

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Charlotte County Administration Center, Room 106B

**Minutes**  
**December 13, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mel Staudmyer, Chair  
William Bergman, Vice Chair  
Capt. Ron Blago, Secretary  
Richard Anderson  
Len Harris  
Maurice Sabourin  
Robert Leonard  
Bob DiMuzio  
Raymond Rose  
Richard Johnson  
Skip Mansfield  
Anthony Tonz  
William Kumm  
Gerald Meckenberg  
Tom Hamilton  
Tim Lynch  
Jay Buckley  
Paul Marcuzzo

**GUESTS**

Willie Vickers  
Fred Granger  
Jim Blue  
Randy Broderson, City of Punta Gorda

**STAFF**

Tom Rapp, County Attorney  
Ron Rosiere, Public Works  
Missy L. Christie, Environmental Specialist I  
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent  
Jim Dossett, Planning Projects Manager  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

David Rubin  
James Redding

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

**Chair Mel Staudmyer** called the December 13, 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 November 8, 2007 Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Paul Marcuzzo**. The vote was unanimously accepted.

**IV. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Ron Rosiere** provided updates regarding the following projects: Pirate Harbor; Buena Vista/Grassy Point Waterways; Northwest Charlotte Waterways; Alligator Creek S-Curve; Manchester Lock Removal; Harbor Heights Dredge Design; Suncoast Waterway Dredge Design; South Bridge Dredge Design; Haward Waterways; and Gulf Cove Waterways. **Ron Blago** inquired about future reports following Mr. Rosiere's retirement, and was told a written report will be prepared and sent by Matt Logan until Chuck Mopps takes over in April. Applause and good wishes were offered to Mr. Rosiere on his retirement.

**V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Jim Dossett** presented information on the RFP (Request for Proposals) for a Blue Way Study and advised Administration has requested an update. Past studies show over one million registered boats in the state of Florida and this number is growing by 20,000 boats per year. This does not include tailored boats brought in from out-of-state. Growth Management has been approached regarding several waterfront properties which include vacant Marinas. The residential development of these areas would impact many people and would take away public access to the water. A draft will be ready next week and the RFP will be submitted in January. **Mr. Dossett** further provided contact information for comments and/or questions and added that this Committee will be involved once the consultant is selected and could possibly be involved in the actual selection. He went on to explain the contents of the study stating it will be very broad and will include inventory of the facilities, demographics, current development plans, economic development, environmental issues, partnering, incentives, funding, and current trends. Parks and Recreation and Public Works will also be very involved with this study. **Chair Staudmyer** inquired about a Marina damaged by Hurricane Charley and was told part of this study will be to reach out to property owners and to seek public input. **Bill Bergman** asked if the Board has taken a different view of this issue as MAC had previously recommended available property which would allow public access to the waterway and were turned down. He was told, among other things, the request for a new study is the result of additional inquiries and a change of personnel on the Board. Further discussion ensued.

Reappointment of Maurice Sabourin, Flotilla U.S.C.G.A.

**ACTION:** *A motion was presented by Bill Bergman to nominate Maurice Sabourin for reappointment to the Marine Advisory Committee, representing Flotilla U.S.C.G.A. This was seconded by Bob DiMuzio and the vote showed unanimous.*

New Member for Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

**Jay Buckley** announced their representative is not available for today's meeting. **Chair Staudmyer** requested Mr. Buckley contact the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club and inform Ron Blago of his findings.

Sand Sources in Gulf of Mexico

**Missy L. Christie** provided general information regarding a previous study and advised that an overview of regional off-shore sand sources shows the vast potential to be on the Manasota Ridge with the highest potential in Charlotte County.

Abandoned Vessel Program

**Missy L. Christie** presented members with a PowerPoint presentation showing the recent endeavors of the Abandoned Vessel Program as they removed vessels from the water in and around Chadwick Cove. She viewed the impact their process has had on seagrass and was pleased to report the boats are pushed off the seagrass before motors are started. To date, eleven (11) boats have been removed. In answer to **Bill Bergman's** inquiry, **Ms. Christie** stated she and Andy Stevens are working together on this project. A question and answer period ensued. **Willie Vickers** asked about studies to determine where the sand ends up when the beaches erode and expressed concerns about changes he has seen. **Ms. Christie** provided contact information to report these changes.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS - None**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**Bob Leonard** apprized the Committee on the status of the dock in Charlotte Harbor which they have been using as a test site for evaluation of Code Compliance procedures. He reported that Code Compliance officers have confirmed a violation is present and will keep him informed regarding the action taken.

**Anthony Tonz** led a discussion on boat mooring issues. He advised of a meeting he attended yesterday on this matter and provided members with a copy of a Draft Ordinance for their review. **Tom Rapp** responded to a question regarding the definition of an abandoned boat. He added this Ordinance is similar to that of Sarasota County's but is tailored for Charlotte County. **Len Harris** conveyed his view that special care needs to be given regarding how the Committee proceeds as this Ordinance pertains to state and federal waters. Further discussion continued. This issue is tabled for the next meeting.

#### Pole/Troll Discussion

**Tom Rapp** advised of a study conducted by the University of Florida. Following the review of regulations and statues, it has been determined they do not have the power and authority to put in a combustion motor exclusion zone. This answer was also confirmed with the General Counsel for DEP. **Mr. Rapp** is awaiting an answer to several other inquiries, but at this time, does not anticipate a positive response. A discussion ensued.

**Ron Blago** addressed members and stated they need to set a course to determine if MAC should pursue this issue. **Bob DiMuzio** stated he would like to move forward as he believes the Committee needs more knowledge in this area before accepting the ruling of an outside agency. **Richard Anderson** does not agree and feels pursuing this will cause unnecessary conflict. **Jay Buckley** would like to move forward and he is in favor of setting up a test area to monitor results. His personal feeling is that this Committee is equipped to pursue this through whatever agency is necessary to obtain results. **Betty Staugler** stated pole and troll zones are also being addressed in Lee County and advised on the process they going through to tie this to the newest general permit which is the end result of the Regional Waterway Management System. It is her understanding that in order to establish a Poll and Troll over sovereign submerged lands, proper signage is necessary. DEP has the administrative authority but the enforcement authority and the authority to permit signs are with FWC. They have very specific guidelines as to when they can authorize signage and this does not include the protection of natural resources or boating restrictive areas. She added this is a lengthy and complicated process. An open discussion ensued.

**Chair Staudmyer** asked the commercial fishermen in the audience their opinion on this matter. **Willie Vickers** stated he feels this will require much time, research, and tracking with the only benefit being to save seagrass. This will impact many and in his opinion, establishing more laws will only affect the quality of life in Charlotte County. **Fred Granger** stated MAC is trying to control something that should be controlled in a different way. He suggested permitting tournaments as a way to better solve the problem and to bring in more revenue for the County. **Paul Marcuzzo** asked about the quality of fishing in past years. **Mr. Granger** advised it varies but he feels one negative aspect is television shows that promote over-fishing in the area.

**Bob Leonard** feels MAC has an obligation to get input and to advise the Board on difficult issues. He offered comments on his previous motion and stated he is against establishing sub-committees regarding this topic. Following a short discussion on signage, he said he feels this Committee needs to take on the responsibility to advise the BOCC on this matter. **Ron Blago** agrees this is an important issue and there are a lot of factors to be considered. He is in favor of the sub-committee formed two months ago to pursue additional information and to provide a Liason report on a monthly basis. He would like to ask Betty Staugler to act as an advisor in this matter.

***ACTION: A motion was presented by Bob Leonard to pursue the Poll and Troll issue and to keep the Sub-Committee alive as part of the Liason Report. A discussion ensued.***

It was the opinion of **Jim Blue** that public education is important, especially to seasonal residents.

**Chair Staudmyer** continued with Ron Blago's previous request to poll members to determine if MAC

should take this issue under their advisement. The poll showed three descending votes and passed with a majority vote. **Chair Staudmyer** announced he will keep the Sub-Committee consisting of Bob Leonard, Tom Hamilton, and Ron Blago with Betty Staugler as an Advisor with a report being provided to the Committee on a regular basis.

**Bob Leonard** noted a motion is still on the table. **Chair Staudmyer** proposed the motion be removed and tabled for a future meeting.

**IX. LIASON REPORTS – NONE**

**X. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Mel Staudmyer** thanked the Committee for their cooperation during the years he has served as Chairman and for the outstanding job they have provided. **Ron Blago** acknowledged Chair Staudmyer's hard work and achievements. Chair Staudmyer was given a standing ovation.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, January 10, 2008 @ 9:30 A.M. in room 119

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary