

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

Minutes
February 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Capt. Ron Blago, Chair
Len Harris, Vice Chair
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary
William Bergman
Capt. Jay Buckley
Keith Buechel
Tom Hamilton
William Kumm
Robert Leonard
Capt. Tim Lynch
Skip Mansfield
Fred Mesler
Raymond Rose
Mel Staudmyer
Scott Schermerhorn
Anthony Tonz
John Homer Fleming

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Richard Anderson
Richard Johnson
Paul Marcuzzo
Maurice Sabourin

STAFF

Tara Musselman, Public Works
David Milligan, Parks and Recreation
William Taylor, Budget
Matthew Cohen, Assistant County Attorney
Kelly Shoemaker, Interim Parks and Rec Director
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Waterways
Chuck Witzke, Buena Vista MSBU

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

Chair Blago called the February 12, 2009, **Marine Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:30 a.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.

Keith Buechel was welcomed as the newest member and representative of the Port Charlotte Yacht Club. **Chair Blago** advised of an upcoming Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation, MAC, and Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee and requested members think about agenda items they would like to see discussed as this will be addressed later in the meeting. Information was also provided regarding the Palm Island No-Wake Zone.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **Len Harris** to accept the January 8, 2009, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. Following a second by **Mel Staudmyer**, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

MSBU 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, Stump Pass, and Suncoast Waterway. A question and answer period followed.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Blago made known that MAC does not yet have a Liason assigned by the Board of County Commissioners. He stated he proposed a compromise suggestion to Commissioner Duffy that each Commissioner rotate and take two (2) meetings per year rather than having one permanent Liaison assigned to the Committee.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Sunrise Waterway Beach Complex Issue

Chair provided background information regarding the conflict concerning the Sunrise Waterway and the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. **Tara Musselman** presented members with a PowerPoint presentation:

- 1993 - 2008 Aerial Photographs
- Costs and Funding
- Geographic Information

Ms. Musselman advised she would like to request additional funds for dredging. **Chuck Witzke** presented members with handouts showing a water view of the peninsula. **Ms. Musselman** addressed members' questions and concerns and stated she will submit all paperwork later today. She added this problem would still be an issue even if the beaches had not been re-nourished. **Mr. Witzke** provided additional information and addressed questions from members regarding previous dredging. **Chair Blago** stated this is a multifaceted problem and MAC will be looking at both short term and long term solutions.

David Milligan provided background information and mentioned an area at Ft. Myers Beach that is experiencing a similar situation. He discussed beach re-nourishment projects as well as current problems with erosion and confirmed FEMA has already approved an additional small re-nourishing project. He stated this is not just a re-nourishment problem but rather a beach erosion problem with focus on protecting existing structures. Additional questions were addressed and a discussion ensued. **Mr. Witzke** pointed out problems with sand in the parking lot and was told a portion of the funds are for the planting of vegetation along the parking area to create a natural dune.

ACTION: Tom Hamilton made a motion to allocate \$17,718.00 to go toward the dredging of this channel. Tony Tonz seconded and a discussion followed. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Budget Discussion

Chair Blago introduced Bob Hebert's replacement, **Bill Taylor**, who will be providing updates and assisting with budget allocations this year. **Mr. Taylor** presented financial information regarding funds carried forward from the present year, stating \$134,000.00 is available from WCIND and \$29,500.00 from local Boater Improvement funds. These figures are contingent on the Board's decision concerning the mid-year proposals and will be heard in the next few weeks following approval from WCIND. He confirmed Seven (7) applications have been received for the upcoming FY 2009-2010 and spreadsheets were then provided for review. Members were also reminded of Sunshine rules and regulations.

At **Chair Blago's** request, **Mr. Taylor** approximated new funding of \$600,000 from WCIND and a total of \$345,000 from the Boater Improvement fund, regular and local, to be available for allocations in the upcoming year. **Len Harris** confirmed the \$17,718.00 allocated earlier in the meeting will be deducted from the \$134,000.00 available from WCIND. A discussion ensued. **Mr. Taylor** stated the applications for WCIND total \$373,500.00; the total for Boater Improvement Fund – Retained is \$160,000.00; and the total for Boater Improvement Fund – Local is \$116,000.00.

An inquiry was made about the possibility of opening requests for funding. Mr. Taylor thought this might be a possibility but was unsure without further investigation. **Bill Bergman** confirmed money can be allocated at anytime as long as there is money available for reserves and the requests have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners. **Tara Musselman** reminded the Committee that she will be submitting an additional request later today and voiced concerns that there appears to be more allocations than available funds. **Chair Blago** explained the procedure for the funding process and stated it can be very difficult for new requests to be added into the budget. He reiterated Mr. Bergman's statement that applicants would have the opportunity to make requests during the year if there are funds available.

Mel Staudmyer inquired about allocations listed on the spreadsheet for Abandoned Vessels and Sea Grant Support and was told these are permanently occurring items.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Update – Day Docks

Chair Blago presented background information and introduced **Randy Brodersen** who provided an update on the progress of the day docks project and the anticipated timeline for completion.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Blago led a discussion regarding the upcoming Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation, the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee, and the Marine Advisory Committee. Members offered input regarding agenda items they would like to see discussed. **Kelly Shoemaker** addressed **Mr. Bergman's** concerns about the Cattleman Boat Docks and said she would be happy to address this further at the Joint Meeting. Additional suggestions were offered and the floor was opened to members of the audience. **Chuck Witzke** mentioned kayak and boating access concerns he would like to see discussed. **Chair Blago** recognized a need for the civilian management of kayaks in the Bluewater Trail and suggested kayak organizations be invited to attend the meeting. He added the date for this meeting has not been finalized but he will suggest it be scheduled for a Thursday.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Robert Leonard announced the Coastal Conservation Association Banquet will take place next Thursday at the Event Center.

Chair Blago stated the next Committee meeting is for allocation of the budget and reminded members to read the appropriations and be prepared to ask questions.

Gerald Meckenberg asked members to review the updated Member List included in the meeting packet for accuracy.

Chair Blago advised all future Pre-agenda meetings will be held in Room B106.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 9:30a.m., Room B106.
The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at 9:30a.m., in Room 119.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:58a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary