

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

Minutes
March 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Capt. Ron Blago, Chair
Len Harris, Vice Chair
Gerald Meckenberg,
Secretary
William Bergman
Capt. Jay Buckley
Keith Buechel
Tom Hamilton
Richard Johnson
William Kumm
Robert Leonard
Capt. Tim Lynch
Paul Marcuzzo
Raymond Rose
Maurice Sabourin
Mel Staudmyer
Scott Schermerhorn
John Homer Fleming

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Richard Anderson
Skip Mansfield
Fred Mesler
Anthony Tonz

STAFF

Tara Musselman, Public Works
William Taylor, Budget
Andy Stevens, Natural Resources
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation
Roger DeBruler, Jr., EES
Matthew Cohen, Assistant County Attorney
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Waterways
Ron Ludvig, Peace River Sail & Power
Squadron

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

Chair Blago called the March 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. **Chair Blago** reported a Commission Liaison has still not been assigned to the Committee. He has been advised to write a letter reminding them of their obligations to appoint a liaison and stated he will accomplish this within the next month.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **William Bergman** to accept the February 12, 2009, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. Following a second, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Roger DeBruler introduced himself and provided information on the upcoming Crab Trap Cleanup Project, the Derelict Vessel Program and the Artificial Reef Program. **Keith Buechel** inquired about costs to the County regarding the two sunken vessels that were reclaimed by their owners and was told the owners came forward before the process occurred and the county was not charged. **Len Harris** asked about the location of the Crab Trap Cleanup and was told it would be held in the Peace River area. Further discussion ensued.

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, South Gulf Cove, Suncoast Waterway, and Stump Pass. A question and answer period followed. **Ms. Musselman** advised additional information regarding Pirate Harbor, Stump Pass, and the area that was restricted from power boat usage on Manchester Waterway will be forthcoming.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Sunrise Waterway Beach Complex Issue

Chair Blago provided a brief update on the background of the issue and stated they are looking for effective solutions to mitigate costs. He made known a Joint Advisory Board meeting has been scheduled for April 1, 2009. **Mel Staudmyer** suggested Chuck Mopps be invited to attend the meeting. **Mike Koenig** advised they have not had any discussion regarding additional staff but he did not see a problem inviting Mr. Mopps. **Ms. Musselman** confirmed a Scope of Services was previously submitted. **Keith Buechel** inquired about the location of the meeting and was told the meeting is being set by Parks and Recreation and details will be forthcoming. **Bill Bergman** asked that parking information also included in the informational packet.

Budget Discussion

Andy Stevens announced he has been assigned to replace Mr. Hebert as County Liason and will be working in conjunction with Bill Taylor. **Chair Blago** inquired about the supplemental budget and was told this would be heard by the Board of County Commissioners at their next meeting.

(Scott Schermerhorn arrived at 9:51a.m.)

Mr. Stevens responded to questions regarding allocations and provided a detailed explanation of the applications for the FY 2010 budget. **Chair Blago** confirmed the items did not need to be voted on today but stated the timeline for completion is no later than June of this year.

ACTION: Bill Bergman presented a motion to put forth discussion of the items but to delay the vote until the final amount of supplemental funds is known. Len Harris seconded. Following a discussion, the vote was taken. The motion passed 14-2. (Scott Schermerhorn and Chair Blago opposed)

Chair Blago advised the applications FY2010 would be presented for discussion and the following items were reviewed:

Item #1, Charlotte County Extension - \$15,000.00 - Misc. expenditures/supplies for Sea Grant boat and truck. – There was no discussion.

Item #2, Charlotte County Public Works - \$200,000.00 – Straightening of the Alligator Creek “S” Curve. **Tara Musselman** presented the request and discussion followed.

Item #3, Charlotte County Public Works - \$5,000.00 – Annual funding for the Alligator Bay Education Program which operates in conjunction with CHEC and is for school age children. **Tara Musselman** presented the request and discussion followed.

Item #4, Civil Air Patrol - \$11,500.00 – To help finance costs of operating aircraft on five Sundown Patrols each week. **Andy Stevens** presented the request on behalf of the Civil Air Patrol and discussion followed.

Item #5, Peace River Sail & Power Squadron - \$1,500.00 – To aid in the purchase of materials to teach boaters safety courses to students. **Ron Ludvig** presented the request and discussion followed.

Item #6, Charlotte County Parks and Recreation Cultural Resources - \$400,000.00 – Construction of a new boat ramp in West County. **Mike Koenig** presented the request. Following discussion, **Mr. Koenig** suggested the request be reduced to \$313,500.00.

Item #7, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center - \$17,000.00 – To provide boat-based environmental education programs for citizens of Charlotte County. **Andy Stevens** presented the request on behalf of CHEC. There was no further discussion.

Item #8, Charlotte County Public Works – \$55,000.00 – For a study of the Port Charlotte Beach shoaling issue for the boat ramp – **Tara Musselman** presented the request and discussion followed.

Chair Blago announced all requests have now been addressed. **Bob Leonard** asked if a copy could be obtained showing a list of all previously allocated funds. **Chair Blago**

confirmed there would be additional funds available if requests are modified by the Commission at the March meeting. **Attorney Cohen** reinforced the information already stated and added additional comments.

Program Assistant Funding

Andy Stevens provided a brief update on tasks performed by the Program Assistant and spoke on position funding. He stressed the importance of continuing the Artificial Reef Program and Abandoned Vessel Boat Program. Changes in County positions and a projection of costs were discussed. **Bill Bergman** inquired about salary and benefit needs for this position and stated he would not like to see this become a permanent situation. **Chair Blago** added additional comments and stated he also hopes this is only a temporary situation for Charlotte County. Discussion continued regarding establishing this as a one year allocation. **Chair Blago** reminded the committee funds have already been approved as a line item to fund the Derelict Boat Program. **Mr. Stevens** confirmed it is being reviewed by the Board as a line item but Administration would like this reviewed on an annual basis for submittal to the BCC. **Scott Schermerhorn** commented there was some argument to be made regarding the negative impacts of not funding the request. Further questions were addressed regarding the Abandoned Boat Program and **Bob Leonard** spoke on the importance of sustaining the program. **Chair Blago** asked for direction in writing a letter to the Board.

***ACTION:** Ray Rose presented a Motion that the letter to the Board of County Commissioners express the Committee's support to approve a request to finance the Program Assistant position to Sea Grant from Boater Improvement Funds (BIF) for a one (1) year period with a review in comparison to the County's financial situation in following years for determination as to the degree of support. This was seconded by Jay Buckley. Following a discussion, the motion was amended to say the Committee will recommend supporting the request to finance the Program Assistant position to Sea Grant from Boater Improvement Funds (BIF) on an emergency basis but not to make it a line item. Jay Buckley revised his second and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chair Blago confirmed he will draft a letter this afternoon.

Parks and Recreation Joint Meeting

Chair Blago encouraged all members to attend the meeting. **Mike Koenig** confirmed the meeting will be held at 1:00pm on April 1st at the Pt. Charlotte Beach Complex and will coincide with the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. **Len Harris** asked **Mr. Koenig** if he could provide a list of projects that have been funded by MAC but haven't gone forward. **Chair Blago** requested the agenda be made available in a timely manner and was told the agenda is anticipated to be available as early as next week. **Mr. Koenig** offered to provide a copy of the agenda via email and discussed topics that are planned for discussion.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Update – Day Docks

Randy Brodersen stated the survey was received yesterday for the Day Docks and they are proceeding with the design. Chair stated this will be heard before the Board on March 24th and suggested all interested parties attend.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ray Rose suggested the agenda be modified to allow public officials to speak at the beginning of each meeting. **Chair Blago** stated the meeting follows a specific format but asked that he be informed at the beginning of a meeting when guests need to have the agenda adjusted and he would accommodate them.

Tara Musselman advised the total cost to date for Pirate Harbor, for just Coastal Engineering, is \$94,252.00. This does not include internal labor costs which are not yet available. She made known her budget needs to be submitted in two (2) weeks and asked for direction with regard to the Committee's decision. **Bill Bergman** stated the amount of available funds is contingent on approval of the Supplement Budget. **Chair Blago** stated a decisive decision cannot be made until they vote next month and suggested Ms. Musselman pole members after the meeting.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Blago advised the Pre-Agenda meeting next month will be held at the Charlotte Beach Complex before the Joint Advisory Board Meeting.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2009 at 12:00 at the Charlotte Beach Complex.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary