

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

**Minutes**  
**January 10, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman Ron Blago  
Secretary Gerald L Meckenberg  
Mel Staudmyer  
William G Bergman  
Richard Anderson  
David Rubin  
Bob DiMuzio  
Paul Marcuzzo  
Raymond Rose  
Richard Johnson  
A. Rulon (Skip) Mansfield, Jr.  
Anthony Tonz  
William Kumm  
Captain Tim Lynch  
Capt. John (Jay) Buckley

**GUESTS**

Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda  
Randy Brodersen, City of PuntaGorda  
Robert L. Burney  
Barry Howard

**STAFF**

Bob Hebert, Administration  
Tom Rapp, Attorney's Office  
Tara Musselman, Public Works  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Vice Chair Len Harris  
Maurice N Sabourin  
Robert Leonard  
Tom Hamilton

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

**Chair Mel Staudmyer** called the January 10, 2008 **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 **Dick Anderson** to accept the December 13, 2007, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Tony Tonz**. The vote was unanimously accepted.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Budget Discussion

**Bob Hebert** provided information on the 2008-2009 Budget and offered instructions for obtaining applications online. Applications need to be submitted to the Budget Office no

later than February 1, 2008 and will be available for the Committee's review on March, 13, 2008. **Mr. Hebert** emphasized all applications must be in by the deadline to be considered for funding and added this deadline will be enforced. He made known the two sources of money that go into this funding cycle stating Boaters' registration fees are anticipated to remain at \$350,000.00 where as WCIND money is based on ad valorem taxes and will be affected by the tax amendment voted on later this month. The estimated amount at this time is \$350,000.00 - \$400,000.00. It was stated the proposed budget will be developed in June or July with public meetings held in August or September. MAC will need to have decision recommendations made to the Board for the proposed budget no later than April, 2008. **Jay Buckley** asked **Mr. Hebert** to confirm the deadline for submission and was told February 1, 2008. **Mr. Hebert** provided handouts to members and advised Bill Taylor has replaced Beatrice Harris and will be introduced at next month's meeting. He is the primary contact regarding the budget process this year. **Bob DiMuzzio** asked about the tax amendment and was told it would result in approximately \$14,000,000.00 in reductions if passed. **Chair Blago** spoke further on the difficulties they will face in the upcoming year.

V. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Tara Musselman** reported she will be providing future reports and gave 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. A question and answer period ensued. **Dave Rubin** requested a time line be provided at the next meeting regarding the status of the final design phase as well as the contract with Coastal Engineering. Ms. Musselman made comments and stated she will have this information available at the February meeting. Further discussion ensued regarding the Alligator Creek S-Curve. Ms. Musselman provided contact information and stated she will be attending meetings regularly until further notice.

VI. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner D'Aprile** began by commenting on the budget stating this is a matter for all concerned. He further discussed ways the County has cut costs in the past, including hiring freezes, job layoffs, and the discontinuation of county services. Other areas of concern regarding the January 29<sup>th</sup> vote were also addressed. **Commissioner D'Aprile** went on to say good we need to control our spending and look forward to the future of our county as good things are occurring in our community such as the new Event Center, the Devil Rays, the Spring ground breaking of Murdock Village, Babcock Ranch, and the Charlotte Harbor Redevelopment area to name a few. It is his feeling that if we maintain a good vision, things will happen in a positive mode and our county will become very successful. **Richard Anderson** asked what would happen if the tax amendment vote does not pass and was told that everything would stand as it is right now with no further deficits. The vote requires at least 60% to pass and it was disclosed approximately \$10,000,000.00 is available in reserve money, if needed. **Commissioner D'Aprile** suggested more emphasis needs to be placed on Economic Development. **Bill Bergman** asked about the Tax Reform Bill and the 3% cap and was told the cap is secure. **Mel Staudmyer** asked how successful

the BCC will be regarding scrub jays and the bond issue to save our lands. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated they are comfortable with this and the state is being very cooperative in trying to work with the county in some sort of mitigation. This has been very frustrating for people with scrub jays on their property. **Skip Mansfield** asked about the Commissioner's view of the tax referendum and was told he feels confident it will pass as people are very angry with the mandates from the federal government, higher insurance rate, and increased taxes. **Anthony Tonz** asked about water shortages vs. new developments and was told a reservoir should be ready in 2010. Mel Staudmyer offered a suggestion to merge excavation sites to make reservoirs. A discussion ensued. **Commissioner D'Aprile** said although he doesn't mind mining in our community, he is opposed to having so many sites. He would prefer to concentrate on the mines we already have and to schedule a moratorium for evaluation. Charlotte County will be supplying a lot of the dirt to surrounding counties. It might be possible to use these as reservoirs if they were deep enough to be efficient but that would require further expenses for piping. Additional comments were made regarding the Mosaic Company.

*(Commissioner D'Aprile left the meeting at 10:14am.)*

The meeting then returned to an item of New Business.

#### New Member for Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

**Capt. Buckley** stated the individual being considered was approached more than once in this regard. **Chair Blago** confirmed contact began over 90 days ago. **Bill Bergman** suggested one more attempt to be made to contact the individual before this seat is vacated. **Chair Blago** said he will commit to this task. **Bob DiMuzio** requested the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club provide their decision in writing. This item will be tabled for next month.

### **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

#### *Pole/Troll Discussion*

**Capt. Blago** reminded members that a Motion has been on the table for a number of months concerning pole and troll areas particularly in the Catfish Creek, Whidden Creek, and Turtle Bay area. As requested last month, **Chair Blago** contacted Lucy Blair, DEP Representative of Charlotte Harbor and she has agreed to attend the February meeting to discuss plans and specific areas being considered. He clarified that DEP has been working with WCIND for the last three years on instituting Pole/Troll zones but will not, have anything to do with improved fishing or the locations previously discussed by MAC. It was further conveyed to **Chair Blago** that options on a local level are rather slim and the approvals needed to put in our own Pole/Troll areas would be extremely extension and difficult to do. Further Pole/Troll questions should be directed to Ms. Blair. **Bob DiMuzio** had inquires about the pole and troll Zones Ms. Blair was referring to and whether public notification would be posted regarding her upcoming presentation.

### Mooring Issues

**Capt. Ron** referred to the Mooring Ordinance provided at last month's meeting. **Attorney Tom Rapp** apprized the Committee of a conversation with Capt. Allen Richard, Assistant General Counsel for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee, regarding the Pole and Troll issue and advised he would be preparing an Ordinance under his guidance using language to bypass some of the barriers. **Chair Blago** stated his concern was pursuing two different pole and troll plans for two different agendas and he would like Mr. Rapp to wait until the DEP's presentation next month at which time MAC will decide whether they will pursue this issue. **Mr. Rapp** moved forward saying he met with Tony Tonz and Andy Kolba to discuss ideas for the Mooring Ordinance but has not heard back with comments from members as to whether to add or subtract from it. He added the template for the Ordinance was obtained from Sarasota County who is now having problems with what they have in place. He is anticipating the same problems and will be meeting with Sarasota to discuss same. **Bob DiMuzio** mentioned a recent magazine article regarding the Marco Island situation and suggested Mr. Rapp review their template for changes that are needed. **Capt. Buckley** advised a ruling was issued in favor of the Ordinance in Marco Island but they failed to file their challenge in the appropriate time period and are now unsure of the results. **Tony Tonz** made a summation of the Mooring Issues discussed last month as well as present findings stating there are no mooring areas permitted by the Commissioners or present law governing this issue in Charlotte County. He would like to speak further with the Sheriff's Department and request in writing something that could be used as a basis for having control now and in the future and to help preempt any problems what might arise. **Skip Mansfield** inquired if any restrictions have been imposed in an area where boats previously moored northbound of the bridge and was told the Sheriff unofficially suggested to people that they not moor in this area due to health and navigation problems. **Paul Marcuzzo** questioned the wording of several areas in the Draft Ordinance and stated he is opposed to the Ordinance as written. A discussion ensued. **Mel Staudmyer** reminded the Committee their Objective is to consider what is best for Charlotte County and suggested viewpoints be documented on paper. **Skip Mansfield** agreed written suggestions are needed in order to correct issued in the Ordinance. A member of the audience, **Bob Gurney**, stated he represents area boaters. He provided information from their prospective and suggested mooring fields need to be established that are user friendly and reminded the Committee of the added revenue that would be provided by Cruisers if a convenient area was made available. **Gerald Meckenberg** stated he appreciated Mr. Gurney's input and asked him to provide contact information. **Chair Blago** stated a decision needs to be made to either pursue the Ordinance as is or to modify it to address specific situations. **Paul Marcuzzo** inquired if a definition could be made between man made waters and the open waters of the harbor and if this could be enforced. **Mel Staudmyer** would like to see the two Mooring Ordinance between the city and the County be sun ominous. **Bob DiMuzio** made known reasons why he would like to see consistency between Lee County and Charlotte County. Discussion and questions continued regarding costs and timelines. **Mr. Rapp** provided contact information and asked that all comments be directed to his attention. **Paul Marcuzzo** added the area east of the bridge will not help the cruising sailor as they will not be able to travel under the bridge and should not be used as a mooring field. **Jay Buckley** offered comments in this regard and stated Best Western is very interested in the area west of the bridge and may consider

offering funding. **Capt. Ron** asked members to review the Draft Ordinance for further changes and to bring their comments to the next meeting so the decision could be made to approve or disapprove this issue to the Commission.

Code Compliance Update

This issue is tabled for next month

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS - None**

**IX. LIASON REPORTS**

**Chair Blago** reported as of the next meeting, Pole and Troll will be a Liason Report. **Bob Leonard** is the chairman of this subcommittee.

**X. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Mel Staudmyer** complimented Ron Blago on his performance as new Chairman.

**Barry Howard**, a member of the audience, had comments regarding hazardous conditions caused by missing wake signage and asked for a contact number to report related emergencies and suggested a hotline be established for this purpose. He also questioned why there were such lengthy delays getting the signs installed. **Tara Musselman** stated the signs should be installed no later than today. **Mr. Howard** also offered comments and suggestions regarding the Alligator Creek S-Curve.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, February 14, 2008 @ 9:30 A.M. in room 119

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary