

**MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 12, 2012**

Chairman Len Harris called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc.
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary – Englewood U.S.C.G.A.
Captain Ron Blago – Member at Large
George Bobko – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Ken Dieffenbach – Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
William Dixon – Punta Gorda Sailing Club
Jake Dye – Isles Yacht Club
John Homer Fleming – Member at Large
Charles Gertner – Pirate Harbor Yacht Club
Tom Ireland – South Gulf Cove Yacht Club
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club
Captain Tim Lynch – Member-at-Large
Herman Novak – City of Punta Gorda
Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda
Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large
Mel Staudmyer – Harbour Heights Yacht Club
Cody Vaughn-Birch – Member at Large
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
Vacancy - Isles Yacht Club

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Douglas Donovan - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF

Dianne Quilty – Fiscal Services
Andy Stevens – Community Services
Tara Musselman, Community Development
Pam Alexander – Administrative Assistant II

GUESTS

Randy Broderson – City of Punta Gorda

Chairman Harris extended a welcome to the two new members.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Starr expressed his appreciation for 2011 being a good year. He felt the funding recommendations were proper. He advised the membership to continue to do what you do and wished all a Happy New Year.

Regular Business

A. On motion by Tom Ireland, seconded by George Bobko and carried unanimously, the of the Minutes of Pre-Agenda meeting on January 5, 2012 were approved as presented.

B. On motion by Tom Ireland, seconded by Chuck Gertner and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Regular MAC Meeting on December 8, 2011 were approved as presented.

C. Tara Musselman read her MSBU Update report into the record. (see attached) –

D. Stump Pass Update – Andy Stevens

Coastal Engineering was the top-ranked firm for the Stump Pass 10-Yr Management Program/Permit; a management plan and evaluation of some type of structure is included as well as dredging. The existing permit expires in 2013. Captain Blago wondered about any possible rule changes that may impact this process. WCIND has been instrumental in providing resources and assistance to keep the pass open and throughout the permitting process.

New Business

A. Andy Stevens provided an update on the Lee County Blueways and Trails presentation at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting on January 4, 2012. He stated that their budget near \$1.5 million. Andy further stated some citizens were unhappy about the signage the MAC funded for Coral Creek. He said that his department would be reviewing alternatives such as GPS points and Smart Phone usage.

B. Boca Grande Trestle Update – Andy Stevens

WCIND website has the bid information for the removal of a 100-ft section and to securing pilings. The bid closes next Thursday. It is anticipated that a fulltime barge and crane will move material to temporary storage site (\ parking lot) and will then be transported to Landfill. It is possible that some materials may be sold as landscaping to reduce costs. It is anticipated that the contractor will be on site in approximately 3 weeks following award of the contract. WCIND will oversee the project as a cost-saving measure. Sea grasses cannot be damaged and there is language in contract regarding that. Stabilization is the main function of this contract. Future evaluations of the trestle will take place in the future.

Old Business

A. Recommended Discussion was held regarding the proposal by a concerned citizen at the December 8, 2011 meeting regarding the need for “slow speed zones”. A member of the Natural Resources staff will evaluate the area and report at a future meeting. Captain Tim Lynch advised that there have been no speeding accidents at Palm Island although there have been some close calls

B. Dianne Quilty reported that the recently MAC-approved request submitted by the Punta Gorda Police Department for an underwater metal detector was removed from the list submitted to the BCC for approval by the County Attorney’s Office. Their research revealed that the request did not meeting the requirements of the statute for funding. The proposals for the Side-scan sonar and additional funding for CHEC are before BCC on January 24, 2012.

Other Business

Dianne Quilty, Fiscal Services Division, advised that the 2012-2013 applications will be on website within 1-2 weeks and a notification memo will be sent to all interested parties. The same level of funding as current year is anticipated. Funding requests will be submitted to MAC at the March meeting.

Captain Ron Blago reminded all of the importance of this review and approval process. He would like requests all to be submitted at same time.

Andy Stevens is to coordinate with Pam to assure that funding guidelines are available on County website for new members to review prior to the March meeting. Discussion ensued.

Citizen Comments

None

Good of the Order

Commissioner Starr stated that

- The Lee County Greenways trails are funded in part by \$42 million in bed tax and tourist taxes. Obviously Charlotte County doesn’t have the funds to match their program but it is something to strive for.
 - The International Handicapped Sailing Regatta was awesome. The floating docks were absolutely necessary.
 - Dr. Mark Asperilla now has a Sports Authority in Charlotte County.
 - Cal Ripkin’s event may be a draw to increase revenues
 - Larger counties have the right to charge more/different taxes.
 - Birding is also a draw for tourists
 - Tourism will increase substantially over next 2 yrs
 - Muscle Car City is a huge draw also.
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- All need to be able to refer their patrons to other venues in Charlotte County.

Captain Ron Blago stated that boating and fishing is the core of tourism here should be given to each member for the foresight to fund the regatta.

Chairman Harris confirmed that we can reallocate funding for signage for the blueway trails to tourism in the future

Next Meeting

- The next Joint Meeting of the Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Shores and Marine Advisory Committees will be held February 1, 2012 at the Port Charlotte Beach at 1:00 pm
- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 9.30 a.m. in Room B-109 in the Finance Section.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

Adjournment

On motion by Jake Dye, seconded by Raymond Rose and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.