

St. Johns County Roundtable 3/9/09

ATTENDANCE: 25 PLUS 1 Press

GUEST: Neil Armingeon, The Riverkeeper

TREASURER'S REPORT: 44 Members. Only 6 Associations have paid 2009 Dues
Current Balance \$2,336.59

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

SPEAKER: Neil Armingeon, The Riverkeeper

Chairman Jim McLane called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Neil Armingeon updated the group on two issues: Water withdrawal from the River and the Georgia Pacific Paper Mill.

The Riverkeeper Group is a Non Profit group that is focused on the health of the St. Johns River.

On 4/13 the St. Johns Water Management District will hold a special meeting to vote on a proposal by Seminole County to take millions of gallons of water a day out of the River. Representatives from Jacksonville, St. Johns County and the Riverkeeper will argue against the Seminole County plan. Neil asked our group to attend the meeting and support their cause.

The Riverkeeper solution is not spending millions of dollars putting pipes to take water from the River. A 500 mile pipeline would cost a minimum 1.5 million. The solution is how we use water and how we use water for future development. We are using more water than we can produce. Goal is to reduce consumption.

County is trying to control communities to reduce consumption with 2 day watering per week with odd/even street addresses. Neil asked our group we can help to reduce consumption. We agreed to discuss this issue with our respective Homeowners Association and ask residents to obey the watering rules and limit excessive water usage.

Dioxin is being produced by the Georgia Pacific Paper Mill. 80% of Dioxin is in the sentiment. In 2002 a Judge ordered Georgia Pacific to build a pipeline (40 million cost). The Riverkeeper would like to save the Mill money and do not build the pipeline and figure out a way to get rid of the Dioxin. Riverkeeper believes that their solution will save the Mill money over the long haul rather than build a pipeline. In the meantime this situation is hurting the water quality.

The Riverkeeper has trips to educate folks. Example is the trip from Palatka to Stanford.

Neil Armingeon says this is the most beautiful part of the River. Brochures available. Mayor Peyton has a St. Johns River Month with a series of events.

Old Business: Tony Bosco reviewed the ARC improvements made in 2007 to Statute 720.3035.

Bottom line Associations need to have strict guidelines to their respective ARC guidelines or you will be challenged by your residents. If challenged, be prepared to go to court.

The Treasurer with HOA Associations can be charged criminally for impropriety or misuse of funds.

New Business: Mary Kohnke introduced Jim Stivers who spoke on behalf of the County and is against a change to EPIC which is a prevention program not a substance abuse program. Stivers indicated that the County would need 2.2 million to do what the Sheriff wants to do. His concern is that the County Commissioners are feeling pressure to support EPIC.

He also advised that Dr Calovito has been transitioned out of her job as Director for the county program. Also that a conflict of interest exists with Jerry Cameron (St Johns County) being on the Board for EPIC.

Jerry Cameron stated that Dr. Calovito was not fired and that he in fact had signed her time card the Friday before our meeting. He was not aware of any firing.

Jerry Cameron stated that he is not a part of the Board of EPIC and his relationship is the same as with our Roundtable. He has been invited to only 2 meetings as a guest. The County must listen to all proposals to help cut costs and improve service County wide.

Suggestion was made to have the Roundtable ask the County the status of Dr. Calovito and report back at the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2009

Motion to adjourn. Voted yes to approve. Chairman McLane adjourned at 10:50 am.