

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 13, 2011
9:30 a.m.
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Chairman Len Harris called the January 13, 2011 Marine Advisory Committee meeting to order at 9:27 a.m. and led the members and audience in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called by Pamela Alexander, Clerk. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club
William Dixon, Vice Chairman – Punta Gorda Sailing Club
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary – Englewood U.S.C.G.A.
William Bergman – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club
Captain Ron Blago, Chairman – Member at Large
Captain Jay Buckley – City of Punta Gorda
Mike Conlon – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Ken Dieffenbach - Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
John Fleming – Member at Large
Charles Gertner, Pirate Harbor Yacht Club
Tom Hamilton – Isles Yacht Club
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club
Captain Tim Lynch – Palm Island Marina, Member-at-Large
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc.
Mel Staudmyer – Harbor Heights Yacht Club
Cody Vaughn-Birch – Member at Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas Donovan – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla Port Charlotte
Fred Mesler – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club (*resigned*)
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda
Captain Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large
Anthony Tonz – South Gulf Cove Yacht Club

GUESTS

Randy Brodersen - City of Punta Gorda
Dennis Murphy - City of Punta Gorda
Grace Amodeo – Manchester Advisory Committee

STAFF

Roger DeBruler – Community Services
Tara Musselman – Public Works
Andy Stevens – Community Services
Pamela J. Alexander – Recording Secretary

Regular Business

- On motion by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Chuck Gertner and carried unanimously, the Minutes of December 9, 2010 Marine Advisory Committee Meeting were approved as corrected (Page 5 – NEW BUSINESS – “The Company will be requesting funding from MAC.” Should Read: “The City of Punta Gorda will be requesting funding from MAC.”)



- CCMAC By-Law Revision Pre-Agenda Meeting: Derek Rooney, Assistant County Attorney, provided detailed information regarding the By-Law changes that were approved by the BOCC. They are similar to the 1997 By-Laws, which include an executive committee, consisting of the three officers, who will meet one week prior to the regular meetings to confirm the agenda; however, there is nothing to prevent members from adding items to the agenda during the course of the regular meetings. *Also see information under Commissioner Comments*
- MSBU Update: Tara Musselmann, Public Works, provided updates on the following:
 - Ackerman Waterway – No projects
 - Alligator Creek – Contractor is still on site dredging; new channel replacing the “s” curve is completed; new channel markers are already installed; dayboards will be installed next week; the northern 500 feet and the entrance to the Sea Edge Canal are complete; the contractor is completing some spot dredging; no additional information on the shoaling study is available at this time;
 - Harbour Heights – marine markers will be installed as soon as permit is received.
 - Hayward Canal – markers are being installed as permit was received yesterday and should be completed in approximately one month.
 - Lewis Creek and Manchester Waterway – additional spot dredging is taking place. The bid for this service has been “piggy-backed” onto a contract for hourly cost between the contractor and the City of Punta

Gorda. A request for service will be provided, along with GPS coordinates; an estimate obtained; a Purchase Order pulled and the dredging will be performed.

- Northwest Port Charlotte – Coastal is seeking permits to provide better access into the Myakka River. This is part of the regional waterway management study being conducted by WCIND.
- Peace River Shores, Pirate Harbor, South Bridge – no new information
- South Gulf Cove at Trout Creek (breach) – Bids for this work were opened on December 8, 2010. Honc Marine Construction is low bidder and will be attending the pre-construction meeting later today.
- Stump Pass – all work is proceeding as outlined during last month's meeting. Additional discussion ensued.

I. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bob Star reported that the MAC pre-agenda meeting was approved by Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their Jan 11, 2011 meeting. He recommended that as many members attend as possible. He wished all a Happy New Year.

A question was raised regarding an anticipated date when the manatee protection plan will be presented to the BOCC. Andy Stevens discussed the Manatee Committee's recommendations and the procedures that will be followed. Following a meeting with each of the Commissioners individually, it is hoped that the item will be on the Agenda for the BOCC sometime in February. Discussion ensued.

II. New Business

- City of Punta Gorda Presentation - Harborwalk West Project: Mike Giardullo of Weiler Engineering was present to answer questions. He advised that Dennis Murphy of the City of Punta Gorda was also present. The application packet was received by Andy Stevens within the last week. Funding for this project will be WCIND funds for a future year, with a 50-50 match. Permitting for the Project: The water management district has issued their permit; a Letter of Completion has been received from the Corps of Engineers and their permit should be completed in the next two (2) weeks; no FDEP permit is required; and, the City's Development Review Committee has approved the project. The funding being requested is only for the non-motorized vessel launch portion of the project. \$103,000 is being requested from MAC and will include repairs to the seawall. Funding will not be available until October 2011.

- Budget Discussion Update 2010- 2011 - Andy Stevens, Community Services, distributed documents containing budget information. He discussed the various classifications for which WCIND funding may be provided.
- Budget 2011-2012, Schedule, Funding Update - Andy Stevens, provided additional information for budgeting next fiscal year: \$440,000 is anticipated to be available in October 2011. Funds not expended last year automatically roll over into a navigation fund and can only be used for navigation projects. This does not include boat removal. \$200,000 is the approximate current balance of the navigation fund. He stated that so far, only two (2) applications have been received but many more are anticipated. ****Applications should be submitted as soon as possible for staff review in mid to late February.**** These applications will then be reviewed and approved by the MAC at the March meeting. Discussion ensued on both budget presentations.

III. Old Business

- Manatee Committee Update: **Also see above under Commissioner Comments**
Tom Hamilton added information to this update. Discussion ensued regarding requesting input from all stakeholders in the boating community, including MAC and Parks & Rec. and others as may be appropriate. Commissioner Starr wants as much input as possible so that he may make an informed decision when voting on the formal manatee protection plan. Cody Vaughan-Birch suggested that the same program used by Growth Management be used to allow public comment on the web regarding the proposal. There are state guidelines for creating a plan. The vote by the BOCC will be whether to develop a plan, not the plan itself. The plan will take several of years to formalize.
- Stump Pass Re-Dredge Negotiations Planning:
Tara Musselmann discussed this project. A new permit will be sought rather than an extension of the current permit. She assured the MAC members that she will keep them updated as this process moves forward.
- Goals & Objectives:
Discussion was held in abeyance at the October 2010 meeting, as only three (3) recommendations were submitted. Cody Vaughan-Birch submitted a draft of suggested goals & objectives which he compiled from the three that had been submitted. Tom Hamilton suggested that #5 under first goal & #2 under the 2nd goal as they are not under the control of MAC. Captain Ron Blago stated that it should be the sole prerogative of the Chairman to set priority and goals, as they do change. They should be addressed on a monthly basis. Bill Bergman agreed with Captain Blago. He felt that some things are out of the control of this Committee. He would rather see a broader picture than included in the submitted document. Commissioner Starr stated that the committee does most of the items listed anyway. He felt that having them written down provides structure and flexibility. It serves as a roadmap to where you want to go. Ken

Dieffenbach felt it was a way for a member to learn the goals of the committee. Ray Rose suggested that anyone receiving funding should have to report on the project following completion. Cody Vaughan-Birch explained his submittal. It was based on the information provided by two of the other members following the October 2010 meeting. Chuck Gertner believes that we need objectives and goals and that they would change as time goes on and situations change. Mel Staudmyer suggested that #1 under objectives should be struck. Chairman Harris stated that many of the items were taken from the information he provided. He added his suggested modifications, including project status for those projects previously funded. Jay Buckley

Commissioner Starr suggested the Committee obtain a consensus that the members want goals and objectives and if so, re-draft the document and vote on it at the next meeting.

Motion by Capt. Ron Blago and seconded by Mel Staudmyer that it is the sole purview of the Chair to set priorities and goals. Motion passed on a vote of nine (9) in favor to six (6) against. The Chairman did not vote.

Mel Staudmyer showed the members his Orientation Book which was distributed to each member outlining the goals and objectives of the Marine Advisory Committee.

The Chairman will provide a Goals & Objectives document at the next meeting.

11:05:01 AM Commissioner Starr left the meeting.

IV. Other Business

- It was requested that DEP have a member of their staff provide an update on Riviera Marina at the next regular meeting of MAC, as this has been an ongoing project for several years. Tara Musselman will contact DEP. The Clerk was requested to obtain a copy of the 2007 recommendation from the MAC to the BOCC in regard to Riviera Marina

V. Citizen Comments

Roger DeBruler of Community Services provided the following information:

- A proposal is going out to build additional artificial reefs near the Palm Island Ferry.
- Eleven (11) abandoned vessels have been removed and two (2) more were found this morning
- Florida Master Naturalist program is in its second class for this year. It is for the freshwater wetlands. Class is full and has a waiting list.

Grace Amodeo, a citizen and a representative of the Manchester Advisory Committee, suggested adding language stating that all Committee members and citizens are invited to attend the pre-agenda meetings.

Randy Broderson, from City of Punta Gorda, provided update on the day docks. They are done and in. The fire extinguishers are missing. In regard to the mooring field, they are still awaiting the agreement from Fish & Wildlife. A copy is being sent to US Fish & Wildlife and one to the City for signatures in an effort to expedite the process. Contractor is ready to begin. It was noted that this is the east mooring field.

Dennis Murphy, from the City of Punta Gorda, updated the Committee regarding the walkway behind the Best Western – Best Western has agreed to pay for walkway behind the hotel but will work with the City. Weiler Engineering will provide an estimate for the cost of construction and reimburse the City over a five-year period. The City is planning to go over the water with a 10-ft wide walkway. Once the agreement is signed Weiler will begin the permitting process for the walkway. Once the walkway is completed the Best Western will seek funding for the marina and the submerged land lease for the west mooring field and they will be managing the west mooring field as part of the project. Mr. Murphy also expressed his appreciation for the work of MAC in conjunction with the non-motorized boat launch area.

VI. Good of the order

Tom Hamilton raised a question about a news story regarding a possible solution for Stump Pass. Clerk, Pam Alexander, advised that this was a presentation made to the Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee at their regular meeting Thursday, January 6, 2011. She has a copy of their DVD in the records from that meeting and will provide it to the Chairman for review prior to the next MAC meeting. Tara Musselman advised that Public Works has not made any recommendations regarding this technology and the MAC may want to wait before making any decisions.

VII. Next Meeting

- The pre-agenda meeting will be held Thursday February 3, 2010 at 9.30am Conference Room B207 (****update following the close of the meeting: Pre-Agenda Meeting will now be held in the Building Construction Services Conference Room****)

- Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2010 at 9:30 am in Room 119

VIII. Adjournment Motion made, seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33:37 AM