

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Charlotte County Administration Center, Room B-106**

**Minutes**  
**December 10, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

Tara Musselman, Public Works  
Andy Stevens, Env. & Ext. Services  
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation  
Roger DeBruler, Env. & Ext. Services  
Derek Rooney, Assistant County Attorney  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

Mary McMurray, FDEP/CHAP  
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda  
Don McCormick, City of Punta Gorda  
Michael Poff, CEC  
Jamie Cohlmeier, CEC  
Capt. Steve Samuels

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Richard Anderson  
William Kumm  
Skip Mansfield  
Fred Mesler

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**  
**Chair Blago** called the December 10, 2009, **Marine Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:34a.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** advised of changes to the agenda.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was presented by **Bill Bergman** and seconded by **Len Harris** to accept the November 12, 2009, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. Following a second, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS - None**

**VI. REGULAR BUSINESS**

*MSBU 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, and Pirate Harbor. Ms. Musselman advised that Michael Poff would provide an update on Stump Pass.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

*Update on Day Docks*

**Chair Blago** announced that he was impressed with the outcome of the project and that it was a beautiful facility which will be an advantage to all the people of Charlotte County. He pointed out that MAC contributed Boaters Funds into the Laishley Marine Project and advised there have been questions about the management of that facility. **Bill Bergman** reported that he recently met with the City Manager of Punta Gorda and commented on concerns he had regarding the criteria for using WCIND funds.

**Don McCormick** provided introductory remarks and presented members with information on the Day Docks and the Laishley Park Facilities. He pointed out that they have a lease from the State of Florida for the submerged lands which necessitates that they run a public facility with equal access for all. Information was offered regarding operations of the facility and it was confirmed a long term contract has been signed with Smugglers, Inc. as the operators of the Marina. **Mr. McCormick** added that no special requirements are needed for fishing tournaments and he provided contact information for additional information. A question and answer period ensued and concerns were addressed.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

*Stump Pass Update*

**Chair Blago** introduced **Michael Poff** who presented members with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Charlotte County Erosion Control Project:

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Historical Recap
- ❖ Project Features Map
- ❖ 2003 Construction - Restore 1980 Channel
- ❖ 2003 Initial Construction

- ❖ 2993 Ground Photographs, Manasota Key
- ❖ Knight Island, July 19, 2003
- ❖ 2006 Post-Storm Recovery
- ❖ Manasota Key State Park
- ❖ Knight Island Gulf Front
- ❖ 2009 Post-Storm Recovery & Maintenance Project
- ❖ Project Components
- ❖ Knight Island North – Erosion Analysis\*\*
- ❖ 2006 Design Templates
- ❖ 2009 Design Templates
- ❖ Funding Summary (2001-2010)
- ❖ Path Forward
- ❖ Manasota Key Profile Comparisons
- ❖ Stump Pass Surveys (2006-2009)
- ❖ Stump Pass Survey Comparison
- ❖ The Future
- ❖ Acknowledgments

A question and answer period followed and **Mr. Poff** addressed members' comments and concerns.

*Sunrise Waterway Update*

Next, **Jamie Cohlmeier** presented members with a short PowerPoint presentation regarding the Sunrise Waterway:

- ❖ Project Location Map for Coastal Engineering Consultant Projects with Public Works
- ❖ Port Charlotte Beach Park
- ❖ Sunrise Waterway and Charlotte County Beach Park Shoaling Project
- ❖ Port Charlotte Beach Park Alternatives
- ❖ Permitting Sunrise Waterway

A question and answer period followed and **Mr. Cohlmeier** addressed members' comments and concerns.

**Mr. Poff** confirmed a web conference will be conducted tomorrow with officials in Tallahassee.

*El Jobean Ramp Status*

**Michael Koenig** provided members with a handout and presented an update on the status of the El Jobean Ramp. He stated the bid plans can be found on the County website and advised of the dates for the upcoming Pre-Bid Conference and Bid Opening. **Mr. Koenig** made known that, although it will be improved, provide better usage, and reduce maintenance costs, the ramp would not be two-lanes.

**Mr. Koenig** also stated the Director of Parks and Recreation will be sending a

formal request for the Marine Advisory Committee to provide three (3) members to assist with consultations on the Bay Heights Boat Ramp. **Chair Blago** inquired about facilities and it was confirmed there will not be a flush toilet. **Mr. Koenig** spoke on previous efforts to obtain more space and advised of upcoming events. **Tara Musselman** confirmed that the amount of parking spaces will be increased from fifteen (15) to eighteen (18). **Mr. Koenig** pointed out that, in addition to the Marine Advisory Committee, this project is also funded by parking fees.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### *Budget Update*

**Andy Stevens** announced that the WCIND funds are available for FY2010 and advised that the Channel Navigational Improvement Funds can be applied for at any time during the year. He further advised of the upcoming budget hearings and the deadline to receive applications for WCIND and Boater Improvement Funds. **Ms. Musselman** added additional information regarding the timeline. **Bill Bergman** spoke on procedures. **Chair Blago** suggested anyone seeking grants begin the process in January as the vote is anticipated to take place in March, 2010.

At **Chair Blago's** request, **Mr. Stevens** provided an update on water quality issues. A meeting will be scheduled with the Department of Environmental Protection to weigh the options' of reclassification methods and this is scheduled to go before their Board in February. He advised that he has asked the DEP to present at a future meeting.

### *Riviera Marina Update – Mary McMurray*

This discussion was tabled for the February meeting.

### *Stump Pass Delay*

Nothing further was discussed.

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

### *Membership Re-Appointments*

**Gerald Meckenberg** made known that three (3) applicants have applied and submitted their resumes for the Member-at-Large seat. Following a review and an introduction of the candidates, a recommendation will be made by the Committee next month. Discussion continued regarding voting procedures.

**Len Harris** commented on Cody Vaughn Birch's resume and asked for clarification of his residency. **Chair Blago** discussed the required qualifications. **Mr. Meckenberg** mentioned that this information is also listed in the Committee Bi-Laws and provided members with a handout of the relevant page concerning this information. He also advised a letter of recommendation was received from Commodore Brown regarding the Port Charlotte Yacht Club vacancy and will be forwarded to the Board along with the results of the election next month. **Keith Buechel** said he would request the candidate to provide a resume if he has not already done so.

**XI. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Chair Blago** stated it was his feeling the Marine Advisory Committee should help the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with marine related matters. Discussion continued regarding the appointment of a MAC member(s) to act as a liaison between the two committees. **Mr. Buechel** reinforced this recommendation.

**Mel Staudmyer** asked about the status of the Palm Island Speed Zone. **Chair Blago** will try to determine the current status and whether anyone is still pursuing this. He will provide a report at the next meeting

**Roger DeBruler** thanked **Capt. Tim Lynch** for bringing to light information regarding a scam to sell advertising space in the Boaters' Guide. He stated the guides are funded by WCIND as well as other agencies and confirmed they are not selling advertisements. In addition, **Chair Blago** offered a special thanks to **Capt. Lynch** for pointing this out.

**Mr. Debruler** also provided an update on the Abandoned Vessels Program. He mentioned that funds are still available and confirmed that the artificial reefs are still being monitored. He offered to present a report at a future meeting regarding a fish count.

**Michael Poff** inquired further about the DEP's meeting to discuss water quality and commented on public interest criteria for projects the Committee is supporting in terms of funding DEP Studies.

**Bob Leonard** advised on the Department of Environmental Protection's request for a Notice of General Permit in Lee County for small dredging sites. He confirmed the request to use pole and troll zones as mitigation for dredging was denied.

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on January 7, 2010, at 9:30a.m., Room B-207. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 9:30a.m., in Room 119.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:31a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

/jms