

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

**Minutes**  
**November 13, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Capt. Ron Blago, Chair  
Len Harris, Vice Chair  
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary  
Richard Anderson  
William Bergman  
John Homer Fleming  
Richard Johnson  
William Kumm  
Robert Leonard  
Capt. Tim Lynch  
Skip Mansfield  
Fred Mesler  
David Rubin  
Maurice Sabourin  
Scott Schermerhorn  
Anthony Tonz

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Capt. Jay Buckley  
Tom Hamilton  
Raymond Rose  
Mel Staudmyer  
Paul Marcuzzo

**STAFF**

Bob Hebert, Administration  
Tara Musselman, Public Works  
Derek Rooney, County Attorney  
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

Grace Amodeo, MWWAC  
Roger Fenneman, PGPD  
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda  
Mary McMurray, DEP/CHAP  
Robert Burney

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

**Chair Blago** called the November 13, 2008, **Marine Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:30a.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 **David Rubin** to accept the October 9, 2008, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

**IV. REGULAR BUSINESS**

*Public Works Update*

**Tara Musselman** provided updates and answered questions regarding the following projects: Alligator Creek, Buena Vista Area Waterways, Gulf Cove Waterways, Harbour Heights, Hayward Canals, Manchester Waterway, Northwest Port Charlotte, Pirate Harbor, Southbridge Waterway, and Suncoast Waterway.

*Election of Officers*

**Gerald Meckenberg** made known the incumbents have agreed to stand for consideration of the next calendar year.

***ACTION: A motion was presented by Bob Leonard and seconded by Bill Bergman that Capt Ron Blago be nominated to continue as Chairman for 2009. Following comments from Capt. Blago, the motion carried unanimously. Capt. Ron Blago accepted.***

***ACTION: A motion was presented by Tony Tonz and seconded by Skip Mansfield that Len Harris be nominated to continue as Vice Chairman for 2009. Following a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Len Harris accepted.***

***ACTION: A motion was presented by Bill Bergman and seconded by Maurice Sabourin that Gerald Meckenberg be nominated to continue as Secretary for 2009. Following a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Gerald Meckenberg accepted.***

**V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Chair Blago** announced the new Commissioners will take office on November 18, 2008. A liaison for this Committee will be appointed in the near future.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

*Renewal of Memberships*

**Chair Blago** called attention to the ballot included in the informational packets and provided an update regarding the member-at-large position that is up for renewal. A letter will be sent to the three (3) applicants inviting them to introduce themselves at the next MAC meeting. A vote will follow by secret ballot. **Gerald Meckenberg** provided copies of Scott Schermerhorn's resume. **Mr. Schermerhorn** asked that questions be directed to him regarding additional qualifications that are not indicated on his resume.

*Budget Discussion*

**Bob Hebert** advised that although Bill Taylor will be doing the financial tracking, he will be continuing as a liaison with WCIND. The present balance in the WCIND Budget, County Navigation Improvement fund is \$341,000.00 which includes the difference between funds that were allocated this year and what WCIND actually collected in taxes. It was confirmed the ad valorem tax base value declined this year, but the millage rate remained stable. **Mr. Hebert** reviewed the balances in the two accounts under the Boater Improvement fund and asked the Committee to open up a new funding cycle to allocate these funds adding that each of these categories have the same restrictions as normal funds. The application would be posted on the County website with the distinction noted and would be treated as current year money. In answer to a question by **Bill Bergman**, **Mr. Hebert** discussed the final time frame for the allocations. A discussion ensued. **Chair Blago** reminded members that funds are limited and the money needs to be

allocated in a judicious manner. **Mr. Hebert** added that funds can also be rolled over if desired. **Chair Blago** thanked **Mr. Hebert** for his continued role of advisor.

*Water Quality Measurement*

**Chair Blago** introduced **Betty Staugler** who presented an update on the status of several activities and previously funded projects. She advised alternative funding was used to re-print Boater's Guides and she requested the funds originally allocated for this project be applied towards the cost of a website. **Ms. Staugler** spoke on water quality data in the County and referenced agencies responsible for coordinating these efforts adding that a public meeting is scheduled at the DEP office in Ft. Myers. An email will be forwarded to members with information concerning the Draft Impaired Waters List and comments can be made to DEP before December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is another entity responsible for coordinating the water quality sampling in our area. Discussion continued regarding data consistency and the Regional Ambient Monitoring Program (RAMP). **Tony Tonz** addressed inquiries about the quality of drinking water in South Gulf Cove. Further discussion continued. **Ms. Staugler** suggested inviting a representative from the National Estuary Program to present at a future meeting.

**Bob Hebert** returned to the budget discussion and requested the Committee to make a motion to approve allowing further applications for funding.

***ACTION: A motion was presented by John Homer Fleming and seconded by Dick Anderson to formally open the request to allocate available funds. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.***

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Geo Textile Tubes

**Gerry Meckenberg** referenced a recent newspaper article on the geo-textile tubes and provided handouts. **Chair Blago** provided an update regarding the fate of the tubes and the controversy regarding same. Chair Blago advised the County has made provisions to move up the dredging of Stump Pass one (1) year. Discussion ensued.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Bob Leonard** provided an update on the status of the dock in Pirate Harbor. He stated a Code Compliance Officer viewed the site with a member of the Charlotte County Environmental Department and a demolition permit will be issued to remove the dock this weekend. **Chair Blago** provided an overview of the situation to those who were unaware of the issue.

**Tara Musselman** offered to provide a detailed report on spending plans regarding the Stump Pass issue previously discussed and answered questions regarding plans for future monitoring and dredging. She also advised she will be requesting additional funds for the Haywood Canal project.

**IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Chair Blago** remarked he may be contacting the City of Punta Gorda regarding water quality data previously submitted to the DEP. Further comments were offered by **Len Harris** regarding water testing at Burnt Store Isle.

**Bob Leonard** inquired about the MAC Distribution List and inquired if it was up-to-date.

Minutes  
Marine Advisory Committee  
November 13, 2008

**Chair Blago** advised that anyone wishing to be added or removed from the list contact the Recording Secretary.

**X. NEXT MEETING**

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2008, at 9:30a.m., in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Administration Conference Room.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 9:30a.m., in room 119.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:40a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary