

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

**Minutes**  
**May 10, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mel Staudmyer, Chair  
William Bergman, Vice Chair  
Capt. Ron Blago, Secretary  
Anthony Tonz  
David Rubin  
James Redding  
Len Harris  
Paul Marcuzzo  
Raymond Rose  
Richard Anderson  
Richard Johnson  
Robert Leonard  
Skip Mansfield  
Tim Lynch

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Bob DiMuzio  
Gerald Meckenberg  
Jay Buckley  
Maurice Sabourin  
Tom Hamilton  
William Kumm

**STAFF**

Commissioner Tom Moore  
Bob Hebert, Administration  
Matthew Cohen, County Attorney  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

Celia Stearns, C.H. Aquatic Preserves  
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Advisory  
Greg Sutton, CC Marine Unit  
Jack Landis, BSAC  
Judy Ott, C.H. Aquatic Preserves  
Kevin Casseroli  
Lt. Andrew Kolba, Sheriff's Office  
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda  
Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda

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

**Chair Mel Staudmyer** called the May 10, 2007 **Marine Advisory Committee** to order at 9:30 a.m., noting that there was a quorum present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chair 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 April 12, 2007 Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **David Rubin**. The vote was unanimously accepted.

**IV. REGULAR BUSINESS – None**

**V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Tom Moore**, standing in for Commissioner D'Aprile, expressed frustration at the lack of information received regarding the permitting of Manatee signs in the Placida area of Lemon Bay. **Chair Staudmyer** confirmed the report was expected by this meeting and is anticipated soon.

*(James Redding arrived at 9:34a.m.)*

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Randy Brodersen** provided an update on Laishley Park and stated Phase II is expected to begin in approximately six (6) months.

**Bob Hebert** distributed handouts showing the final recommendations of the Budget Review and stated a balance of \$96,317.00 remains for allocation. The report will be presented to the BCC and has already been presented to WCIND for their budget preparations. WCIND has contracted with Coastal Engineering Consultants relative to the Regional Waterway Management System and data bases are being exchanged.

**Capt. Ron Blago** referenced a letter from Parks and Recreation concerning signage previously requested by Mark Cramer, a/k/a the Pelican Man, and inquired about available funds. **Mr. Hebert** felt this could be obtained from the current budget allocated for sign maintenance and upkeep.

***ACTION: Capt. Ron Blago made a Motion that the Committee approve a budget amendment for the spending of \$900.00 to Parks and Recreation for pelican signs to help injured pelicans. This was seconded by Paul Marcuzzo. Following a discussion, the vote was unanimously accepted.***

**Richard Anderson** suggested a vote of thanks be offered to Bob Hebert for his work on the budget. The Committee responded with applause.

**Jack Landis** conducted a survey for Charlotte County Estuary on the mangroves around Lemon Bay north of Tom Adams Bridge. He stated he observed approximately seven (7) abandoned boats and barges and asked the Committee for help in alleviating this problem and thanked them for their support. **Chair Staudmyer** asked that survey pictures be forwarded to Andy Stevens who is in charge of the Abandoned Boat Project. **Bob Hebert** presented an explanation of legal guidelines and stated Environmental Services are in the process of putting together a bid for an annual contract to address this issue. **Chair Staudmyer** asked **Lt. Andy Kolba** for his assistance in cleaning up the Harbor and stated funds need to be used by October 1<sup>st</sup>. **Lt. Kolba** explained mooring and anchor light enforcement policies and suggested a better approach would be to amend the Ordinance to allow violations on unmanned boats as is being done in Lee and Sarasota counties. **Chair Staudmyer** requested copies of these Ordinances be obtained and provided to members before the next meeting. **Bob Leonard** mentioned Florida is a non-titled state for boats and inquired about the benefit to law enforcement if this was changed. **Greg Sutton** explained boats do need to be titled, but the problem lies with titles not being properly transferred to the new owners.

**Skip Mansfield** inquired who should be contacted regarding debris in canals from houses and was advised by **Bob Hebert** to contact Richard Benson for the city and Public Works for the County.

**Tony Tonz** agreed new Mooring Ordinances were needed and advised of problems in South Gulf Cove lagoons. It was agreed this issue would be tabled for the next meeting. **Matthew Cohen** offered to speak to Tom Rapp and will request a Mooring Ordinance in draft by next month. **Chair Staudmyer** felt if an Ordinance is written for the County, it should be acceptable to the City of Punta Gorda as well. **Lt. Kolba** said City officers cannot enforce County Ordinances. This issue will be discussed with Mr. Rapp.

**Lt. Kolba** introduced Kevin Casserolis, the newest addition to his Unit, and stated Mr. Casserolis has recently returned from duty in Iraq.

**Randy Brodersen** gave an update on the Mooring Field Committee meeting held last week and agreed to provide minutes of the meeting for MAC's review on a regular basis.

**Robert Leonard** led a discussion regarding Code Compliance Guidelines for Canals and Waterways in Charlotte County and mentioned that other towns, including Ft. Lauderdale, already enforce waterside lands. **Paul Marcuzzo** advised this has already been addressed in Punta Gorda with Volunteer Policemen who have been trained and will start writing citations for Code Enforcement. **Matthew Cohen** felt this would be a good solution for Charlotte County and said it was within the right of the Chairman to address this issue with the Code Compliance Director. **Grace Amadeo** reminded the Committee that Code Enforcement is complaint driven.

***ACTION #1:** A motion was made by Robert Leonard and seconded by David Rubin to recommend to the BCC that the Code Compliance Department be directed to enforce existing Code Compliance rules on the waterside of residential property. A discussion ensued. Robert Leonard will speak with Code Compliance and report back to the Committee.*

***ACTION #2:** A motion was made by Richard Anderson and seconded by Paul Marcuzzo to table the previous motion until next meeting. A vote was taken and passed 13-1.*

**Celia Stearns** distributed handouts and presented the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation on the Overview of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves:

- Presentation Topics
- Aquatic Preserves in Florida
- Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves
- Charlotte Harbor Watershed
- Resource Uses
- Resource Concerns
- Resource Management
- Monitoring Programs
- Seagrass Monitoring and Monitoring Sites
- Charlotte Harbor Estuary Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network
- Volunteer Monitoring Sites
- Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network
- Datasondes
- Water Quality Sampling Grids and Datasonde Locations
- Education
- Permitting
- Partnerships
- Why this matters to MAC

A question and answer period followed. **Judy Ott** gave an update on several projects including the Alligator Creek permitting process stating Charlotte County and DEP are working on this and it is moving forward in a positive manner. **Len Harris** inquired about Riviera Marina and

received a brief update. He suggested another presentation be given in five or six months for comparison purposes. **Celia Stearns** advised that CHEC has been looking at their seagrass data and has published the results for the Southwest Florida Water Management District overlaying their data with aerial photography. **Ms. Ott** answered **Capt. Ron's** question on anchorage areas and suggested MAC speak to Lee County regarding their ordinances.

**Robert Leonard** presented the Committee with a video documentary (Soft Landing) and explained the funding, cost, and objective of this project. Additional editing of the film is anticipated. This program is intended to be utilized by boat dealers, marinas, and other organizations. Copies were provided to members and **Mr. Leonard** offered to make additional copies if needed. A short question and answer period followed. Credit was given to the Charlotte High School Media Department for their participation with filming and editing and it was stated they are also available for other community projects. **Chair Staudmyer** thanked everyone involved for their hard work and commented on how this project relates to the Regional Waterways Maintenance System.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Copies of the Sarasota County Ordinance on Mooring of Vessels were handed out by **Chair Staudmyer**. It was requested this be reviewed for discussion at the next meeting.

**IX. LIAISON REPORTS**

**Bob Hebert** provided a follow-up to last month's discussion on WCIND Liaison Reports and the value of attending these meetings. He stated district staff is in the process of developing a website and minutes would soon be available for distribution to the Committees.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Judy Ott** stated she will check on the status of the permits for manatee signs and advise Chair Staudmyer accordingly.

**XI. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Raymond Rose** commented on the CHEC boat at Lemon Bay stating he recently attended an outing and had the opportunity to see first hand the value put forth from the annual funding of this project.

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, June 14, 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 11:30a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Starr  
Recording Secretary