

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

Minutes
April 9, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Capt. Ron Blago, Chair
Len Harris, Vice Chair
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary
Richard Anderson
William Bergman
Capt. Jay Buckley
Keith Buechel
John Homer Fleming
Tom Hamilton
William Kumm
Capt. Tim Lynch
Fred Mesler
Raymond Rose
Mel Staudmyer

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Richard Johnson
Robert Leonard
Skip Mansfield
Maurice Sabourin
Scott Schermerhorn
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
Claire Phelen, ACWC

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
Chair Blago called the April 9, 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.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A motion was presented by **Dick Anderson** and seconded by **Keith Buechel** to accept the March 12, 2009, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. 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, South Gulf Cove, and Stump Pass. **Capt. Ron** confirmed the Stump Pass dredging is scheduled for November.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Blago advised a Commissioner has been assigned to the Committee but has a schedule conflict and meetings will be unattended until this is either resolved or another Commissioner is assigned.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Discussion and Funding Requests

Bill Taylor provided background information regarding the status of the supplemental funding requests submitted to the Board. **Andy Stevens** offered additional information and discussed the results of a recent budget workshop. **Tom Hamilton** inquired about issues pertaining to the Day Docks and a request for restrooms at Spring Lake. **Mel Staudmyer** made inquiries about the possibility of allowing MAC to initiate applications for funding rather than having them come from an outside organization and the steps that could be taken to accomplish this.

Andy Stevens announced an additional request was received from Parks and Recreation for restrooms at Spring Lake Park for \$100,000.00. **Mike Koenig** presented the request and addressed questions from members. **Andy Stevens** confirmed the request would be part of the Supplemental Budget and **Bill Taylor** provided additional information. A discussion ensued.

ACTION: Tom Hamilton presented a motion that restrooms at Spring Lake Park be considered as one of the projects for the current year's budget. Capt. Jay Buckley seconded. Following further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Andy Stevens reviewed the following funding requests for FY 2010:

Item #1, Charlotte County Extension - \$15,000.00 – Misc. expenditures and supplies for Sea Grant boat and truck.

Item #2, Charlotte County Public Works - \$200,000.00 – Straightening of the Alligator Creek “S” Curve.

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. This meets an environmental benefit required of the County because of the Manchester Lock removal project.

Item #4, Civil Air Patrol - \$11,500.00 – To help finance costs of operating aircraft on five Sundown Patrols each week.

Item #5, Peace River Sail & Power Squadron - \$1,500.00 – To aid in the purchase of materials to teach boaters safety courses to students.

Item #6, Charlotte County Parks and Recreation Cultural Resources - \$400,000.00 – Construction of a new boat ramp in Bay Heights Park. A second request will be made for the same amount in FY 2011.

Item #7, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center - \$17,000.00 – To provide boat-based environmental education programs for citizens of Charlotte County with the primary focus on 4th graders.

Item #8, Charlotte County Public Works – \$55,000.00 – For a study to find the best way to keep beach sands from shifting into the channel at the Charlotte County Beach Park/Boat Ramp.

Item #9 – The additional item would be \$100,000.00 for Spring Lake restrooms.

A question and answer period followed. **Claire Phelen**, Chair of the Alligator Creek Waterway Committee, presented information regarding the request for straightening the “S” curve at Alligator Creek. **Tara Musselman** addressed additional questions.

***ACTION:** A motion was presented by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Keith Buechel, that all items be approved in mass including the addition of \$100,000.00 for the Spring Lake Restrooms. Following a discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.*

Mel Staudmyer relayed information to **Mike Koenig** regarding a project discussed at the recent Parks and Recreation Joint meeting.

Len Harris led a discussion concerning a request for a list of uncompleted projects funded by MAC as discussed at the last meeting.

Gerald Meckenberg inquired about a previous discussion regarding standardized designs for boat ramps.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Update – Day Docks

Randy Brodersen thanked the Committee on behalf of the City of Punta Gorda for their recommendation concerning the bathrooms. He stated the design for the day docks has been completed and checks have been issued for the permits.

Update – Parks and Recreation Joint Meeting

Chair Blago provided an overview of the meeting and the topics discussed, specifically kayaking. **Mike Koenig** addressed a question from **Bill Bergman** regarding Kayaking launch areas. **Mel Staudmyer** stated it was his understanding the Commission has put a hold on all CIP projects for boaters but is allowing kayak and canoe projects to move forward. **Chair Blago** advised he has suggested that each advisory committee take turns hosting the joint meetings in the future. He feels these meetings are very helpful and would like to see them continue.

Supplemental Budget Update

Nothing further was discussed.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Marcuzzo Resignation

Chair Blago announced Paul Marcuzzo has notified the Committee and his organization that he has resigned. A recommendation for his replacement will be forthcoming.

Informational Packet Mailing

Chair Blago advised the County is implementing a paperless system and has requested all advisory boards be provided informational packets digitally rather than by mail. He requested that all parties who wish to continue receiving packets provide their email address to the Recording Secretary. **Len Harris** brought up the issue of large file attachments and suggested overheads be used to view large files during the meetings. **Chair Blago** suggested emailing the agenda and the supplemental material as two separate files. **Dick Anderson** made known he does not have a computer. **Bob Leonard** felt it was a reasonable request that individuals without computers be mailed packets. **Capt. Jay Buckley** mentioned concerns **Commissioner Starr** had regarding wireless connections and the ability to use personal computers. **Mike Koenig** confirmed the County is working to correct wi-fi issues and also suggested using the library to view and print documents from a public access computer. **Chair Blago** commented on the possibility of posting the agenda at the library.

Water Quality Speaker

Chair Blago addressed a representative from the DEP regarding water quality and stated a speaker will be invited to present at the June meeting.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER - None

X. NEXT MEETING

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 9:30a.m., Room B106. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at 9:30a.m., in Room 119.

Chair Blago commented on problems the City of Venice has had with Sunshine Law Violations and **expressed** concern that the courts could subpoena members' personal computers. He stated Sarasota County Advisory Board members have been assigned email addresses which they have been instructed to use for all advisory related correspondence. **Attorney Cohen** was asked if Charlotte County would consider doing the same and advised he will present this idea to the Board for consideration.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:44a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

/jms