

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Charlotte County Administration Center, Room 119

**Minutes**  
**April 12, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

William Bergman, Vice Chair  
Capt. Ron Blago, Secretary  
Len Harris  
Tom Hamilton  
Robert Leonard  
Paul Marcuzzo  
William Kumm  
Raymond Rose  
Richard Johnson  
Gerald Meckenberg  
Capt. Tim Lynch  
Maurice Sabourin  
James Redding  
Richard Anderson  
Anthony Tonz  
Skip Mansfield  
David Rubin

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Mel Staudmyer, Chair  
Bob DiMuzio

**STAFF**

Commissioner Tom D'Aprile  
Ron Rosiere, Public Works  
Bob Hebert, Administration  
Tom Rapp, County Attorney  
Jason Ouimet, Public Works  
Missy L. Christie, Natural Resources  
Tara Musselman, Public Works  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary  
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation

**GUESTS**

Jay Buckley, City of Punta Gorda  
Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda  
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Advisory  
Al Cheatham, CHEC  
Al Yeno, USCG  
Celia Stearns, C. H. Aquatic Preserves  
Roger Fenneman, PGPD  
Park Pilikian

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**  
Vice Chair **William G. Bergman** called the April 12, 2007 *Marine Advisory Committee* to order at 9:30 a.m., noting that there was a quorum present.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
Vice Chair **Bergman** 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 March 8, 2007 Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Anthony Tonz**. The vote was unanimously accepted.
- IV. REGULAR BUSINESS**  
**Ron Rosiere** provided updates on the following projects: Pirate Harbor, Ackerman W.W./Lewis Creek, Buena Vista/Grassy Point Waterways, Alligator Creek S-Curve, Intercoastal Ferry Slow Speed Zone, the Manchester Lock Removal, Harbor Heights Dredge Design, the Suncoast Waterway Dredge Estimate, and Solar Lights. **Mr. Bergman** was directed to the county web site for a listing of Charlotte County Waterways. **Missy L. Christie** provided an update on Little Gasparilla Island.
- (Commissioner D'Aprile arrived at 9:40a.m.)
- V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – NONE**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Jason Quimet** provided an update on the proposed areas of the Peace River north of Harbor Heights Park where safety issues exist and solar lighting is needed. Maps were provided.

**Bob Hebert** provided handouts from the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc. and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 92 documenting additional funds for their projects. He further stated the Feasibility Study for the dredging of Alligator Bay Channel in Charlotte Harbor has been pulled by Public Works. **Tara Musselman** stated this project has been put on hold and is expected to be presented at a later date to Regional Planning. Other adjustments were discussed by **Bob Hebert** who stated the total amount available for allocation purposes is \$630,000.00. He added the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 92 has advised the amount needed to develop an in-depth orientation guide would be \$4,000.00 and they would be unable to proceed without full funding.

**Vice-Chair Bergman** commented on the reef situation and recommended the first three items for approval.

***ACTION: William Bergman made a motion to Fund Items #1, #2, and #3 for Charlotte County Extension/Florida Sea Grant in the amount of \$58,000.00 total. This was seconded by James Redding and the vote was unanimous.***

**Roger Fenneman** spoke on Item #4 (\$72,783.00), a request to purchase a Marine Patrol/Rescue Vessel for the City of Punta Gorda. It was confirmed to **Paul Marcuzzo** that this would include a trailer and would be stored at the Laishley Park Marina. **Anthony Tonz** was assured the boat will be compatible with Charlotte County Police boats and is designed specifically for rescue. In addition, a Dive Team would be on call 24 hours per day. **Ron Blago** reminded the Committee of a consensus that was agreed upon last year to stop boat funding and stated other organizations were instructed accordingly. **Mr. Fenneman** added that Chief Reinhardt is aware of the feelings of the Board and would not have made this request if there was not such a great need for another boat. **Anthony Tonz** was in agreement with Mr. Blago and felt the city usually supplies the equipment when it comes to the critical needs of a particular dept. **Len Harris** had questions regarding the allocation of funds and WCIND taxes and **Paul Marcuzzo** inquired about plans the Punta Gorda Police Dept. had in their budget for future replacement of the boat. **Mr. Fenneman** stated this particular boat is expected to last ten years and the Chief has indicated a request for budgeted funds will be submitted as this is a requirement of the City to accept the grant. **Ray Rose** reminded the Committee to keep in mind the sole source of funding is normally done out of the tax base and all indications from Tallahassee suggest this money may not be available in the future. He voiced the importance of having the protection and capability on the waterway.

***ACTION: Ray Rose made a motion to Fund Item #4, \$72,783.00 to the city of Punta Gorda for the purchase of a Marine Patrol/Rescue Vessel and this was seconded by Richard Anderson. A discussion followed and the vote was approved 16-1.***

Items #5 and #6, USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 92 were carried together. **Bob Hebert** suggested funding contingent on obtaining matching funds. **Len Harris** inquired about a presentation produced by Flotilla 98 to which **Al Yeno** agreed their program would be similar but more detailed. **Paul Marcuzzo** confirmed Flotilla 98 is in the process of updating their guide. **Robert Leonard** wondered if this project might be better addressed as a joint presentation rather than two individual presentations. **Mr. Yeno** stated the Myakka River was Flotilla 92's responsibility and felt having everything enclosed in one guide would be more difficult to use if boating solely on the Myakka. A discussion ensued.

***ACTION: Tom Hamilton moved to approve Item #5, in the amount of \$4,000.00 to USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 92 contingent on their obtaining a matching grant. This was seconded by David Rubin and the vote was unanimous.***

***ACTION: A motion was made by Robert Leonard to approve Item #6, in the amount of \$1,400.00 to USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 92 contingent on their obtaining a matching grant. This was seconded by Richard Anderson and the vote was unanimous.***

**Bob Hebert** confirmed Item #7, Charlotte County Public Works, in the amount of \$60,000.00 has been pulled and tabled by the County.

***ACTION: Robert Leonard made a motion to approve \$15,000.00 to the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center for the operation and maintenance of a Fiesta Pontoon Boat and Trailer and a Boater Safety and Education Program. Paul Marcuzzo seconded and the vote was unanimous.***

**Bob Hebert** stated Ainger Creek was already funded in the additional supplemental funding rank. The remainder of the ranking is as follows: The El Jobean Boat Ramp - \$100,000.00; the Cattedock Boat Ramp Design/Engineering/Permitting - \$150,000.00; the Holiday Lake Boat Ramp Improvement - \$50,000.00; and Non-motorized Vessels/Sailing Center at Port Charlotte Beach Park - \$75,000.00. It was decided to discuss these items later in the meeting.

Next to be considered was the Civil Air Patrol in the amount of \$7,500.00.

***ACTION: Ray Rose made a motion to approve \$7,500.00 to the Civil Air Patrol Charlotte County Composite Squadron, seconded by Richard Anderson. Bob Hebert explained funding options and requirements. A vote was taken and approved unanimously.***

Returning to the Items for the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department, handouts were provided showing the priority rankings. A discussion ensued regarding the amount of funds still available, including leftover funds. **Mr. Hebert** stated he will provide this information at a later date. **Mike Koenig** answered questions regarding the county's efforts to add additional boat ramps in the south end of the county and addressed parking issues. **Paul Marcuzzo** communicated the benefit of having a Planner address this in more detail. **Len Harris** suggested a Work Scope overview be made available. **Mr. Koenig** addressed the El Jobean Boat Ramp and the Cattedock Boat Ramp. **Ron Blago** proposed a sub-committee be formed with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to list concerns and form a closer working relationship. **Anthony Tonz** made reference to a previous agreement with Parks and Recreation requiring input from the Marine Advisory Committee before receiving approval on design of boat ramps and stated to his knowledge this has not been done.

***ACTION: Robert Leonard made a motion to approve funding to the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department for Holiday Lakes Boat Ramp Improvements (\$50,000.00); Boat Ramp for non-motorized vessels at Port Charlotte Beach Park (\$75,000.00); Cattedock Boat Ramp Site (\$150,000.00); and the El Jobean Boat Ramp and Parking (\$100,000.00); seconded by Richard Anderson. Following a discussion, a vote was taken and approved unanimously.***

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **City of Punta Gorda Membership**

**William G. Bergman** introduced applicant **Jay Buckley** who spoke on his background and qualifications. Following a short discussion on who **Mr. Buckley** would be reporting to at the City of Punta Gorda, he left the room while members discussed his nomination.

***ACTION: A motion was presented by William G. Bergman and seconded by Len Harris to***

*recommend John (Jay) S. Buckley for membership in the Marine Advisory Committee representing the City of Punta Gorda. The motion was unanimously carried.*

**Mr. Buckley** returned to the meeting and was welcomed by the Committee.

#### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Len Harris** provided an update on the WCIND meeting disclosing information he obtained from the WCIND Director. He proposed only attending meetings of interest to the Marine Advisory Committee or having Commissioner Moore or Bob Hebert relay information back to MAC since they will already be in attendance.

**Bob Hebert** stated the board approved participation in Regional Waterway Management Systems and has contracted Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. to bring this forward. He also advised he has asked the Tax Collector to provide a data base of all registered boats in the county, their size, and addresses which should make permitting easier.

#### **IX. LIAISON REPORTS**

**Maurice Sabourin** gave an update on the Mooring presentation he recently attended and relayed community input regarding this issue. He stated their PowerPoint presentation is expected to be uploaded to the internet soon.

**David Rubin** attended a Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee meeting on April 5, 2007, stating most of the content was on beach restoration for Stump Pass. He also advised the County will be hiring a person to manage the Abandoned Vessel Program contingent upon funding.

**Richard Benson** gave an update on the grand opening at Laishley Park. He stated power is expected to be on line soon at the Pump-out Station, however the pump has been dry for some time and may need maintenance. Information was provided to **Robert Leonard** that the Marina will be boat accessible.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Paul Pilikian** spoke on canal depths, quality and maintenance as well as future tax revenue changes and complimented Commissioner D'Aprile for his continued efforts. He also suggested the importance of increasing the amount of bids on dredging or possibly buying a dredger rather than hiring out for this service.

#### **XI. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Robert Leonard** agreed with many of Mr. Pilikian's comments and is also distressed at the condition of various canals. He feels Code Enforcement should address in their Ordinances the canal side as well as the street side of county property. **William Bergman** suggested this issue be addressed to Commissioner D'Aprile at the next meeting.

**Ray Rose** inquired about the status of a five year program concerning canal dredging prior to Hurricane Charley. **Tara Musselman** addressed this question stating County-wide dredging was not approved by the BCC and continued with an update on current projects. **Len Harris** commented on procedures presently in place by the City of Punta Gorda.

**Anthony Tonz** advised of safety concerns in a South Gulf Cove lagoon stating this narrow area is not an authorized Mooring Basin. He would like to address this at a future meeting and invite the County Attorney and Sheriff's Office to attend. **Tom Rapp** stated this is already a non-criminal infraction and his office will follow-up on who would enforce it. **Tara Musselman** will add this to their Agenda as well.

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**XII. NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, May 10, 2007 @ 9:30 A.M.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and voted unanimous for the meeting to **ADJOURN** at 11:22a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr  
Recording Secretary