

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

Minutes
June 14, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mel Staudmyer, Chair
William Bergman, Vice Chair
Capt. Ron Blago, Secretary
Richard Anderson
David Rubin
Maurice Sabourin
Robert Leonard
Bob DiMuzio
Paul Marcuzzo
Raymond Rose
Anthony Tonz
William Kumm
Gerald Meckenberg
Tom Hamilton
Jay Buckley

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Len Harris
James Redding
Richard Johnson
Skip Mansfield
Tim Lynch

STAFF

Bonnie Stoner, Commissioner's Office
Ron Rosiere, Public Works
Jason Ouimet, Public Works
Roger DeBruler, Jr., Sea Grant Program
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation
Andy Stevens, Env. & Ext. Services
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Grace Amodeo, Manchester Advisory
Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda
Gary Gunsher, P.G. Boater's Alliance
George Guttschalk, P.G. Boater's Alliance

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

Chair Mel Staudmyer called the June 14, 2007 **Marine Advisory Committee** to order at 9:30 a.m., noting 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 **Tom Hamilton** to accept the May 10, 2007 Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Anthony Tonz**. The vote was unanimously accepted.

(Richard Anderson arrived at 9:35a.m.)

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Ron Rosiere provided updates and answered questions regarding 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, Manchester Lock Removal, Harbor Heights Dredge Design, Suncoast Waterway Dredge Estimate, and the South Bridge Waterway Unit.

V. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Bonnie Stoner, speaking on behalf of Commissioner D'Aprile, provided an update on the Little Gasparilla Island Project and stated they are still waiting on Coast Guard approval.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

Presentation – City of Punta Gorda Waterfront Community

Gary Gunsher and **George Guttschalk** presented the members with a PowerPoint presentation on the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance and City of Punta Gorda Waterfront Community:

- Acknowledgement and Dedication to the Late Dr. David Phelan
- Opportunity - “Boating Economics”
- Tower Marine Study - “A Community Impact”
- “Who is the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance”
- An Alliance Objective
- The Role of the “Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance”
- Manage the Effect on “Existing Community”
- The Financial Impact on “The Economy”
- Elements to Create “A Vision”
- Punta Gorda Harbor Development

Gary Gunsher provided members with informational handouts and explained in further detail the Mission, Goals, and History of the Boaters Alliance as well as highlighting current projects and activities. A question and answer period ensued. **Chair Staudmyer** invited Mr. Gunsher and Mr. Guttschalk to return at periodic times with project updates. **Capt. Ron Blago** complimented the speakers on their presentation and offered the Committee’s support if needed. **Chair Staudmyer** also asked Jay Buckley, who sits on the Overlay District Advisory Board, to provide regular updates.

(Paul Marcuzzo arrived at 9:48a.m.)

Lighting Issue on the Peace River above the U.S. 41 Bridge

Jason Quimet stated this item has been tabled as the Coast Guard does not have available funding for the requested lighting and will not allow lights installed on their pilings. Charlotte County does not want to take over the responsibility and liability at this time due to budget restrictions. **Chair Staudmyer** received confirmation from **Mr. Quimet** that it would be possible to get lights on the pilings at the entrance to each canal at Harbor Heights as long as they are maintained. Three have already been planned.

Amendment to Clarify Rules Governing the Discovery and Disposition of Abandoned Vessels

Andy Stevens stated the Ordinance through our legal staff is now complete and a public hearing will be held on June 26, 2007 in room #119 of the County Administration Building. The program, if approved, would be run through the Natural Resources Division and staff would work directly with FWC to look at any environmental impacts related to the removal of the vessels. The State Legislature removed the term “derelict” due to legal ramifications and replaced it with the term “abandoned” which gives the county authority to tag vessels and for FWC to locate owners. Owners of abandoned vessels will no longer be able to have an automobile registration with the State of Florida and it is hoped this will prompt reimbursement for the removal process. At present, there are approximately ten vessels that have been deemed “abandoned”. **Capt. Ron Blago** advised of a sunken boat at the entrance of the Placida Boat Ramp. **Gerald Meckenberg** advised of a sunken sailboat in Chadwick Cove and was told this has been tagged for removal. **Mr. Stevens** added there is a scope of services to hire a contractor to aid in the removal process.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mike Koenig thanked the Committee for their support regarding the Pelican signs and advised an update would be forthcoming when this project is complete. An overview was given and questions answered concerning the following projects: Port Charlotte Beach Parking, Placida Boat Ramp, Halfway Park – Floating Pier, Cattedock Boat Ramp, and West County Boat Ramp. **William Bergman** inquired about the Cattleman and El Jobean Boat Ramps and asked that the Committee be kept informed if additional information surfaces.

Roger DeBruler commented on the Budget Impact Narrative for Sea Grant showing current funded projects and major programs that would be impacted by tax changes. He stated a loss of approximately \$125,000 is anticipated if everything stays as the status quo with budget cuts.

Bob Leonard reported on the results of his meeting with Code Compliance regarding compliance in the waterways. He made an official complaint regarding a damaged dock in Pirate Harbor and was advised of the procedure Code Compliance will follow regarding this violation. An update will be provided at the next meeting. **Grace Amodeo** suggested Mr. Leonard follow up with Code Compliance in a month's time as they have a heavy workload and are complaint driven.

Paul Marcuzzo commented on the Freedom Swim which will take place on the Fourth of July. He advised a No Wake Zone will be established during the hours the swim is in progress and the waters will be patrolled by the Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife, Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda.

Tom Hamilton inquired about the Mooring Ordinance and asked if this pertains to the City of Punta Gorda or if it is a separate Ordinance. **Chair Staudmyer** advised it is a separate Ordinance, but stated he hopes this will be a combined effort with the City, the Overlay District, and the County. Comments are to be directed to the Recording Secretary and an open discussion was tabled for September.

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Bob DiMuzio recognized Jane Starr for her outstanding services as Recording Secretary. The Committee responded with applause.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

William Bergman disclosed he was petitioned by the Marine Advisory Board to take a vacation break for July and August and to resume the Board in September.

ACTION: A motion was made by Robert Leonard to recess for the next two months (July and August), unless to call a special meeting. This was seconded by David Rubin. Following a discussion a vote was taken. The motion carried with two ascending votes.

X. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 13, 2007 @ 9:30 A.M.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:40a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary