

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Charlotte County Administration Center, Room B106

Minutes
January 8, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Robert Leonard
Capt. Tim Lynch
Paul Marcuzzo

STAFF

Commissioner Dick Loftus
Bob Hebert, Administration
Tara Musselman, Public Works
Matthew Cohen, Asst. County Attorney
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent
Roxann Read, Growth Management
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Keith Buechel
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda
Don McCormick, City of Punta Gorda
John Kennedy, P.G. Police Department

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

Chair Blago called the January 8, 2009, **Marine Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:37a.m. 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 **Richard Anderson** to accept the December 11, 2008, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. Following a second by **Tony Tonz**, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Public Works Update

Tara Musselman provided updates 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, South Gulf Cove, and Suncoast Waterway. A question and answer period followed.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Blago welcomed Commissioner Loftus and advised a permanent Commission Liason has not yet been assigned. **Commissioner Loftus** made opening comments and advised that although his attendance is not permanent, he feels the work MAC does is very important and he will remain available to provide assistance in any way he can.

Commissioner Loftus responded to **Mel Staudmyer** about the disposition of the Sea Plane Manufacturer at the airport and stated Economic Development is focusing on the project. **Skip Mansfield** inquired about population problems and noise.

A member of the audience asked **Commissioner Loftus** about pursuing uniform canal depth through-out the area. It was confirmed a blanket dredging permit is in place and a discussion ensued. **Chair Blago** advised that most of the dredging is controlled by the state and any changes come from the state level. He suggested Tara Musselman be contacted for further information.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Port Charlotte Yacht Club Vacancy

Chair Blago announced Dave Rubin has resigned his position as representative for the Port Charlotte Yacht Club and introduced applicant, **Keith Buechel**. **Mr. Buechel** provided members with background information, including information on the Yacht Club and stated he has been recommended by the Commodore as Mr. Rubin's replacement. **Chair Blago** asked **Mr. Buechel** to leave the room and a vote was taken.

ACTION: Skip Mansfield made a motion to recommend Keith Buechel as Representative of the Port Charlotte Yacht Club. Seconded by Mel Staudmyer, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Buechel returned and was welcomed by Committee.

Budget Discussion

Bob Hebert confirmed the new budget cycled has started and new applications have been added to the County website. Recommendations that were provided at the last meeting were brought to WCIND and they are in the process of rewarding those requests. When completed, they will be presented to the BCC for adoption/approval.

Mr. Hebert addressed questions about supplemental funds and stated that although funds for the new cycle will not be available until October; current year supplemental funds will be available as soon as approved by the Board. Further discussion continued.

Elizabeth Staugler provided members with Boater Alert cards and an update was provided on the Pump-Out Reward Card program. The first place prize will be awarded at the Miami International Boat Show in February. **Len Harris** added additional comments and **Chair Blago** congratulated Sea Grant and the City of Punta Gorda, adding that this is an excellent program.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Blueways Study – Bob Swett

Bob Swett offered opening remarks and presented members with a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Boating Access Study:

- Goals
- Project Objectives
- Question and Answer Period

ACTION: *A motion was made by Mel Staudmyer and Seconded by Dick Anderson to recommend funding the updating of the Blueways Study for \$107,000.00 to Charlotte County. Following a discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried 14-2.*

Punta Gorda Presentation on Day Docks

Chair Blago introduced **Councilman Don McCormick** and **Randy Brodersen**, City of Punta Gorda who provided members with a PowerPoint presentation on the Lashley Park Municipal Marina:

- Historical Pictures and Data
- Proposed Docks
- Westerly Side of Marina Basin
- Lashley Marina Basin
- Marina Building
- Future Projected Projects
- Proposed Marina Improvements
- Open Air Pavilions
- Bathroom Improvements
- Parking
- Lashley Crab House Restaurant
- Facilities Under Construction
- Newly Constructed Band Shell
- Question and Answer Period

ACTION: *A motion was made by Skip Mansfield and seconded by Tom Hamilton to recommend allocating an additional \$50,000.00 to assist in the Floating Dock Program. Following a discussion, Tom Hamilton withdrew his second and the motion was withdrawn. Richard Anderson made a motion to allocate an additional \$100,000.00 for Day Docks and the motion was seconded by Capt. Jay Buckley. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Len Harris invited **Randy Brodersen** to provide an update at the February meeting.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS - None

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Blago responded to an inquiry from **Maurice Sabourin** about slow speed zones stating this request was removed by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee.

Tom Hamilton inquired about a petition that was issued by the Save the Manatee Club to

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increase Manatee Zones. **Chair Blago** confirmed this was a request, not a petition and advised Manatee activity will be closely monitored.

Bob Hebert responded to **Len Harris'** concerns regarding dredging proposals and commented on the deadline for next year's budget proposals.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 9:30a.m., Room B106.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 9:30a.m., in Room 119.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:24a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary