

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Virtual Meeting
August 24, 2020 - 6:15 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2020 through 8/2020					
	Members	Appt By	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Jason Liechty, Chair	IV	P	5	1
2	Elizabeth Adler, Vice Chair	M	P	5	1
3	Carol Tamburry	III	P	5	1
4	Carolann Mazza	III	P	5	1
5	John Bonavita-Goldman	II	P	3	0
6	Douglas Meade	I	P	6	0
7	Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	A	3	3
8	Lawrence Clark	I	P	4	2
9	Muge Nurgun	II	P	6	0
10	Owen Cylke	C	P	6	0
11	Susan Wood	M	P	6	0

Staff Present

Public Works Department

Stephanie Wilk, Sustainability Specialist, Staff Liaison
 Kimberly Pearson, Sustainability Coordinator
 Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
 Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability
 Todd Hiteshow, Environmental Compliance Manager
 Melissa Doyle, Program Manager - Solid Waste and Recycling

Guests Present

None.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Stephanie Wilk at 6:23 p.m. An announcement was made to explain the videoconferencing process. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for July 27, 2020 were introduced. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Bonavita-Goldman and seconded by Mr. Cylke. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Pearson shared the current timeline for the Landscape and Tree Preservation ordinance revisions in the City's Unified Land Development Regulations. Public input was collected over the last two months and the City Attorney is reviewing the current document and any changes for legal compliance. Ms. Pearson said that the application will be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Board by September 11, 2020 for its October meeting. It is expected that the City Commission will hold the first reading of the ordinance revisions at its December 2nd meeting and the second reading at the December 15th City Commission meeting. Ms. Pearson requested that she present updates to the Sustainability Advisory Board sometime before then and that the Board consider writing a Communication to the City Commission in support of the Landscape and Tree Preservation ordinance revisions. Mr. Liechty suggested that the Board consider adding the presentation to the November Sustainability Advisory Board.

Ms. Wilk shared that there were no updates on the ban of plastic and Styrofoam on city property from the City Commission.

Ms. Wilk informed the Board that the Public Works – Sustainability Division is hosting a socially distant tree giveaway. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020. It will be a drive thru event at Snyder Park from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Masks are required and residents must pre-register at www.fortlauderdale.gov/freetrees.

Presentations

Waterway Quality Charter – City Commission Top Priority 2020: Todd Hiteshew Environmental Compliance Manager

Mr. Hiteshew explained that in 2020 the City of Fort Lauderdale established Waterway Quality as City Commission Top Priority and that the Project Charter for that Priority has six initiatives:

- National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES)
- Stormwater Operations Pollution Prevention Activities
- Education and Awareness
- Algal Bloom Monitoring Plan and Pilot Project
- Proactive Waterway Quality Sampling Program
- Implementation of amended Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes

Mr. Hiteshew stated that NPDES regulates discharge from municipal storm sewers, construction activities, and industrial activities. He shared that there is an annual report must be submitted in June to

the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Hiteshew added that Broward County does most the environmental water quality monitoring for the City of Fort Lauderdale. He emphasized that Stormwater Pollution and Prevention is very important as mitigation of discharges is more costly than preventative measures.

Further, Mr. Hiteshew shared that the City regularly cleans the canals and that 27 tons of debris was collected from January through June 2020. Mr. Hiteshew highlighted the importance of education and awareness. He added that the City had made changes to the Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use of Urban Landscape Ordinance. An educational campaign followed, and signs have been posted in stores where fertilizer is sold to ensure the public is aware of these ordinance changes. Mr. Hiteshew added that as part of the Algal Bloom Monitoring Plan and Pilot project, monthly inspections are performed during the wet season and increased based on observed blooms. He noted that the City regularly inspects 15 sites. As of August 14, 2020, there were no algal blooms observed in the City's waterways. There are contracts in place for mitigation if there is a bloom severe enough to require a response. In addition, the State of Florida has emergency algal bloom contractors.

Mr. Hiteshew informed the Board that they could keep updated by reading the monthly [LauderTrac](#) distribution. He advised that if anyone witnesses a water quality issue to call (954) 828-8000 to report it, or they may download the *LauderServe* App on their mobile devices.

A question and answer segment ensued.

The full presentation is attached.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Sustainability Issues Regarding Yacht Docking Waivers Behind NE 20th Ave

Ms. Wilk stated that there is no specific update regarding this concern. She shared that the City Commission denied the Marine Advisory Board's request to create a sub-committee to investigate gray and black water released from vessels. Ms. Wilk added that the Marine Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on September 3, 2020 and she will share if there are any updates.

Proposed Communications

Response to City Commission Regarding Environmental Water Quality Issues

The Board drafted the following communication to the City Commission:

“The Sustainability Advisory Board received the Commission’s February 18, 2020, request to investigate and research waterway quality issues. After a brief hiatus because of COVID-19, the Board spent the last few months hearing and reviewing presentations from:

- *Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director for Sustainability, on Water Quality Monitoring for bacteria*
- *Phil Purcell, CEO and President of Marine Industries Association of South Florida, on Marine Industry Best Practices related to water quality*
- *Todd Hiteshow, Environmental Compliance Manager, on the Commission 2020 Top Priority - Waterway Quality Project Charter.*

Based on these presentations and our discussions, the Board recommends that the Commission:

- *Retain waterway quality as a Commission Top Priority for 2021.*
- *Approve the Commission proposed funding for additional waterway quality monitoring for fiscal year 2021.*
- *Increase funding for outreach programs that address the importance of water quality, and actions neighbors and businesses can take.*
- *Look for opportunities to install green infrastructure that addresses water quality, consistent with the City’s Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Design and Construction Manual For a Sustainable and Resilient Community and Cohesive Public Realm.*
- *Maintain funding and level of service for cleaning and repair of stormwater catch basins.*

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Sustainability Advisory Board”

A motion was made by Ms. Wood to approve the communication and seconded by Ms. Nurgun. The motion passed unanimously.

Beach Bucket Foundation Proposal

Mr. Liechty volunteered to draft communications and bring it to the September 29, 2020 SAB meeting for the Board to review and approve.

Commission Exploration of Plastic and Styrofoam Ban on City Property

Ms. Adler volunteered to complete a draft communication and bring it to the September 29, 2020 SAB meeting for the Board to review and approve.

Support for the Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance Revisions

The Board agreed to leave this item on the agenda, and they will revisit at the October 26, 2020 SAB meeting as a result of the changes in the timeline.

Comments

None.

Items for Next Meeting

Presentations:

- Update on Energy Usage in City Operations
- Covid-19 Impacts on City Operations

Proposed Communications:

- Beach Bucket Foundation Proposal
- Commission Exploration of Plastic and Styrofoam Ban on City Property
- Support for the Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance Revisions

Old Business: Sustainability Issues Regarding Yacht Docking Waivers Behind NE 20th Ave

The Board also listed a couple of topics of interest for future presentations:

- Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance Revisions Update
- Sustainability Action Plan
- Cool Roof Ordinance
- Cool Paving

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Cylke and seconded by Ms. Adler to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

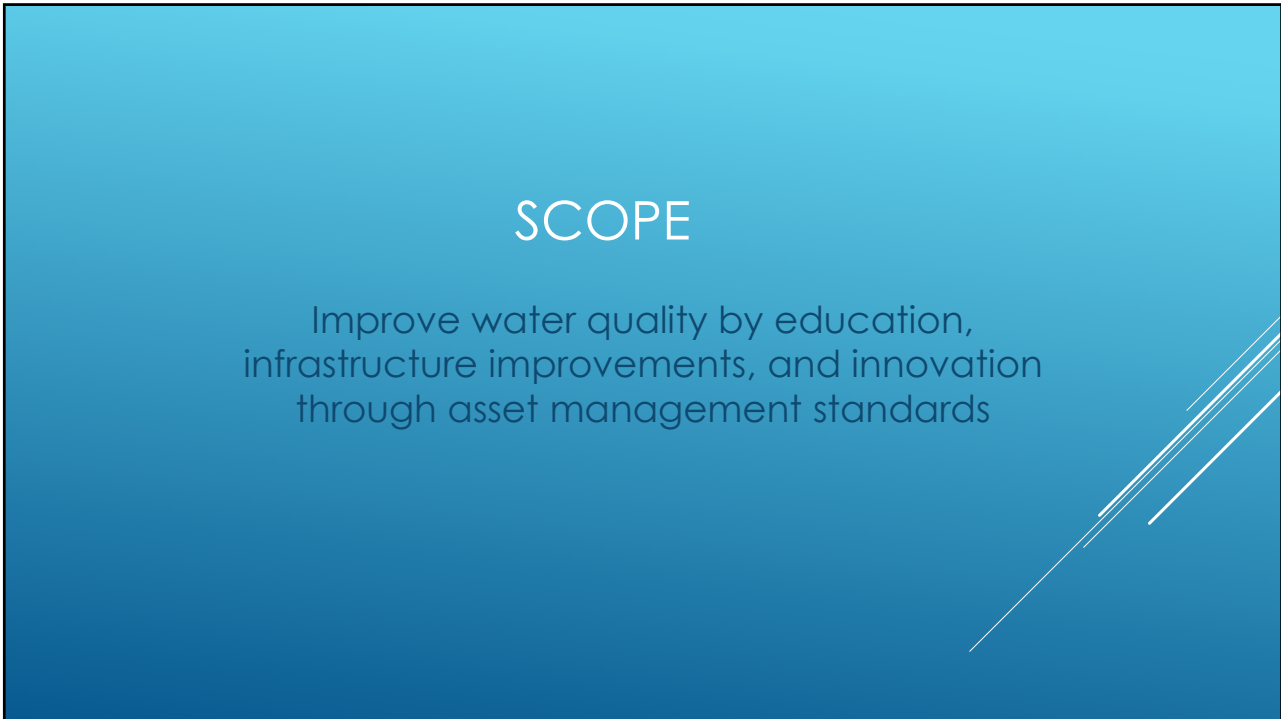
A blue gradient slide with white text and decorative white lines in the bottom right corner. The text reads: "WATERWAY QUALITY CHARTER", "City Commission Top Priority 2020", and "Todd Hiteshew Environmental Compliance Manager".

**WATERWAY QUALITY
CHARTER**

City Commission Top Priority 2020

Todd Hiteshew
Environmental Compliance Manager

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A blue gradient slide with white text and decorative white lines in the bottom right corner. The text reads: "SCOPE" and "Improve water quality by education, infrastructure improvements, and innovation through asset management standards".

SCOPE

Improve water quality by education,
infrastructure improvements, and innovation
through asset management standards

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SIX INITIATIVES

- National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) Implementation and Reporting
- Stormwater Operations Pollution Prevention Activities
- Education and Awareness
- Algal Bloom Monitoring Plan and Pilot Project
- Proactive Waterway Quality Sampling Program
- Implementation of amended Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes

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NON-POINT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING



- ▶ NPDES Program – regulates discharges from municipal storm sewers, construction activities and industrial activities.
- ▶ An annual report is submitted in June.
- ▶ Covers 9 areas such as new development, stormwater operations and maintenance, flood control, construction site runoff, illicit discharges and improper disposal, and pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer application.
- ▶ Includes Broward County NPDES Monitoring Report.

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STORMWATER OPERATIONS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Proactive maintenance of the stormwater system helps prevent pollutants from being discharged into waterways. Proactive maintenance activities thru 8/18/20:
- ▶ Proactive inspections: 19,846
- ▶ Catch basin cleaning: 3,793
- ▶ Street sweeping on curbed streets: 19,571 miles (3,170,000 lbs of debris removed)
- ▶ Pollution control devices cleaning: 4

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Canal Cleaning - Disposal Tonnage (Calendar Year)



Month	Disposal Tonnage (Approximate)
January 2018	2.0
February 2018	0.5
March 2018	0.8
April 2018	0.5
May 2018	0.8
June 2018	1.5
July 2018	1.0
August 2018	2.5
September 2018	2.0
October 2018	2.0
November 2018	0.0
December 2018	0.0
January 2019	0.0
February 2019	0.0
March 2019	0.0
April 2019	1.5
May 2019	0.0
June 2019	0.0
July 2019	1.0
August 2019	0.0
September 2019	1.5
October 2019	3.5
November 2019	4.5
December 2019	6.5
January 2020	6.5
February 2020	4.5
March 2020	3.5
April 2020	6.5
May 2020	6.0
June 2020	6.0

2018 - 14.02 tonnes
2019 - 18.49 tonnes
2020 - 27.15 tonnes (Thru June)

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EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- ▶ NPDES Outreach
 - ▶ Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer
 - ▶ Illicit discharges and improper disposal
- ▶ Algal Blooms
- ▶ Raise Awareness to changes in Florida Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes

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ALGAL BLOOM MONITORING PLAN AND PILOT PROJECT

- ▶ Monitoring
 - ▶ Conduct monthly inspections during wet season and increase frequency based on observed blooms
 - ▶ 15 sites regularly inspected
 - ▶ Through 8/14/20 no blooms present in our waterways
 - ▶ FDEP maintains an algal bloom dashboard and generates weekly reports
- ▶ Consultant hired to review algae bloom mitigation technologies and propose a pilot project
 - ▶ Mechanical, biological, and chemical technologies
- ▶ Contracts in place for mitigation if there is a bloom severe enough to require a response (\$100,000 budgeted)

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PROACTIVE WATER QUALITY SAMPLING PROGRAM



- ▶ Broward County NPDES Monitoring Report
 - ▶ Two sites in Fort Lauderdale: C-13/North Fork Middle River and New River/Coastal
 - ▶ Salinity, pH, Dissolved O₂, Chlorophyll, Turbidity at 15-minute intervals, 24/7
- ▶ Broward County Water Quality Monitoring Program
 - ▶ 46 sites throughout the County on a quarterly basis.
 - ▶ ~13 sites are located within Fort Lauderdale
- ▶ Florida Healthy Beaches Program
 - ▶ Targets swimming beaches collected twice a week
 - ▶ 2 locations in Fort Lauderdale: Bahia Mar, Birch State Park
- ▶ City has periodically been proactively monitoring certain areas since March 2020 around Middle River, George English Park, and Tarpon River

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IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDED FLORIDA-FRIENDLY FERTILIZER USE ON URBAN LANDSCAPES



- ▶ Prohibits application of nitrogen and phosphorus during the rainy season (6/1 – 9/30)
- ▶ Retailers must post a sign notifying customers of the limitations on fertilizer
- ▶ Retailers must make available a surface and groundwater protection brochure
- ▶ City staff visited 5 retailers, placed 7 signs, and provided 250 brochures

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LAUDERTRAC – UPDATES ON THE COMMISSION PRIORITIES

- Regular newsletter on the progress of the Commission's Top Priorities for 2020
- <https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Home/Components/News/News/5285/16>

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TAP
USE THE SMART PHONE APP
fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv

CLICK
SUBMIT A REQUEST ONLINE
fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv

CALL
CALL US ANYTIME
954-828-8000

EMAIL
cservice@fortlauderdale.gov

24-HOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE

QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Please call 954-828-8000 to report any waterway quality issues
- ▶ Or use the smart phone app: fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv
- ▶ Or submit a request online: fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv
- ▶ Or email cservice@fortlauderdale.gov

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