Road, mentioned an article regarding algae problems in Florida springs but the Homosassa was not mentioned. Springs mentioned are in central and north Florida. People in those areas are challenging DEP's efforts saying the organizations's clean-up plans are weak. Don is willing to write an article to the journalist about what is going on here and he will contact the DEP to take notice our area.

Sewer Project - Don also said he would like to get on Senator Simpson's radar for next year's agenda. We need to get the sewer project for the Blue Water moved up. Frank agreed – we are having the DEP as speakers at the June meeting so we can discuss this at that time.

Concerns about the 86 day Scallop Season – Frank contacted Chris Wynn, Regional director of FWC who forwarded his email to Melissa Rack. She responded saying the scallop season has spanned from 85 to 93 days since 2011. They are aware that of the situation, restated our concerns but offered no changes. Lots of run around saying they continue to do outreach education work, optimizing the time of the season with respect to the public population and public interest. Did not address commercial scalloping. They continue pursuing the health of seagrass beds, conservation and restoration and would welcome the assistance of the HRA on this front. He wrote her saying we would stand ready to partner with FWC in any way to protect our seagrass beds. Have not heard back from her.

Gordon suggested we should ask them about documentation that they may have on seagrass bed monitoring.

Website - We plan to meet with Website design people next week.

Florida Springs Council - Brad Rimbe reported that the Florida Springs Council. has made a public records request to the governor's office for anyone who has applied for a position on governing boards of any water management district in the state of Florida. They want to know who the players are. He has thrown his name into the hat. Springs Council wants people with technical backgrounds to be more involved in the governing boards. The new governor has been dismantling certain water districts.

Newsletter – Went to printer on March 13th. Should be in members hands before the picnic.

Meeting adjourned. At 8:40.

Respectfully submitted, Iris A. Rose