

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

Minutes
February 14, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Willie Vickers
Fred Granger
Jim Blue
Randy Broderson, City of Punta Gorda
Barry Howard
Robert Burney
Fred Mesler, Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

STAFF

Derek Rooney, Asst. County Attorney
Bob Hebert, Administration
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Adv. Committee
Tara Musselman, Public Works
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent
Barbara Watkins, Recording Secretary

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Paul Marcuzzo

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
Chair Blago called the February 14, 2008, **Marine Advisory Committee** to order at 9:30 a.m., noting there was a quorum present.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Chair Blago led the members and audience in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A motion was made by **Mel Staudmyer** to accept the January 10, 2008, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Skip Mansfield**. The vote was unanimously accepted.
- IV. **REGULAR BUSINESS**
Tara Musselman provided updates regarding the following projects: Ackerman Waterway, Alligator Creek, Buena Vista Area Waterways, Edgewater North, Gulf Cove Waterways, Harbour Heights, Hayward Canals, Lewis Creek Dredging, Manchester Lock Removal, Northwest Port Charlotte, Peace River Shores, Pirate Harbor, Southbridge Waterway, South Gulf Cove, and Suncoast Waterway. **David Rubin** thanked Ms. Musselman on behalf of Public Works for a complete and up-to-date report. A question and answer period followed. **Chair Blago** also thanked Ms. Musselman for her efforts and requested she provide a map at future meetings to help locate the various dredging projects. An additional request was made to identify the acronyms in her report.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

New Member - Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

Gerald Meckenberg opened the discussion stating Frederick Mesler has submitted his resume for the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club vacancy. **Mr. Mesler** introduced himself and provided a brief review of his background. He was then requested to leave the room for the vote.

ACTION: A motion was presented by Jay Buckley, seconded by David Rubin, that Fred Mesler be appointed to the Marine Advisory Committee to represent the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club. The Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mesler joined the Committee, however, was advised that he could not vote until his appointment was approved by the Commissioners.

Budget Discussion

Bob Hebert introduced new staff members and distributed a spreadsheet of the budget as well as a packet of applications for funding. Calling attention to the spreadsheet, he reported on money that has been requested to date. Less the annual amounts, the funds still available for allocation are as follows: \$310,000.00 from WCIND; \$129,000.00 from the Boater Improvement Fund - Retained; and \$184,000.00 from the Boater Improvement Fund - Local. **Mr. Hebert** explained that as recommendations are made, the available amount shown on the bottom line will automatically reduce.

Moving on to applications, **Mr. Hebert** stated there is a pending request from Parks and Receptions that has not yet been received. Information was also provided regarding the allocation for Stump Pass. Responding to another question about the City of Punta Gorda's request for Phase Two Construction regarding the East Mooring Field, **Mr. Hebert** made known everyone who has applied for an application will be invited to attend the next advisory meeting and will answer questions at that time. **Bill Bergman** commented on engineering money stating he did not see a provision for this. **Mr. Hebert** responded that WCIND funds cannot be used for engineering study or acquisition of property but it is possible that engineering fees will be allowed under Boater Improvement. This will be verified by the next meeting. **Bob Leonard** made inquires about the amount available for maintenance and aids to navigation and it was explained in further detail. **Tara Musselman** added that Public Works will be requesting this permanent allocation to be increased to \$80,000.00 to more accurately reflect maintenance costs. **Chair Blago** reminded members that representatives will be available at the next meeting for questions regarding allocations from last year and **Mr. Hebert** added that a written report will be provided.

Betty Staugler presented information on side-scanned technology and the status of artificial reef construction in the Gulf of Mexico. **Bob Hebert** cautioned members that they are subject to sunshine law and cannot discuss information outside of this setting. If members wish to discuss any part of the budget, they were advised to call Mr. Hebert. He offered a reminder to the applicants that the BOCC has the right to accept, reject, or modify recommendations made by the Committee.

A question from **Tom Hamilton** prompted a discussion on Allocation Guidelines. **Mr. Hebert** requested that the March meeting be dedicated to budget discussion. He also confirmed that the proposed budget is due in July, but the exact amount of funds to be allocated cannot be determined until after the budget hearing in September. **Mr. Hamilton** commented on the lack of information on two of the applications and requested something further be provided before the next meeting.

Mel Staudmyer referred to a page in the handout on impact fees and confirmed this should not be a part of the packet. **Mr. Hebert** gave instructions to contact either himself or Chair Blago if further information is needed and ended his discussion by complimenting Ms. Musselman on her report.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Barry Howard, a resident of Alligator Creek, inquired about an article in the paper concerning the towing of derelict vessels to a holding area. **Bob Hebert** provided the name of the contractor and stated they will be taken to an impound area at the landfill and held for 30 days to allow time for owners to be identified and billed for expenses if possible.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Pole and Troll Discussion

Ms. Blair was not in attendance. Chairman Blago will reschedule this discussion.

Code Compliance Update

Bob Leonard provided an update on the report the Committee has been monitoring. He stated another permit has been issued to complete repairs to the dock and must be performed by a licensed marine contractor. Nothing further can be done by the county until the permit expires on July 17, 2008, and he will report on any improvements noticed. **Chair Blago** reminded members this issue was originally brought up by a member of the audience.

Mooring Update

Attorney Rooney reported that Tom Rapp is no longer with the Attorney's office and advised he will be filling in temporarily until a replacement can be found. **Tony Tonz** provided a brief discussion on the background of this issue and it's progression to date stating a meeting will need to take place with the Sherriff's office and the new attorney. **Attorney Rooney** responded to a question regarding public input reporting nothing has been received to date, but there are some current challenges taking place to the Sarasota County Mooring Ordinance. He will investigate the basis for this and adjust the draft ordinance accordingly. **Jay Buckley** offered the attorney an ordinance from Marathon, Florida for his review. **Robert Burney**, who resides on Elkhams Blvd, submitted a copy of the current state and county canal laws and said he feels the laws which are currently in place need to be better enforced by the Sheriff's Office. **Attorney Rooney** made known concerns he had with the current ordinance and said he will review the document and bring back his thoughts to the April meeting along with the Derelict Vessel Ordinance. He will email his comments to MAC members prior to the meeting and offered a reminder that the Committee will need approval from BCC before moving forward. A discussion ensued. **Attorney Rooney** said he would review state statutes and draft an ordinance to match. **Barry Howard** advised of a recent newspaper article advising that the Best Western would spend funds to pay for a mooring field on the west side of the bridge. **Jay Buckley** responded and said he spoke with the Director of Growth Management for the City of Punta Gorda and confirmed Best Western has accepted their proposal. He further stated their city budget has been approved for the eastern mooring field and it is his understanding they have accepted a bid from Coastal Engineering. **Randy Broderson** confirmed Coastal Engineering is on board but the city has not yet accepted their Scope of Services. He said this will go before the counsel next week.

Tara Musselman, returning to the Budget Discussion, referred to item #2 and confirmed this amount is for the actual dredging of the Hayward Canal in addition to the design. She said this is only being brought forward for dredging because it is the direct access to the public boat ramp in El Jobean. It was stated that funds are not usually approved for dredging but they will listen to any request and she was advised to provide as much documentation and information as possible. Further discussion continued regarding the requests for marker maintenance and the installation of channel markers. **Bob Leonard**

asked Ms. Musselman to forward information regarding the status of a permit for marker maintenance inside the outer islands of Pirate Harbor. He requested this be added as a regular item on her monthly report.

Grace Amodeo spoke about the removal of the Manchester Waterway Lock. She said she has made this request several times without results and would appreciate any assistance that could be provided. **Ms. Musselman** stated she provided a status report, but did not put in a request for this MSBU cost as previous requests have always been denied. Asked if she should submit official paperwork, she was told the status report was sufficient.

Jack Landis, Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee, advised the GEO Tubes at Stump Pass may have to be removed before the trial period is over and this may affect dredging costs in the area. Also mentioned was the Chadwick Cove mooring area and the many vessels anchored there. **Chair Blago** asked **Mr. Landis** to provide a brief review of the three-year trial GEO Tube project who indicated they may be removed at the request of DEP. The committee would like to see a copy of the 19-page report referred to by Mr. Landis and will obtain a copy from the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee.

IX. LIASON REPORTS – NONE

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER – NONE

XI. NEXT MEETING
Thursday, March 13, 2008 @ 9:30 A.M. in room 119

XII. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary