

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY  
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**April 14, 2011**

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Len Harris at 9:29.a.m. He then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary called the Roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club  
Captain Ron Blago, Chairman – Member at Large  
Captain Jay Buckley – City of Punta Gorda  
Douglas Donovan - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor  
John Fleming – Member at Large  
Charles Gertner, Pirate Harbor Yacht Club  
Tom Hamilton – Isles Yacht Club  
Tom Ireland, South Gulf Cove Yacht Club  
Captain Tim Lynch – Palm Island Marina, Member-at-Large  
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda  
Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club  
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc.  
Cody Vaughn-Birch – Member at Large

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Ken Dieffenbach - Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida  
William Dixon – Punta Gorda Sailing Club  
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club  
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary – Englewood USCGA

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mike Conlon – Port Charlotte Yacht Club  
Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large  
Mel Staudmyer – Harbour Heights Yacht Club

**STAFF**

Andy Stevens – Natural Resources  
Diane Quilty – Budget & Administrative Services  
Tara Musselman – Public Works  
Debrah Forester, Economic Development Office  
Roger Warner – Charlotte Count Facilities  
Pam Alexander – Administrative Assistant II

## GUESTS

Grace Amodeo – Manchester Waterway Advisory Committee

Brian Gleason, Charlotte Harbor Regatta

Roger Strube – Coral Ridge Condo Association

Two representatives of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (who did not sign in)

Garland Wilson – nominee to fill vacancy - Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Starr had a conflict and was unable to attend.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- On motion by Jay Buckley, seconded by Maurice Sabourin and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the March 10, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.
- MSBU Update  
Tara Musselman read her report into the record (see attached)
- Budget Applications –  
Andy Stevens reminded the Committee that 17 applications were originally submitted. Seven (7) of the applications were approved at the March 10<sup>th</sup> MAC meeting. The remaining applications will be discussed and action taken today. Mr. Stevens also advised that a modified application was submitted by Brian Gleason on behalf of the IFDS Championships. Dianne Quilty of the Budget Office again provided an interactive spreadsheet.

Following some discussion, it was decided to vote on the applications from the request for the lowest dollar amount to the highest.

- a. **ITEM #16.** Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center – maintenance and repairs to the Fiesta Pontoon Boat - \$5931  
***ACTION: On motion made by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Jay Buckley and carried unanimously, this application was approved in the amount of \$5931 for the maintenance and repairs to the Fiesta Pontoon Boat.***
- b. **ITEM #15.** Charlotte County Community Services – Coral Creek Blueway Trail markers permitting to mitigate navigational hazards - \$7500.  
***ACTION: On motion made by Cody Vaughan-Birch, seconded by Tom Hamilton and carried unanimously, this application was approved in the amount of \$7500 for Coral Creek Blueway Trail markers permitting to mitigate navigational hazards.***
- c. **ITEM #13.** Boca Grande Fire Control District – boat operator training - \$11,130

**ACTION:** On motion made by Douglas Donovan, seconded by Maurice Sabourin and carried unanimously, this application was denied in the amount of \$11,130 for boat operator training for Fire/EMS personnel. Training which would be more beneficial and at a lesser cost is available elsewhere.

- d. **ITEM #11.** Charlotte County Community Services, Parks & Natural Resources Division – Parking Expansion at Placida Boat Ramp - \$15,000.  
**ACTION:** On motion made by Cody Vaughan-Birch, seconded by Tom Hamilton and carried unanimously, this application was approved in the amount of \$15,000 for the Parking Expansion at Placida Boat Ramp.
- e. **ITEM #10.** Charlotte County Community Services, Parks & Natural Resources Division – Evaluation of the structural integrity of the El Jobean, Placida and Boca Grande fishing piers – \$15,000.  
**ACTION:** On motion made by Cody Vaughan-Birch, seconded by Tom Hamilton and carried unanimously, this application was approved in the amount of \$15,000 for the Evaluation of the structural integrity of the El Jobean, Placida and Boca Grande fishing piers.
- f. ~~ITEM #6.~~ Charlotte Harbor Regatta – Stage the 2012 IFDS World Disabled Boating Championships – \$20,000  
and  
~~ITEM #7.~~ Charlotte Harbor Regatta – Rental of Hoists and Lifts in conjunction with the IFDS Championships – \$20,000

Brian Gleason presented updated information regarding his modified request. **Items 6 and 7** (above) are being withdrawn and a request in the amount of \$50,000 for funding to cover 50% of the cost for materials to construct floating docks was presented. The presentation included a cost estimate and photographs. Much discussion ensued.

**ACTION:** Motion made by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Jay Buckley, to approve this application in the amount of \$50,000 for 50% of the cost of materials to construct temporary floating docks for the IFDS Championships in 2012. Motion carried on a vote of seven (7) to five (5), with Ron Blago, Jay Buckley, Douglas Donovan, Tom Ireland, Raymond Rose, Maurice Sabourin and Tom Hamilton in the affirmative; and, Chuck Gertner, Tim Lynch, Mike Quinn, Cody Vaughan-Birch and John Fleming dissenting.

Chairman Len Harris confirmed with Mr. Gleason that the permitting process for the use of the proposed location for the event has not been completed. Chairman Harris then requested that Mr. Gleason attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Marine

Advisory Committee in September 2011, to provide an update on the status of the permitting process and a timeline for the overall project.

- g. **ITEM #5.** Charlotte County Sheriff's Office – Boat engine replacement - \$54,000.

**ACTION:** Motion made by Mike Quinn, seconded by Douglas Donovan to deny this application in the amount of \$54,000 for boat engine replacement. The motion passed on a vote of seven (7) to five (5) with Ron Blago, Jay Buckley, Douglas Donovan, John Fleming, Tom Ireland, Tim Lynch and Mike Quinn in the affirmative and Cody Vaughan-Birch, Raymond Rose, Tom Hamilton, Chuck Gertner and Maurice Sabourin dissenting. \*\*\*see below for additional action.

**ACTION ITEM:** On motion by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Chuck Gertner and carried unanimously the funding previously approved by the MAC for the Abandoned Vessels program was reduced by \$25,000. This amount was returned to the Budget.

**ACTION ITEM:** On motion by Mike Quinn, seconded by Cody Vaughan-Birch and carried unanimously, the annual expenditure for maintenance and aids to navigation from WCIND will be reduced by \$80,000. These funds will be placed in the CNIF Budget, where the beginning balance next year will be \$40,000.

- h. **ITEM #2.** Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency – Beach Launch for kayaks and small sailboats as part of Phase I of the Harborwalk Project - \$268,658.

**ACTION:** On motion made by Cody Vaughan-Birch, seconded by Douglas Donovan and carried unanimously, this application was approved in the amount of \$200,000 from BIF Retained Funds and \$68,000 from WCIND funds for the Beach Launch for kayaks and small sailboats as part of Phase I of the Harborwalk Project.

Chairman Len Harris confirmed with Ms. Forrester that the permitting process is now approximately 90% completed. He asked that Ms. Forester plan to attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee in September 2011 to provide an update on the status of the project.

- i. **ITEM #1.** Charlotte County Community Services – Construction of the Cattedock Boat Ramp - \$400,000. Roger Warner, Project Manager presented updated information. Discussion ensued.

**ACTION:** On motion made by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Ron Blago, this application was approved in the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of the Cattedock Boat Ramp. The motion carried on a vote of ten (10) to two (2), with Cody Vaughan-Birch and Mike Quinn dissenting.

Chairman Harris stated that as of this date, the permits for this project have not been submitted. He asked that Project Manager, Roger Warner, attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee in September 2011 to provide an update on the status of the project.

**\*\*\*additional action**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- ***Cody Vaughan-Birch made a motion to reconsider the funding for the engine replacement requested by the Sheriff's Office. Motion died for lack of a second and a Point of Order that the motion for reconsideration should be made by a member of the prevailing side of the original vote.***
- ***Motion by Raymond Rose, seconded by Tom Ireland to fund \$30,000 to fund the boat engine replacement for the Sheriff's Office was denied on a vote of four (4) in favor [Cody Vaughan-Birch, Raymond Rose, Chuck Gertner and Tom Ireland]; and eight (8) dissenting [Ron Blago, Mike Quinn, Jay Buckley, Douglas Donovan, John Fleming, Tom Hamilton, Tim Lynch, and Maurice Sabourin.]***

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Due to the recent resignation of Fred Mesler of the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club, Garland Wilson was recommended by his organization and was interviewed at this time.  
***On motion by Jay Buckley, seconded by Tom Ireland, and carried unanimously, Garland Wilson was approved to replace Fred Mesler. His name will be forwarded to the BCC for confirmation.***
- Dredging Proposal: this item was removed from the agenda by the Chairman.
- Chairman Len Harris and Andy Stevens of Natural Resources updated the committee Discussion of Joint Meeting with Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee held April 6, 2011 at the Port Charlotte Beach facility. MAC did have a quorum and voted 10-0 supporting the request to the addition of Charlotte County to the Regional Impact Study being conducted by the Corps of Engineers regarding the effects of phosphate mining.
- Manatee Committee Update  
The County and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission are being assigned tasks and will provide updated information at the MAC meeting in May.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

NONE

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

NONE

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chairman Harris reminded the membership that the Proclamation naming May, 2011 as Safe Boating Month will be presented at the regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. and invited all to attend.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman provided the following information regarding upcoming meetings:

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 9.30 a.m. in the Building Construction Services Conference Room, 18400 Murdock Circle
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Ron Blago, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander  
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on May 12, 2011

Len Harris, Chairman  
Marine Advisory Committee