

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Charlotte County Administration Center #119**

**Minutes
February 8, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mel Staudmyer, Chair
Ron Blago, Secretary
Richard Anderson
Robert Leonard
Gerald Meckenberg
Tom Hamilton
Richard Johnson
Tim Lynch
Paul Marcuzzo
Anthony Tonz
Bob DiMuzio
Raymond Rose
Maurice Sabourin
Len Harris
Dick Keen

MEMBERS EXCUSED

William Bergman, Vice Chair
William Kumm
James Redding

STAFF

Commissioner Tom D'Aprile
Ron Rosiere, Public Works
Bob Hebert, Administration
Roger DeBruler, Jr., Sea Grant Program
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation
Jim Thompson, EES
Jane Starr, Recorder

GUESTS

Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Advisory
Kathleen Fletcher, DEP/CAMA
A. Rulon (Skip) Mansfield, PGSC
Joy Hazell, Rookery Bay NERR
Christian Ercolari, Rookery Bay NERR
Mark Cramer, Wildlife Rescue
Connie Shubert, PCYC

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chair Mel Staudmyer called the February 8, 2007 *Marine Advisory Committee* to order at 9:30 a.m., noting that there was a quorum present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mel Staudmyer led the members and audience in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **Richard Anderson** to accept the January 11, 2007 Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Maurice Sabourin**. The vote was unanimously accepted.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Ron Rosiere provided updates on the following projects: Pirate Harbor, Little Gasparilla Island, Ackerman W.W./Lewis Creek, Buena Vista/Grassy Point Waterways, Northwest Charlotte Waterways, Alligator Creek S-Curve, Intercoastal Ferry Slow Speed Zone, and the Manchester Lock Removal.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Staudmyer shared an email from Missy L. Christie regarding the status of the Palm Island Slow Zone, LGI Channel Marker Update, and the Red Tide START Project.

Bob Hebert provided an update on issues pertaining to WCIND and recent BCC funding recommendations. He advised the Charlotte County Public Works MSBU project for engineering, design, and dredging of Sunrise Channel will be withdrawn from the request. The remaining recommendations are expected to go through as presented, although they will not be heard until March. **Tom Hamilton** inquired about funds pertaining to projects that do not meet criteria and was told monies not used are returned to the county but must be spent by the end of the fiscal year. **Bob DiMuzio** asked about a request for funding on a dredge project where the permit was soon expiring. **Bob Hebert** stated funds not used would be redirected into the County Navigation and Improvement Fund.

Mark Cramer of Volunteer Wildlife Rescue gave a brief description of his sign program and requested support getting temporary signs re-established in Charlotte County alerting the public of dangers to pelicans around piers and boat ramps. **Mike Koenig**, Parks and Recreation, agreed there was a break down in communication and will request this matter be readdressed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. **Mr. Cramer** stated he would also like to discuss the issue of permanent signage. A discussion ensued.

ACTION: Ron Blago made a motion for the Marine Advisory Committee to send a letter to Parks and Recreation encouraging them to follow Lee and Sarasota counties and help protect pelicans at our boat ramps and fishing piers. This was seconded by Len Harris. The vote was unanimous.

Jim Thompson introduced **Roger DeBruler, Jr.** of the Charlotte County Sea Grant Program. **Mr. DeBruler** gave a brief description of his background and stated he and Betty Staugler are putting together grants for artificial reef construction and monitoring and are requesting letters of support from both public and county sectors including MAC and the agencies they represent. He stated materials will be available for artificial reef deployment from the Palm Ferry Reef site.

ACTION: Tom Hamilton made a motion that the Marine Advisory Committee will support the artificial reef program by sending a letter to the Sea Grant Program. This was seconded by Anthony Tonz. The vote was unanimous.

Next, **Chair Mel Staudmyer** introduced Coastal Training Specialists **Joy Hazell** and **Christian Ercolani**, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve:

- Maps
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Community Workshops
- Living with Red Tide
- Workshop Summary
- Workshop Process
- Strategies
- Break Out Sessions
- Network of Observational Beach Condition Reporting
- Sarasota County Beach Reporting System
- Education of Media
- Public Information Campaign
- Online Resources

Joy Hazell responded to a question asked by **Skip Mansfield** regarding the issue of Red Tide elimination and stated most experts agree this effort may cause unsound environmental results. **Ms.**

Hazell agreed the media should be better educated on Red Tide locations and more improved monitoring systems and management tactics were also needed. **Christian Ercolani** confirmed to **Mel Staudmyer** that Red Tide can be picked up by Satellite and referred to available online resources. **Ms. Hazell** and **Mr. Ercolani** were thanked by **Mr. Staudmyer** for their presentation and stated they would both be happy to assist with future projects in Charlotte County.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda, gave an update on the progress at the Punta Gorda Municipal Marina. He is unsure if the pumps are working properly at this time, but should be able to provide more information next month.

Ron Blago introduced **Connie Shubert** from the Port Charlotte Yacht Club. **Ms. Shubert** gave a brief description of the Yacht Club and advised a representative will apply for the PCYC vacancy by the next meeting. She further stated she is interested in submitting her own application for this position.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Len Harris stated the last WCIND meeting was November, 2006, and no meetings are scheduled to date for 2007. **Mel Staudmyer** confirmed he was not in attendance at the last meeting. Via email, **Mr. Harris** will request to review the previous minutes.

Chair Staudmyer thanked **Commissioner Tom D'Aprile** for providing a letter of appreciation to Richard Keen.

Robert Leonard reminded the Committee of an upcoming meeting of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and gave an update on the group's function within the community. **Bob DiMuzio** encouraged members to take information back to their respective organizations as volunteers are still needed. **Gerald Meckenberg** spoke on the team leader meeting at the mid-town library and reported that an excellent presentation was given by Jaime Boswell.

IX. LIAISON REPORTS - None

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

A longer meeting is expected next month as Grant Funding will be discussed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and voted unanimous for the meeting to **ADJOURN** at 10:50a.m.

XI. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 2007 @ 9:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary