

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

Minutes
June 12, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Capt. Jay Buckley
Richard Johnson
Fred Mesler

STAFF

Commissioner Tom D'Aprile
Bob Hebert, Administration
Derek Rooney, Assistant County Attorney
Matthew Cohen, Assistant County Attorney
Tara Musselman, Public Works
Brian Barnes, Public Works
John Elias, Public Works
Andy Stevens, Env. & Ext. Services
Missy L. Christie, Env. & Ext. Services
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Debra Highsmith
John Homer Fleming
Steven Lee, TSI Disaster Recovery Service
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda
Officer Kennedy, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Officer Sam Cohl, Florida Fish and Wildlife

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

Chair Blago called the June 12, 2008, **Marine Advisory Committee** to order at 9:29a.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 **Dick Anderson** and seconded by **Anthony Tonz** to accept the May 8, 2008, Marine Advisory Committee as written. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Tara Musselman provided updates and answered questions regarding the following projects: Ackerman Waterway, Alligator Creek, Buena Vista Area Waterways, Edgewater North, Gulf Cove Waterways, Harbour Heights, Hayward Canals, Manchester Lock Removal, Northwest Port Charlotte, Peace River Shores, Pirate Harbor, Southbridge Waterway, South Gulf Cove, and Suncoast Waterway.

V. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner D'Aprile referred to a memorandum from Commissioner Duffy addressing noise issues at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex and requested this be discussed at the upcoming Joint Meeting. **Chair Blago** advised Bayshore Park and Placida Boat Ramp are also on the agenda for possible nighttime closures. Several members voiced concern that closing boat ramps would be a hardship for boaters and could affect funds received from tourist tax. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated he does not like the idea of closing parks, but does not want to enable people to disturb area residents at unsuitable hours. Several suggestions were offered including closing the park at 11:00pm but leaving the boat ramp open with a sign indicating quiet hours, surveillance to curtail noise and alcohol use, and enforcing the existing noise ordinance already in place. **Officer Cohl** introduced himself and commented on arrests made last year while patrolling the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. He stated the Sheriff's Office now routinely monitors the park and most of the late night activity has been eliminated. **Chair Blago** invited Officer Cohl to speak at the Joint Meeting. **Commissioner D'Aprile** made an announcement that a Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for later this evening at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

Budget Discussion

Bob Hebert provided information regarding the preliminary estimate of the tax base and stated more information will be available following the ad valorem certification on July 1, 2008. If further adjustments are needed, it may be necessary for the Committee to make new recommendations accordingly. He went on to say the legislature has passed a new ruling beginning October 1, 2008, allowing the state to double fees for boater registration and confirmed this will provide more revenue for the county. The BoCC and the WCIND Board both have their final hearings during the month of September and the budget will be adopted before October 1st.

Joint Advisory Board Meeting

Chair Blago announced the time and location of the Joint Advisory Board Meeting between Parks and Recreation, the Marine Advisory Committee, and Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee scheduled for June 17, 2008. Agenda items were discussed and members were encouraged to attend. A show of hands indicated a quorum would be met.

Vacancies

Chair Blago opened the discussion stating John Homer Fleming has submitted his resume for the Member-at-Large position vacated by Bob DiMuzio. **Gerald Meckenberg** acknowledged Mr. Fleming and asked him to leave the room for a vote.

ACTION: A motion was presented by Bob Leonard and seconded by Len Harris that John Homer Fleming be recommended for appointment to the Marine Advisory Committee as a Member-at-Large. The vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Fleming was welcomed by the Committee and advised he is unable to vote until his appointment is approved by Commissioners. It was requested he be added to the Distribution List to receive packets and he was invited to attend the upcoming Joint Meeting.

One Cent Sales Tax Presentation

Brian Barnes presented information and provided members with a handout on the one cent sales tax proposal. He reiterated this is not a new tax but rather an extension of a tax that has been in place since 1994. He stated all previously funded road projects have been completed and new projects proposed for the sales tax extension were identified. **John Elias** provided additional information and commented on the positive aspects of the tax. He stated all previously funded sidewalk projects are either completed or in the final phase of construction. A question and answer period followed and

discussion ensued. **Chair Blago** emphasized the importance of voting on this issue.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Update on Abandoned Vessels

Bob Hebert acknowledged Steven Lee, Officer Kennedy, and Officer Cohl and thanked them for attending. **Missy L. Christie** provided members with a PowerPoint Presentation on the Abandoned Vessel Program:

- Abandoned Vessel Concerns
- Referral Sources
- Abandoned Vessel Summary Report – May, 2008
- Vessels Tagged by County – Various Referrals
- Public Notices
- Abandoned Vessel Summary Report – County Tagged Vessels
- Total Vessels Removed
- Conclusions

Mr. Hebert and **Ms. Christie** addressed questions from members. **Andy Stevens** added that approximately twenty additional boats were reported by Mr. Lee during a routine flyover by the Sheriff's Office. **Chair Blago** thanked the speakers for their efforts and commented that every opportunity is being made for people to dispose of their boats in the appropriate method. He emphasized the importance of avoiding additional expenses by calling the Sheriff's Office early when abandoned boats are noticed.

Code Compliance Update

Chair Blago announced this is an addition to the agenda. **Bob Leonard** provided an update of the Code Compliance Complaint concerning the partially sunk dock in Pirate Harbor. A Plans Examiner has reviewed the file and contradictory to the last report, has stated the owner will be able to do an owner-contractor rebuild/removal. The owner will have the opportunity to re-apply for other permits and it is possible this may be ongoing until July of 2009. It is **Mr. Leonard's** feeling that the dock could be a hazard to navigation and a problem during hurricanes. A discussion ensued.

(Missy L. Christie & Andy Stevens left the meeting at 10:46)

Pole and Troll

Chair Blago commented on his previous recommendation to summarize the Committee's work on this issue and forward to the Commissioners. **Bob Leonard** offered information on the Pole and Troll Zone for Lee County. **Debra Highsmith** spoke on the Notice of General Permit to Lee County and WCIND stating the Charlotte Harbor Natural Estuary Program is involved in commenting on the draft rule and will be holding a forum on July 9th at the Charlotte Cultural Center. The time and agenda will be forthcoming. She added FDEP is committed to holding a public hearing in Ft. Myers on the draft rule when it is complete.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Highsmith suggested adding Public Comments as an item of business on future agendas and was told comments are encouraged following Liaison Reports.

Gerald Meckenberg advised it is the intent again this year to have a hiatus for the months of July and August and requested members advise the Recording Secretary if they will be out of town in case a special meeting would need to be held.

ACTION: A motion was presented by David Rubin and seconded by Bill Bergman that the Committee break during the months of July and August and resume their meetings in September. The vote was unanimous in approval.

IX. LIAISON REPORTS

There are no liaison Reports at this time. **Mel Staudmyer** suggested this item be removed from the agenda.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Attorney Rooney advised he will be in attendance at the Joint meeting and introduced Assistant County Attorney Matthew Cohen.

Bill Bergman responded to a question by **Debra Highsmith** concerning an article in this week's Letter to the Editor column. In answer to a question about geotextile tubes, **Chair Blago** advised this issue is being addressed by the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee.

Randy Brodersen spoke about the recent ruling by the TSA to obtain a Transportation Workers Identification Card and provided information on Captain License renewal policies and procedures.

XI. NEXT MEETING

A Joint Meeting will be held on June 17, 2008, at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex.
The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at 9:30 A.M. in room 119.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:03a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary