

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

**Minutes**  
**October 11, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mel Staudmyer, Chair  
Capt. Ron Blago, Secretary  
Richard Anderson  
David Rubin  
Maurice Sabourin  
Robert Leonard  
Raymond Rose  
Richard Johnson  
Skip Mansfield  
Anthony Tonz  
Gerald Meckenberg  
Tom Hamilton  
Jay Buckley

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

William Bergman, Vice Chair  
Len Harris  
Bob DiMuzio  
Paul Marcuzzo  
William Kumm  
Tim Lynch

**STAFF**

John Shamsey, Asst. County Attorney  
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent  
Bob Hebert, Administration  
Barbara Watkins, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

Grace Amodeo, Manchester Adv. Committee  
Kathleen Fletcher, DEP Aquatic Preserves  
Robert L. Burney  
W. Johnson

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**  
**Chair Mel Staudmyer** called the October 11, 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 **Richard Anderson** to accept the September 13, 2007 Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Anthony Tonz**. The vote was unanimously accepted.
- IV. REGULAR BUSINESS**  
**Chair Staudmyer** directed members to review the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorandum from Ronald Rosiere provided in their informational packets. **David Rubin** asked if anyone else would be able to provide an update in Mr. Rosiere's absence and expressed concern with the lack of progress on the projects listed in the Memo. **Capt. Ron Blago** offered an explanation regarding the time frame from proposal to project completion and stated the average timeline in most cases is 3-5 years. He added most of the delays are due to permitting issues and suggested questions regarding specific projects be directed to Ron Rosiere. **Bob Hebert** suggested the Committee draft a letter to Public Works requesting they expand the information provided in their monthly reports and confirmed money that has been allotted and committed to each project will remain available through completion of the project. A discussion ensued regarding project status and timelines. **Grace Amodeo** advised of purchases of canal property by the county for the purpose of installing private boat ramps to assist with canal maintenance.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

**Capt. Ron Blago** announced the resignation of James Redding, Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club, and reported Fred Missler has been proposed as his replacement. Upon the receipt of Mr. Missler's resume, the Committee will begin the process of approving him as a replacement for Mr. Redding.

**Bob Hebert** presented members with an application from the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance requesting funds for Boater Alert Cards and answered questions regarding same.

***ACTION:** A motion was made by Jay Buckley to approve funding in the amount of \$7,500.00 to the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance for the purchase of Boater Alert Cards. This was seconded by David Rubin. Following a discussion, the vote was unanimous.*

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

**Betty Staugler** presented information and answered questions regarding the Mangrove Restoration Project taking place in Charlotte Harbor this weekend. Planting techniques and on-going evaluations were also addressed. Most of the restoration will take place on the west wall but she anticipates covering portions of the eastern shoreline as well. **Capt. Blago** inquired about the inside of Turtle Bay and the severe environmental changes observed. **Chair Staudmyer** commended Ms. Staugler for her wonderful work and expressed the Committee's appreciation at having her as Sea Grant Agent.

**Robert Leonard** remarked on the CCA's decision to turn the issue of poll/troll zones in Charlotte Harbor over to the Marine Advisory Committee for discussion. A copy of the proposed motion and a map of the proposed areas were provided to members and Definitions, Objectives, and Facts were discussed.

***ACTION:** A motion was made by Robert Leonard to recommend to the BCC that they establish no motor zones in the following places: (1) Catfish Creek – entire area out to front bar; (2) Whidden Creek – back end only above the cut through to Turtle Bay; (3) Turtle Bay – back end only above the cut through to Whidden Creek. This was seconded by Richard Anderson.*

**Chair Staudmyer** asked for clarification as to whether this might be premature to the water plan for Charlotte Harbor. **Bob Hebert** suggested the Committee make a recommendation to hold a public hearing regarding this issue. **Capt. Blago** reminded members this is not a new proposal and offered examples as to why it was previously rejected. Further discussion ensued. It was decided a Sub-Committee would be established to investigate further.

***ACTION:** A motion was made by David Rubin to table the previous motion and was seconded by Anthony Tonz. Following discussion, the vote was called and was unanimously accepted.*

**Chair Staudmyer** appointed Robert Leonard as Chairman of the Sub-Committee and Tom Hamilton and Capt. Ron Blago as members.

***ACTION:** A motion was made by Tom Hamilton that the Committee be allowed to hold a public hearing on this matter. Jay Buckley seconded. The date and location of said meeting will be announced within the next sixty (60) days. The vote was called and passed unanimously.*

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

**Chair Staudmyer** stated he has researched the issue regarding Coral Creek and read a motion that was

approved at the June 10, 2004 meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee requesting Parks and Recreation consider establishing a Kayak Trail in the Coral Creek area and to follow-up with the Committee with the results of their study before a final vote is cast. **Robert Leonard** suggested the secretary draft a letter to the Parks and Recreation Department advising them that the Committee needs to be consulted before action is taken on this matter. **Chair Staudmyer** did not think this was necessary.

**Tom Hamilton** voiced concern that two boat ramps in the county are being shut down at the height of the season. Capt. Ron agreed and questioned whether a more formalized procedure should be established when closing ramps. In his opinion, the boaters of the community are owed the opportunity to be provided with as much advanced notice as possible and to be given alternatives as to where they can obtain water access. **Jay Buckley** wondered why the work orders for these two projects were not staggered. **Bob Leonard** felt both of these projects were necessary and will be completed within a reasonable time frame.

***ACTION:** Tom Hamilton made a motion that the Chairman write a letter to the Parks and Recreation department asking for advanced notification of timelines on boat ramp closures in the future. Seconded by David Rubin, a discussion followed and the vote was passed unanimously.*

**IX. LIASON REPORTS – None**

**X. GOOD OF THE ORDER - None**

**XI. NEXT MEETING**  
Thursday, November 8, 2007 @ 9:30 A.M.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**  
There being no further business, the meeting be **ADJOURNED** at 10:48a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr  
Recording Secretary