

January 9, 2019

Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County  
Attn: Ms. Judy Orcutt

**Re: Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County Partnership Letter**

Dear Judy,

Thank you for reaching out recently to the Rotary Club of Vero Beach in regard to the vision and mission of your group.

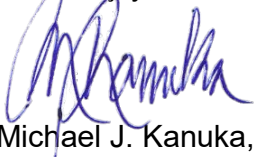
The 2018-19 Rotary Club of Vero Beach Board of Directors met recently regarding your request that we partner with the Clean Water Coalition (CWC) with a view towards adopting their vision and mission. I am happy to inform you that our current Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to support the CWC.

The vision and mission of the CWC, to the degree it will yield a net benefit to the environment and the economic well-being of the community, is a vision that our club embraces. Our club members are always seeking for ways to give back to the community and to advance goodwill and peace both locally and abroad. We whole-heartedly believe that clean water, in all its forms, is intrinsic to the well-being and vitality of both communities and individuals – and thus we enthusiastically support your vision and that of the CWC.

In this matter, our Board of Directors has asked Chris Murphy to serve as a liaison between our club and the CWC. Mr. Murphy will continue to serve our club and be of assistance to your organization by facilitating communication and information sharing between our club and the CWC for the foreseeable future. Mr. Murphy will contact you via separate communication to provide you with his contact information.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Vero Beach (Vero's 1<sup>st</sup> Club), please accept this letter as an expression of our gratitude to the CWC and its leaders for embracing tomorrow by rising to meet the challenges of today.

Sincerely yours in Rotary,



Michael J. Kanuka, President

**Our Vision**

**We envision the surface and ground waters of Indian River County to be clean and healthy; the foundation of our social and economic well-being for current and future generations.**

**Mission Statement**

**The Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County (CWC) is dedicated to the protection and restoration of our waters through advocacy, education, conservation, and restoration; by working in collaboration with private and government entities.**

**Board adopted September 14, 2018**

## **Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County Resolution**

The Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County (“CWC”) is dedicated to the protection and restoration of waters within Indian River County, Florida, through advocacy, education, conservation, and restoration by IRCCWC members in collaboration with private and government entities.

WHEREAS, the waters of Indian River County, Florida, are of vital importance to the economy, the wildlife, and the people; and

WHEREAS, Indian River County is blessed by having ~22.4 miles of the Indian River Lagoon traverse our County; and

WHEREAS, Indian River County is privileged to have Blue Cypress Lake, the headwater of the St. Johns River, as the river starts its journey north; and

WHEREAS, Indian River County is fortunate to have ~22.4miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline; and

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of the water within our county is of essential importance for the health, economic viability, sustenance and well-being of Indian River County residents and should be treated as a vital resource to current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the protection of our waters requires an ongoing effort to advocate, educate, conserve and restore this vital resource; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments must take action. To enforce current regulations, establish new regulations and seek sources of funding that will prevent the continued degradation of our waters and will protect and restore them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the IRCCWC:

Section 1. Establish a leadership board representing those organizations and groups within the community with a vested interest in advocating for clean water.

Section 2. Include members from the general public who share a common passion for environmental protection.

Section 3. Work with a coalition of partners from the community representing business, civic, environmental and governmental organizations.

Section 4. Propose scientifically-based projects, educational initiatives and regulations to government agencies that will preserve and restore our water resources.

Section 5. Advocate for funding, including new funding mechanisms, to implement scientifically-based projects benefiting our water resources.

Section 6. Take a holistic ecosystem approach to the challenges facing our Indian River County’s surface waters, groundwater, associated economy and community.

**CLEAN WATER COALITION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY (CWC)**

**PARTNERSHIP LETTER**

Our organization, Rotary Club of Vero Beach, is committed to be an active partner of the Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County. We agree to collaborate with other community organizations and governmental entities to protect and restore healthy, clean water within our county.

**As evidence of our commitment, we agree to do the following:**

Appoint a representative to attend CWC meetings and activities

Read minutes, reports and newsletters to keep abreast of the CWC's decisions and activities

Disseminate relevant information to organizational members

Inform the Clean Water Coalition about **OUR** organization's related activities

Name of Organization Rotary Club of Vero Beach (Vero's 1st Club - 1926)

Name of Representative Chris Murphy

Email address cmeng2@att.net

Phone (772) 233-3178 May we text you at this number?  Y  N

Date Jan. 9, 2019

**What activities are you currently involved with regarding clean water concerns?**

RISSA (Rotary Initiative for Submerged Seagrass Awareness) Oyster Mat Creation/Placement/Monitoring

Plastic Bag Recycling Program with Publix/IRC School District - Providing plastic bag canisters at all IRC schools

Providing Grants for water quality improvement in Dominican Republic

## **Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County**

Issues of Concern:

### **Restore the Indian River Lagoon – A Good Investment**

The Indian River Lagoon is in crisis along with most of Florida's estuaries. Restoration will require substantial investment in infrastructure improvement projects. Recurring cost-share funding from the State is urgently needed for local governments to implement water restoration projects. Investing in restoration makes good business sense for our community's economic well-being and our quality of life.

### **Improved Wastewater Treatment**

There are approximately 30,000 septic tanks in IRC. Due to age, ½ do not remove the nutrients, bacteria, viruses and other toxins which eventually find their way into our groundwater and the Indian River lagoon. Old sewage transmission lines need to be upgraded. All sewage treatment facilities need to provide tertiary sewage treatment to eliminate Nitrogen and Phosphorus from entering the environment.

### **Bio-solid disposal**

The solid waste from sewage treatment plants should not be spread on farmland. A six month moratorium was put in place by Indian River County after ORCA, Pelican Island Audubon, the St. John's Riverkeeper found toxic conditions with cyanobacteria levels at 4700ppm in Blue Cypress Lake last spring. The moratorium needs to be permanent.

### **No Discharge Zone for Boats**

Boats should use municipal pump out facilities rather than discharge their treated or untreated sewage and grey water into the Indian River Lagoon. The State must designate the IRL as a "No Discharge Zone" to have an enforceable rule.

### **Clean and Sufficient Supply of Potable Water for current and future generations**

There is a high risk of water shortages by 2050. The metropolitan areas in Central and South Florida have neared their aquifer extraction limit. According to the EPA, Americans use 30% of their water outdoors. South Floridians use 50% on landscape (SFWMD). Conservation measures are crucial.