

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

Minutes
October 9, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Capt. Ron Blago, Chair
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary
Richard Anderson
William Bergman
Capt. Jay Buckley
John Homer Fleming
Tom Hamilton
Richard Johnson
Robert Leonard
Capt. Tim Lynch
Paul Marcuzzo
Fred Mesler
Raymond Rose
Mel Staudmyer

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Len Harris, Vice Chair
William Kumm
Skip Mansfield
David Rubin
Maurice Sabourin
Anthony Tonz
Scott Schermerhorn

STAFF

Commissioner Tom D'Aprile
Bob Hebert, Administration
William Taylor, Budget
Tara Musselman, Public Works
Matthew Cohen, County Attorney
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Grace Amodeo, MWWAC
Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda
Mary McMurray, DEP Aquatic Preserve
Barry Howard, Alligator Creek

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
Chair Blago called the October 9, 2008, **Marine Advisory Committee** to order at 9:31a.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 **Richard Anderson** and seconded by **William Bergman** to accept the September 11, 2008, Marine Advisory Committee minutes 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 Waterway, Northwest Port Charlotte, Pirate Harbor, Southbridge Waterway, and Suncoast Waterway.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner D'Aprile provided an update on the Stump Pass Experimental GEO Textile Tubes and stated EPA and other individuals have accepted an invitation to revisit the area later this month for the purpose of visually viewing the tubes. He advised he is committed to this project and hopes his predecessor will continue to take action and represent the Committee on this issue. **Chair Blago** thanked Commissioner D'Aprile for his hard work. **Commissioner D'Aprile** wished the Committee good luck with their future endeavors and received a standing ovation. **Tara Musselman** added additional information regarding the Notice to Proceed and plans for the removal of the tubes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Discussion

Bob Hebert advised he has been reassigned to a different position within the county and introduced William Taylor as the new Budget contact. He went on to confirm that all recommendations by the Committee have been approved as presented. Funds are still being reconciled and any additional funds available will be announced at the next meeting. **Mr. Hebert** also stated he needs a recommendation to approve funding for a trailer for the City of Punta Gorda Police Department.

ACTION: A motion was presented by Richard Anderson, seconded by Capt. Jay Buckley, to approve the City of Punta Gorda's request in the amount of \$3,000.00 for a police trailer. Following a discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Blago thanked Bob Hebert for his service to the Committee and applause was offered. **Mr. Hebert** stated he will still be available for questions and has the utmost confidence in Mr. Taylor.

(Bob Hebert left the meeting at 10:00am)

Renewal of Memberships

Gerald Meckenberg announced the following terms are expiring in December of this year: Mel Staudmyer, Bill Bergman, Robert Leonard, William Kumm, Tom Hamilton, and Scott Schermerhorn. **Chair Blago** clarified that, with the exception of Mr. Schermerhorn, all others represent an organization and members will be voting on the approval of the position, not the individual representing it.

ACTION: A motion was presented by Bill Bergman, seconded by Richard Anderson, to accept the terms for renewal and that a letter be sent accordingly to the Board of County Commissioners.

Name Badges

Chair Blago led a discussion regarding the need for name tags to identify members and their organizations during meetings. It was decided the recording secretary will create new desk tags and will be responsible for the distribution and collection at each meeting.

Water Quality Measurement

Chair Blago provided an update and mentioned topics previously discussed by the Committee. He spoke of an article regarding water quality in Charlotte Harbor and Lemon Bay and felt better information needs to be presented to the decision makers in the community. Betty Staugler has been asked to provide the names of appropriate individuals to contact for future updates. He would like to see this addressed at upcoming meetings.

Tara Musselman reported that part of the Storm Water MSBU system pays into the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) which funds studies of water samples throughout the year in Lemon Bay, Alligator Bay, and the Harbor. She offered to provide more information on these programs and will ask a representative from the Storm Water Department to present at a future meeting. **Chair Blago** expressed concerns that although many people are checking water quality, the data is not coordinated and compared for a better understanding of future projections. **Ms. Musselman** suggested starting with Joann Vernon, Storm Water Manager, as a guest speaker. **Chair Blago** requested members to check with everyone who does water quality testing. A discussion ensued. **Chair Blago** advised it his intention to obtain a list of names from Betty Staugler to help in this effort. **Mary McMurray** addressed the committee and stated DEP has to follow strict Standard Operating Procedures. She offered to provide updates of yearly audits as well as Estuary reports and stated she will invite the Data Management Specialist to present at a future meeting. **Chair Blago** said the Committee needs to identify data and where the trend is going. **Ms McMurray** confirmed the Estuary is ranked very high, especially Lemon Bay and Charlotte Harbor.

(Commissioner D'Aprile left the meeting at 10:21a.m.)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Bob Leonard advised of a turn of events concerning the sunken dock in Pirate Harbor stating the building permit to replace the dock has been withdrawn. In addition, the DEP permit will not be renewed and the owner of the property has been issued a Violation Notice. He has 30 days to remove the dock or will be called before the Code Enforcement Board. Details will be provided as they unfold.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A member of the audience, **Barry Howard**, advised of problems obtaining proper signage on Alligator Creek. He stated the creek was not designed for large watercraft and boats going too fast in high tide are causing damage. He also pointed out that spot dredging is badly needed as certain areas are too shallow for many sailboats and this is hurting his marina business. He confirmed the entire creek is already a no wake zone, but would like to see the signs extended further out and the strips replaced around pilings. **Tara Musselman** addressed his concerns and stated the problem should be resolved within two weeks. **Mr. Howard** stated there is also a problem with an illegal boat ramp being used for commercial use. A discussion ensued. **Paul Marcuzzo** suggested the proper law enforcement agency be contacted regarding these issues. **Chair Blago** advised that an illegal boat ramp should be addressed as a zoning violation. **Mel Staudmyer** added that Mr. Howard will need to go before the MSBU Board regarding the issue of dredging. **Mr. Howard** spoke further about the problems from large boats going too fast and the lack of courtesy to fishermen. **Ms. Musselman** suggested taking pictures as documentation before contacting the Sheriff's Office. **Mr. Howard** offered his services to remove the sunken dock in Pirate Harbor and was told he would need to contact the property owner.

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IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER - None

X. NEXT MEETING

The next Pre-Agenda meeting will be held at 9:30a.m., on Thursday, November 6, 2008, in the 5th Floor Administration Conference Room.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2008, at 9:30a.m., in Room 119.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:41a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary