



MEMORANDUM

Date: As of 2 February 2016
To: Marine Advisory Committee
From: Charles Mopps, Project Manager
Subject: **January 2016 MSBU Project Update**

Ackerman Waterway: Refer to Manchester Waterway.

Alligator Creek: The project includes the removal of the existing silt to the existing permitted conditions (-5ft MLW) and pursue permits to increase the depth of the Access/Main channel to -6ft MLW via a separate project. Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) is assisting the County with the engineering and permit process. The FDEP permit was received for the -5ft MLW maintenance dredge project. The FDEP permit was received for the -6ft MLW project which includes public interest in the form of purchasing and donating an YSI Water Quality Monitor to the Friends of CHAP. The ACOE has combined the two projects even though they are different in their scope. The ACOE initiated informal consultation with NMFS specific to the smalltooth sawfish mid-February. The ACOE determined the project "*May affect, is not likely to adversely affect*" the sawfish and requested that NMFS concur with their determination in 30 days. CEC and the County will continue to work with the Waterways Committee to advance this through the federal process. A request has been asked for to extend the Sea Edge Waterway permit through the ACOE and is under review by that agency.

The National Marine Fisheries Review is complete and the Concurrence letter was issued to the ACOE on November 3, 2015. The ACOE Permit was issued on 29 December 2016.

A change order to facilitate the bid process has been approved and the Consultant has resurveyed the project area and is in the process of updating the Construction Drawings and Specifications.

Buena Vista Area Waterways: Johnson Engineering was selected to provide services for project and is currently reviewing the pre-existing permits and documents. They have completed the Survey after having to resurvey some areas and preliminary design is complete. A pre-application meeting was held with the FDEP on July 8. FDEP was not able to issue on behalf of the ACOE. ACOE was supplied the requested information and has initiated consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). NMFS is currently reviewing the project per their web site. The 80% Construction plans have been reviewed by staff and the comments for corrections have been received. The NMFS Letter of

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Compliance was issued to the ACOE on 29 October, 2015. The ACOE permit has been issued on November 6, 2015.

The project is currently in the bid process.

Edgewater North: DMK was selected to perform the Survey and Provide estimates of quantities. To restore the system to -4 feet Mean Low Water, 41,000 cubic yards of material would need to be dredged. Estimated cost to complete the work would be \$1.4 Mil. To dredge to -5 feet MLW there would be an estimated 97,500 cubic yards to remove at a cost of about \$3.4 Mil. A mass mailing went out to all the citizens in that area to sequester their opinion on an increase to their tax to accomplish this project. Staff is awaiting guidance on how to proceed.

Gulf Cove Waterways: The project includes the removal of the existing silt to the previous dredge depth of -4ft MLW within the lateral/access channels and 100 feet into the interior canals. CEC is assisting the County with the engineering and permit process. The bathymetric surveys of the waterways have been completed. The Preliminary Plan Set has been completed and is under review by County. CEC has proposed an alternate path forward to improve the navigation project will yielding cost savings over time through reduction of maintenance dredging needs. The approach includes collecting additional data to identify combining multiple canals into single channels extending to the river. The County issued a revised task order to Coastal Engineering to proceed with the additional survey and design work. CEC has completed the additional survey and alternate design alignments to create the connector channels. This work was reviewed with the Committee and they gave direction to proceed to expand and enhance the project versus the routine maintenance dredge program. Purchasing has amended the scope of services to reallocate the funds to accomplish this project. A pre-application meeting was conducted with the FDEP and ACOE to determine feasibility of the project. Both agencies viewed the project as favorable. FDEP commented that the FWC Department of Aquaculture would need to comment of the Shellfish Habitat designation and the ACOE stated that NMF would need to do the same with the Smalltooth Sawfish habitat. The Spoil site has been identified for temporary use for permitting. The permit application and drawings are complete and were submitted to State and Federal permitting agencies. Correspondence between the County and ACOE has confirmed that the review is underway. The Army Corps of Engineers informal review of this project from National Marine Fisheries Services is pending. The Marine Marker Plan for this project is currently in permit review. A Request for Additional Information has been initiated by the ACOE and is being answered now.

Harbour Heights: A Request through purchasing has been initiated to retain Engineering services to Permit, Survey and Provide Construction Related Services for minor shoaling within the Harbor Heights Waterway System. The Consultant is in the process of updating the Survey and Construction Plans/Drawings. The citizens would like to see some Mangrove trimming added to the contract to ease line of sight and navigation issues. This project was placed on hold while awaiting the Countywide Permit. The Letter of Consent has been issued. The ACOE issued the permit on January 11, 2016 for a period of 10 years. After the Consultant completes the Survey and Drawing updates they will finalize the Bid Specs. The project will then go through the Purchasing Process.

Hayward Canals: No active projects at this time, however, the citizens within the first canal system leading in have expressed interest in modifying the MSBU so a Committee can be formed and a maintenance dredge project can be developed. The MSBU staff of Public Works has decided to move forward with a bathymetric survey to provide support for a future project.

Manchester Waterway: No Active Project

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Manasota Key North Beach Erosion Study: Public Works, Engineering is requesting a RLI be requested from the library of Engineering Firms to complete a regional Beach Erosion Study (BES) on the north end of Manasota Key from R monument 1 to R monument 15 that was asked for by the citizens affected by critical beach erosion. This study once finished will Provide the following:

- a. Beach Profile Surveys.
- b. Erosion Analysis
- c. Sand Volume Analysis.
- d. Conceptual Restoration Plans
- e. Natural Resource Surveys.
- f. Develop Funding Approaches and Strategies to mitigate total cost
- g. Participate in all stakeholder meetings.
- h. Provide potential cost estimates.
- i. Provide Permit Feasibility

Upon Completion this information could be used to develop funding strategies and further the project into Permitting.

Coastal Engineering Consultants completed the initial surveys and will continue to refine the data and conduct additional survey work as needed. A substantial Hard Bottom area is being surveyed to determine the extent of area and impact.

The Draft report and the presentation has been reviewed by staff and posted on the Web.

It has been presented to the Beaches and Shores on 1 October and will be updated at the 5 November meeting. The BCC will review the proposed taxing district boundary at their regular meeting on Nov. 24. Additional Information will be available after all the presentations have been executed and Staff and the Consultant have been provided guidance on how to proceed. The Taxing district is in the process of being formed.

A stakeholder meeting is planned for January 11 at the South Manasota Sandpiper Key Association. The meeting is in the Gulf to Bay Clubhouse 2295 N. Beach Road. at 2pm.

Northwest Port Charlotte: The Board is requesting that a Status Survey is completed on the Access Channel and is requesting some vegetation trimming within the waterways. Coastal Engineering will be conducting the Status Survey the week of February 8th.

Peace River Shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor: This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge a 2300 feet access channel that was not covered under previous permitting. The bathymetric and seagrass surveys are complete. The jet probe survey and geotechnical report are complete. The updated channel design is complete which proposes a 45-foot wide channel located within the limits of the existing marked channel. Seagrasses exist within the limits of the existing marked channel which will need to be mitigated for due to the dredging impacts. The ERP Permit Application is near complete. The site visit to gather data for the Unified Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) analysis and to search for possible mitigation sites was conducted by CEC and FDEP on October 29. The search for potential mitigation sites did not find enough suitable areas within the vicinity of the project area, thus a wider search area will be examined by CEC using aerial photography. FDEP completed the UMAM ranking on the seagrass impacts from the proposed dredging. CEC has identified four potential sites for creating a seagrass mitigation project (e.g., fill blow-holes / prop-scars). Additional discussions with FDEP are ongoing to confirm the suitability of these sites. Upon the start of seagrass growing season, March 1st, CEC will conduct the site visit and

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field work with the FDEP and ACOE to confirm their acceptability of these sites for use in developing the sea grass mitigation plan. Coastal Engineering Consultants with FDEP and Staff has completed the field survey of the potential Sea grass mitigation areas however, the FWC does not agree with the seagrass mitigation strategy; the consultant is seeking clarification and alternate mitigation strategies. The Permit Application was submitted for this project to start the review process on November 2nd. A second meeting was held with FDEP on Nov. 23 to discuss the Seagrass Mitigation plan. At that meeting the FDEP is requesting an updated Boat Survey be conducted to determine the required dredge depth. County Staff and Coastal Engineering Consultants plan to have the survey complete by February 12th

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: No active projects at this time

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock: The South Gulf Cove Waterway Benefit Unit Advisory Committee is concerned about the congestion of the existing lock and the fact when it is in the need of repair or maintenance boating through the lock is restricted. They recommend an additional lock be place parallel to the existing one.

This project was placed on hold.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

Stump Pass:

The FDEP issued their formal second RAI response to the County. CEC and the County are working to respond including minor drawing edits, minor changes to the biological monitoring program, and formal public noticing and erosion control line process for sand placement and terminal groin installation on the Stump Pass Beach State Park. The RAI Response is complete, undergoing internal qa-qc review, and will be submitted within the week.

The County is actively working to renew the original project's easements with specific beach front property owners for temporary construction and other access needs. Further, the County is seeking to request temporary construction easements from the beachfront property owners outside the original project limits, specifically from the State Park Beach to the County Beach Park on Manasota Key.

Easements necessary to complete the project are starting to come back from the property owners. A legal review has been initiated to Expand the MSBU to fund sand placement north of the State Park to the Northern Limit of the project (Properties just south of the Charlotte County Beach Complex).

The Marine Marker survey was complete and the results were shared with Staff. Staff is in the process of relocating the marine markers to better delineate the channel.

Senate Bill 2500-A passed which provides funding for Beach Management Projects and could provide Charlotte County with \$2.5 million for the Stump Pass project. A presentation was held at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce which included this project and future programs; discussions followed.

The National Marine Fisheries Review is complete. The ACOE permit is pending. The construction drawings have been reviewed and the Bid Specs have been reviewed and the bid package is in the bid process.

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The State Parks (Division of Recreation and Parks) has issued a concurrence letter for an updated easement that would allow construction on the upland portion of the park property. The County worked through the negotiations with the State Parks Division and is waiting on the revised Easement.

Due to delays in the Permit Process the Project bid process has been delayed.

Bid the Project After Receipt of Federal Authorization

Start Bid Process end of March with advertising for 30 days

Bid Opening at end or April with award in May

Set Notice to Proceed for July 11

Updated Construction Schedule (Original)

Mobilization in July

Offshore Borrow sand placement on Knight/Don Pedro Island Aug-Oct (July – Aug)

Dredge Stump Pass Oct-Nov (Apr – Jun)

Manasota Key Work (Structure and Backfill) Nov-Jan (Mar – Apr)

Justification: As we do not have the Federal Authorization or State Park Easement, we would be imposing an impossible timeline for potential contractors to achieve. The USFWS BO dictates that all work needs to be accomplished on Manasota Key by May 1st. By setting the timeline for work to start late summer and allowing ample time for the contractors to plan, mobilize, and complete the work; we should receive more favorable bids.

Dayboards: Topic and Options to be discussed separately.