

DRAFT MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance 9:30

2. Roll Call

3. Chairman's comments

A. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes.

C. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS TO PLEASE SILENCE THEIR CELL PHONES.

4. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from October 6, 2016 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the regular Meeting from September 8, 2016 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

C. MSBU Update

Mr. Logan provided details to accompany the written report distributed earlier:

- Alligator Creek: The contractor is working, but the progress rate is questionable
- Buena Vista WW: completed the dredge; the results look good
- Gulf Cove WW: we are still waiting on the NMF sawfish review & Army Corps permit
- Harbour Heights: The dredging is about 35% complete
- Manchester: His group will be moving ahead with a bathymetric survey
- Manasota Key North Beach Erosion: CEC design work and field work ongoing; economist working on the funding issues
- Pirate Harbor: Coastal Engineering needs to do a bit more field work including a seagrass survey, to answer the resulting questions from DEP.
- SGC: no contract will be put out for the parallel lock while questions about putting the lock in the south end continue, and taking this issue back to DEP. Chair Ireland commented on the activity at most recent MSBU meeting, which included a very expensive survey. Mr. Logan responded as to alternative

options. Chair Ireland asked that the parallel lock project be removed from follow-up at this point.

- Stump Pass: Commissioner Deutsch has covered last month, regarding the very high bids, and the decision to just do the dredge, and wait for placing sand until it can be combined with beach renourishment. Mr. Ludvig asked about trucking in sand, as other communities are doing. Mr. Logan indicated this has been discussed in the past, and may become the last remaining option at some point, but trucking is very expensive. If the price becomes lower than for harvesting sand offshore, then it would be considered. Mr. Logan then gave a brief rundown of the anticipated timeline going forward.

Ms. Buck asked about the rate of work on Alligator Creek, why it is slow; Mr. Logan indicated that their process has not been refined yet.

- D.** Budget Update – Mr. Darden offered brief comments regarding the Financial Report handout provided at the meeting. He spoke to the issue of the legal review requested on Sec. 328.66, on whether BIF funding can be directed only to governmental agencies; the opinion was that funding is not so limited. A second question, regarding RES 98-1100AO, established is as the latest guidance for the MAC, and finally, a question concerned whether County staff or the Marine Advisory Committee can determine whether awards benefit the public as a whole; the answer was that there is presently no criteria established for making that determination, but that such criteria could be established, if desired. The question remains whether the language was left vague on purpose, leaving the question of public benefit for the MAC to assess. Ms. Buck sought to clarify what the effects might be of creating such a determination. Mr. Darden reminded the group that these legal opinions were part of the considerations of how boats should be funded in future.

2016 expenditure report was then discussed with reference to a print-out made available to the members. Mr. Darden indicated that this year's total rollover amount was the lowest historically; among those, were CHEC funds. He also indicated the artificial reef funds (item 8) have been requested to be rolled over to 2017; and asked for approval to do so. Capt. Blago returned to the subject of CHEC, asking if the unspent grant funds went back to WCIND; Mr. Darden responded that they budgeted for it, but didn't spend it, so the funds will go into the CNIF. Capt. Blago asked if that could be forestalled, and was told that CHEC could request a roll-over, but that they've already been awarded another \$55,000 for 2017 so that would raise a question about the purpose of a roll-over. Further discussion ensued on the utilization of their funds. Capt. Blago indicated he is helping CHEC in Englewood, where they requested money for kayaks but the kayaks have never shown up in Englewood, and he wants to understand what's going on; it was suggested that he discuss this with CHEC personnel.

Mr. Ludvig asked about the artificial reef roll-over, asking whether the \$45,000 come out of the \$62,000; Mr. Darden responded that it does not.

Mr. Hamilton returning to the CHEC topic, and the idea that the grant was to support a program of kayaks in two different locations; the question is did they implement the program whether they spent the money or not. This would influence his vote on future grant requests. Further discussion ensued. Members asked if Capt. Blago can ask CHEC personnel; he indicated he didn't want to interfere in CHEC business, but says he will ask these questions when CHEC next

come to MAC for a grant. Mr. Davidson, who has personal experience of grant writing, says grants always require reporting, and described a situation he personally experienced; he suggested future grants require reporting. Mr. Darden introduced Ms. Tina Powell, Parks and Natural Resources, who said this is why they are instituting the Sub-grant Recipient Agreement which requires quarterly reports. Mr. Harris said this is the first incident with CHEC; ask the director to come to the next meeting and explain. Mr. Darden indicated he could provide some information, reminding the group that he and Justin McBride of WCIND had spoken with CHEC about the fact that these are reimbursement awards which need to be backed up with specific evidence of expenditures. Mr. Buckley commented that he doesn't remember having seen any kind of pamphlet that would explain to grant applicants how the whole thing is supposed to work; Mr. Darden indicated that there is such information, which went public with last year's grant application. Capt. Blago commented that the MAC already tells applicants to call Mr. Darden; Mr. Darden confirmed that he does get calls, and has given briefings to the organizations. A motion was then made by Mr. Davidson, second by Mr. Ludvig, to roll-over the artificial reef funds, which passed unanimously.

7. New Business

- A.** Review of MAC Policy regarding guidelines for funding boat purchases – Chair Ireland commented that Mr. Darden had recapped this issue briefly, above and had presented the MAC with three options, but none fully met the need. He suggested the group was now 'on our own' to decide what boats/packages would be approved. The standard of "50% of the cost 'skin in the game'" is one of the better approaches, but grant applicants need to know of that requirement in advance. The Chair suggested that law enforcement is 'entitled' to 20% of the funds; others, we just have to decide what will work, in order for us to make our recommendations. He also referenced a prior discussion about asking the departments requesting grants to budget depreciation into their requests; however, he indicated that approach had been seen as 'not a real option'.

Ms. Buck commented about keeping in mind those organizations (e.g., the 501(3)c type) that don't have money or budgets in the same way government entities do, and be cognizant of those. Capt. Blago reminded the group he was a proponent of 'no boats' but he noted, some problems don't have solutions. If we keep the policy the way it is now, he felt the group had the most flexibility to address the most grant requests.

Mr. Harris returned to the idea that the CCSO had an entitlement to 20% of funds, noting that is not just for boats, that's for other uses as well, and puts the onus on them to decide what they want to trim out. Mr. Darden indicated the percentage was now at 25%.

Mr. Davidson, noting that not all available funds were spoken for in the last grant cycle, asked when was the last time the MAC had more grant requests than the amount of money available. His point, he said, is that it's not what the money is for, it's how many of public have access to the outcome of the spending. Mr. Rose commented that the group funds more now than ever before; he also offered a clarification to the law enforcement community, it's not 25% of our budget to each agency (CCSO and Punta Gorda Police); it's the agencies splitting just that 25% amongst them. Mr. Hamilton noted that this only applies to

WCIND, and they are the ones that said you need to have matching funds/skin in the game; we've been using BIF funds to "patch" that gap which he indicated he didn't think was what was intended, so he is not comfortable with not changing what we are doing. The discussion continued; eventually Chair Ireland indicated that it looked as though the group would go into the new season under the same guidelines. (Mr. Harris left for an appointment.)

B. Member Term Expirations. A brief review was provided of the six member terms that would be expiring on Dec. 31, 2016, and those members were encouraged to submit their paperwork or the letter of recommendation from their organizations, as soon as possible so the process of approval could get started. It was noted that half of expiring terms are "member at large" and therefore need to be advertised; current members wishing reappointment were reminded that they may find themselves competing for the seat.

C. Artificial Reef Rollover Budget #8 - This item had been earlier approved.

8. Old Business

A. Boca Grande North Minimum Wake Zones – Mr. Ouimet spoke briefly regarding receipt of the last permit on Sept. 20th, and it has gone out to the contractor. Pilings should be installed within the next two weeks.

B. Gasparilla Estates Slow Speed Zone: Mr. Ouimet reported that the Board had passed this and all permits have been applied for; we have already received the FDEP permit. Within the next two to three months, this should be completed.

9. Other Business

Capt. Blago spoke briefly about the BSAC meeting at the Tringali Center, focusing on Stump Pass which has been reported to MAC by Public Works staff, especially the cost of offshore sand coming in over bid; dredging and groin work is going on as scheduled. Offshore sand will be obtained along with that needed by the residents of the north Key, for the renourishment project contemplated there, work anticipated in 2019.

Mr. Buckley noted that today is Mr. Rose's birthday.

10. Citizen Comments

None offered.

11. Good of the Order

Mr. Davidson mentioned a sporting clays event for his kids on the 29th; and a shrimp boil at Trabue on the 6th to benefit kids in the Guardian ad litem program.

Next Meetings

- The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Room B-106.
- The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

12. Adjournment

On motion made and unanimously accepted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.