



Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Tourism Partners Meeting  
2/26/19

CMA Update  
Frank Dame

- Frank conveyed to the group that there was a press conference held on Tuesday, 2/12 announcing a significant merger between the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and Sea to Shore Alliance, a Sarasota marine life research firm specializing in research related to the endangered Right Whale, Manatees and Sea Turtles. Dr. James “Buddy” Powell is the Executive Director for the organization that has approximately 14 research scientists who work remotely. Dr. Powell has conducted research in many parts of the world including West Africa, Belize and Cuba and possesses one of a few permits to conduct manatee research in Cuba.

CMA has formed a new entity, Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute in which Dr. Powell has been named the Executive Director. During the merger process, he and his team will migrate to this organization to continue with research efforts and initiatives. This takes CMA to a whole new level of research and credibility within the industry.

- Frank announced that beginning at 6:00 PM a week ago last Sunday and lasting until the afternoon on Monday, CMA’s contractor conducted a 20 hour concrete pour of over 4,000 cubic yards of concrete forming the foundation for the 1.5 million gallon dolphin pools. CMA notified the City and the community in advance of this event and was careful to route the over 400 concrete trucks to the job site in a manner to minimize disruption to neighbors. There were no complaints. In the future, observers will see a lot of verticality in the construction process targeted for completion in 2020.
- Frank also revealed that another project up in Tarpon Springs is under construction. CMA was given a 10 year lease from Pinellas County to construct a rescue & rehab facility in Fred Howard Park for the rescue of dolphins and eventually manatees. This location will protect CMA’s current collection of marine animals from cross contamination in case of any diseased dolphin or manatee rescues. Construction is underway and should be completed by April.