

Your News

Jensen Beach, Stuart, Palm City, Hobe Sound

Stuart Sunrise Rotary gets scoop on dredging project

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After completing three months of the yearlong dredging project to create a 100-foot wide channel in the Manatee Pocket, there is a great deal of progress to celebrate.

A member of the project team, Richard Czapinski, shared this good news when he provided an update to nearly 50 Rotarians at an October meeting of the Stuart Sunrise Rotary.

"We like to keep our members updated on important projects in the community so that they will be informed on local matters," said Ed Vossen, a member of the Stuart Sunrise Rotary who helped coordinate the meeting. "We have a lot of

boaters in our group, so they were interested in the project and the benefits that it will bring to the Manatee Pocket."

Czapinski, coastal engineering lead with Tetra Tech EC, has been working with Martin County's Coastal Engineering Division on the design of the Manatee Pocket Dredging Project since 2004. Watching a project six years in the making finally take shape this year was a welcomed milestone.

"The project received overwhelming support from the public and elected officials because they understood that these improvements were necessary for the navigational, economic and environmental benefits

in the pocket," Czapinski said.

In fact, the project began as a grassroots effort by a group of concerned residents who urged the Martin County Board of County Commissioners to take action to improve the conditions in the Manatee Pocket. Thanks to the support of the commissioners, the expertise of Martin County's Coastal Engineering Division, and funding from local and state sources, the project became a reality in July.

For more information visit www.manateepocketproject.com.

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From left: Butch Bayley, Stuart Sunrise Rotary treasurer, John Gonzalez, sergeant-at-arms, Elmira Gainey and Richard Czapinski at the October meeting of the Stuart Sunrise Rotary.