

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

**Minutes  
December 11, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Paul Marcuzzo  
Mel Staudmyer

**STAFF**

Bob Hebert, Administration  
Tara Musselman, Public Works  
Derek Rooney, County Attorney  
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent  
Dawn Harrison, Public Works  
Roxann Read, Planner II  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda  
W. Keith Buechel, Pt. Charlotte Yacht Club  
Lt. Andrew Kolba, CC Sheriff's Office  
Michael Heller, CHRA  
Al Yeno, CG Aux-FL9-2  
Murray Thorndycraft, PGBA  
Don McCormick, Counsel Member, PG  
Al Cheatham

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

**Chair Blago** called the December 11, 2008, **Marine Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:30am noting there was a quorum present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chair Blago** offered opening remarks and 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 November 13, 2008, Marine Advisory Committee minutes with corrections. Following a second, a vote was taken and the motion 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. Budget details were also provided regarding Stump Pass. **Ms. Musselman** addressed additional questions and a discussion ensued regarding the hazardous navigation at the mouth of the Sunrise Waterway Beach Complex. **Chair Blago** stated he would like to get comments from Parks and Recreation and will request David Milligan to address the committee at the next meeting.

**V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Chair Blago** advised a liaison for the Board of County Commissioners has not yet been assigned. **Bob Hebert** stated it is a requirement for the BCC to appoint a liaison to the Committee and an appointment by the Chairman of the Board will be forthcoming.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

*Renewal of Memberships*

**Chair Blago** provided a brief history regarding the Member-at-Large position that is up for renewal and asked all applicants or their representatives to identify themselves. **Scott Schermerhorn** expressed his interest in renewing his term. There being no other candidates present, **Mr. Schermerhorn** was asked to leave the room for a vote. Following a short discussion the following action was taken:

***ACTION: A motion was presented by Dick Anderson and seconded by Maurice Sabourin that Scott Schermerhorn be recommended as Member-at-Large for another three (3) year term. Following a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

**Scott Schermerhorn** returned and rejoined the Committee. It was confirmed to **Attorney Rooney** that all applicants were notified of today's meeting. **Chair Blago** discussed procedure protocol and **Bob Hebert** reminded members and applicants the Commission will determine the final outcome of the recommendations.

*Budget Discussion*

**Bob Hebert** presented information and displayed a spreadsheet identifying the FY08-09 Mid-Year Funding applications and the amount of money available for allocation. The next portion of the meeting was spent reviewing and discussing the funding applications:

- #1 – Charlotte County Extension/Florida Sea Grant (\$10,000) - **Betty Staugler** gave a brief summary of the Redfish Tracking Project and the details of her request. **Ms. Staugler** introduced **Michael Heller**, publisher of Water Life Magazine and provided members with copies of the resource manual provided as part of the Don Ball School curriculum. **Mr. Heller** provided additional information and a question and answer period ensued.

***ACTION: A motion was presented by Richard Anderson and seconded to approve a request for \$10,000.00 for the Redfish Tracking Project and Don Ball School curriculum and redfish tracking tags, field supplies, and printing costs***

*for curriculum development. Following a discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.*

- #2 – Charlotte County Extension/Florida Sea Grant (\$30,000) – **Betty Staugler** presented a summary of her request for staff support for the Artificial Reef other Sea Grant related Programs stating that an assistant is a vital need for these programs.

***ACTION:** A motion was presented by Dave Rubin and seconded by Jay Buckley to approve the request for \$30,000.00 for staff support for the Artificial Reef Program and other Sea Grant related programs. Following a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

- #3 – Charlotte County Extension/Florida Sea Grant (\$107,000) – **Bob Hebert** provided opening comments and **Betty Staugler** clarified this is for Phase 1 of the Blueways Study and is an update to the Marine Access Study done in 1997 and the Marine Use Regulatory Study done in 1996. Further information was provided and a discussion ensued. A decision was made to table this request until later in the meeting.
- #4 – North West Port Charlotte Waterway MSBU/Public Works (\$127,000) – **Tara Musselman** provided an overview and answered questions regarding a proposal for hazard removal from Markham and Bayview Waterways. **Dawn Harrison** addressed additional questions and provided further information.

***ACTION:** A motion was presented by Bill Bergman and seconded by Scott Schermerhorn to reject the proposal for hazard removal from Markham Waterway and Bayview Waterway. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously to reject the proposal.*

- #5 – Hayward MSBU/Public Works (\$80,000) – **Tara Musselman** provided details regarding a request for additional funding for the dredging of the Hayward Canal access channel. Following a discussion, the request was tabled for later in the meeting to allow time for **Ms. Musselman** to obtain additional information.
- #6 – City of Punta Gorda – (\$266,000) – **Randy Brodersen** presented information and answered questions regarding the City's request for the installation of floating docks for loading and unloading, for boaters utilizing the city boat ramp, and to be used as day docks.

***ACTION:** A motion was presented by Skip Mansfield and seconded by Jay Buckley to accept the City of Punta Gorda's request for the installation of floating docks. A discussion ensued.*

***ACTION:** A motion was presented by Bob Leonard and seconded by Dave Rubin to amend the amount of funds allocated in the previous motion from \$266,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Following a discussion, the motion was rescinded.*

**ACTION:** *Bob Leonard amended his motion to allocate funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the installation of floating docks. Following a second, a vote to amend the motion resulted in a tie.*

*Discussion continued. The vote was called again and the motion to amend the motion to the allocated amount of \$100,000.00 passed 10-9. A vote was taken to approve the recommendation of \$100,000.00 to the City of Punta Gorda for the installation of floating docks and passed unanimously.*

- #7- Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center – (\$10,000) – **Bob Hebert** explained the request is to fund CHEC's ongoing water-based educational programs.

**ACTION:** *A motion was presented to accept the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's request of \$10,000.00 to fund ongoing water-based educational programs. Following a second, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.*

**Bob Hebert** announced the amount of funds still available for allocation and discussion returned to Project #3, Phase 1, of the Charlotte County Blueways Study. **Betty Staugler** introduced **Roxann Read** who spoke on the update to the Comprehensive Plan and the importance of a current Blueways Study as this moves forward.

**ACTION:** *A motion was presented by Ray Rose to approve the request for Phase 1 of the Charlotte County Blueways Study, and was seconded by Dick Anderson. A discussion ensued. Bill Bergman pointed out that only \$86,500.00 is available for allocation. The motion was rescinded and discussion continued.*

**ACTION:** *David Rubin presented a motion to approve Charlotte County's Sea Grant application for \$86,500.00, seconded by Dick Anderson. Further discussion continued. A vote was taken and the motion failed.*

**Bill Bergman** stated he would like to see this addressed on the next agenda and requested Ms. Staugler to invite Bob Swett to present additional information at the next meeting.

The request for funds to dredge the Hayward Canal access channel was readdressed and **Tara Musselman** provided additional information.

**ACTION:** *A motion was presented by Tom Hamilton to approve the request for \$80,000.00 for the dredging of the Hayward Canal Access Channel. The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.*

**Bob Hebert** provided a summary of all recommendations for the Board and advised of the account balances remaining. Discussion continued. **Bob Hebert** reminded the Committee the final decision for funding is at the discretion of the BCC.

***ACTION: Tom Hamilton made a motion to request additional applications for surplus funds. Dave Rubin seconded and a discussion ensued. A vote was taken and the motion was denied.***

*(Dick Anderson left the meeting at 11:58am)*

*PGBA - (Keep a Clear Head)*

**Chair Blago** introduced Murray Thorndycraft from the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance who provided a brief history and discussed various special projects including the Keep a Clear Head Program and Boater Reward Cards. Members were presented with a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Make a Difference; Keep a Clear Head." **Betty Staugler** added additional comments regarding funding and announced she will bring cards for distribution at the next meeting.

**Don McCormick** commented on the initiatives the City of Punta Gorda is taking for boating and stated he believes it will be beneficial for the entire Harbor area. He stated Punta Gorda will use the money wisely for the benefit of all boaters in Charlotte County and he thanked the Committee for their recommendation of \$100,000.00.

**Lt. Andrew Kolba** thanked the Committee for the opportunity he has had to work with them and announced he will be transferring to a new assignment. He introduced Corporal Dave Stephanini and stated the Marine Unit will be under the command of Captain Ron Chandler beginning in January. Contact information was provided.

**Chair Blago** advised the remaining portion of the meeting would be conducted out of order and invited any other audience members to come forward.

**Al Yeno** made known the results of a grant awarded last year to the Coast Guard Aux-FL9-2 for Boater's Guides to the Myakka River and provided members with copies of same.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**Tara Musselman** reported that signs have been installed on the markers in Alligator Creek.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Bob Leonard** reported on the sunken dock in Pirate Harbor and confirmed the dock has finally been removed. **Tom Hamilton** suggested a report be written documenting the efforts put forth.

***ACTION: Chair Blago entertained a motion, seconded by Maurice Sabourin, to appoint Bob Leonard and Tom Hamilton to write a brief chronology study of the efforts put forth to have the sunken dock removed from Pirate Harbor. Following a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.***

**IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Nothing further was reported.

**X. NEXT MEETING**

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 9:30a.m., Room B106.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 9:30a.m., in Room B106.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 12:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary