

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club
Raymond Rose, Vice Chairman – Peace River Squadron, Inc.
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary – Englewood U.S.C.G.A.
Captain Ron Blago – Member at Large
Sarah Buck – Punta Gorda Sailing Club
Ken Dieffenbach – Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
Douglas Donovan - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor
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

VACANCIES

Harbour Heights Yacht Club

MEMBERS EXCUSED

George Bobko – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cody Vaughn-Birch – Member at Large

STAFF

Roger DeBruler, Jr. – Community Services, Parks & Natural Resources
Dianne Quilty – Fiscal Services

STAFF (continued)

Andy Stevens – Natural Resources
Tara Musselman, Community Development
Pam Alexander – Administrative Assistant II
Roger Warner – Project Manager

GUESTS

Mark Gehring, City of Punta Gorda
Randy Broderson – City of Punta Gorda
Betty Staugler, SeaGrant
Captain Les Parkington – CCSO
David Stefanini – CCSO
Jim Thomson – CHEC
?? – Power Squadron
Chief – Boca Grande Fire

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Starr extended a welcome to new member, Sarah Buck and suggested that the MAC move forward with regular business, as there number of items to be

Regular Business

- A. On motion by Tom Ireland, seconded by Chuck Gertner, and carried unanimously, the minutes were approved as presented.

- B. On motion by Mike Quinn, seconded by Captain Maurice Sabourin, and carried unanimously, the minutes were approved as presented

- C. On motion by Mike Quinn, seconded by Jake Dye, and carried unanimously, the Minutes of regular meeting on February 9, 2012 were approved as presented

- D. Tara Musselman read her MSBU update into the record (copy attached). Discussion ensued. Tara advised that staff was still investigating the speed zones at the Marina. Len Harris requested that Tara arrange for DEP to present an update on Riviera Marina at the May 10, 2012 meeting.

- E. Andy Stevens provided an Update on Stump Pass and the Boca Grande Trestle: He reported that as part of the Stump Pass Permit, 4 acres is to be set aside for nesting seasons (turtles and birds). This area was at Stump Pass and is now on Palm Island. The cost for loosening the sand for this project is approximately \$4100. Coastal Engineering is working on the new 10-year plan. The materials are currently being removed from the trestle and, if the weather is good, it should be completed in 2 – 3 weeks.

New Business

A. Chairman Harris addressed attendance issues. He reminded all to send an e-mail to the Clerk and outline the reason for your absence. Additional discussion regarding violations of the attendance policy will be held later in the meeting.

Review Funding Applications

ONGOING PROJECTS:

a. **Charlotte County Community Services, Parks and Natural Resources Division** – Abandoned Vessel Removal from County Waterways - **\$100,000**

On motion by Scott Schermerhorn, seconded by Mike Quinn, and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$100,000.

b. **Charlotte County Public Works** – Stump Pass Dredging /Renourishment - **\$150,000**

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the funds, once approved. There is a concern that if placed in the MSTU or MSBU, that a portion of it may be expended for administrative costs of the Unit(s). The allocation is to be used only toward paying down the debt. Commissioner Starr suggested that a specific account/fund be established for these funds to assure that no administrative costs are applied. There was a delay on the vote until later in the meeting, pending answers to the questions. These questions apply to both Items “B” and “C”. Per Dianne Quilty, Fiscal Services, these two items (“B” and “C”) are broken out due to their funding sources.

c. **Charlotte County Public Works** – Stump Pass Dredging /Renourishment - **\$50,000**

On motion by Mike Quinn, seconded by Scott Schermerhorn and carried unanimously, both requests were APPROVED in the amounts of \$150,000 and \$50,000 subject to the funds being segregated so that they are not subjected to administrative costs. This caveat is also to be applied to the current year’s approved funding for these items.

d. **Charlotte County Public Works** – Maintenance and aids to navigation - ~~**\$150,000**~~ Chairman Harris noted that this is a typographical error. The amount requested for this item is **\$40,000**

On motion by William Kumm, seconded by Captain Maurice Sabourin and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$40,000.

e. **Charlotte County Community Services, Parks and Natural Resources Division** – Coastal Programs Assistant - **\$53,000**

On motion by Scott Schermerhorn, seconded by Chuck Gertner and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$53,000

f. **Charlotte County Community Services, Parks and Natural Resources Division** – Miscellaneous expenditures and supplies for Parker Pontoon Boat and 2002 Ford 1-ton truck - **\$10,000**

It should be noted that this vessel is NOT a pontoon boat. Historical data was utilized to arrive at this amount

On motion by Scott Schermerhorn, seconded by Mike Quinn, and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$10,000

- g. **Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension/Flora Sea Grant – Miscellaneous Expenditures/Supplies Related To Water Based Operations And Outreach Activities - \$10,000**

On motion by Sarah Buck, seconded by Ken Dieffenbach, and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$10,000

NEW APPLICATIONS:

Howard Kunik, City Manager for the City of Punta Gorda shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Items “S” and “T” below. First, he advised that they are withdrawing their request for \$200,000 for the West Mooring Field. The City feels that the area originally scheduled for that project will now be used as “natural anchorage” for boats. It is also anticipated that in less than two years they will have a pump-out boat for use in the East Mooring Field. (A CD of this presentation was provided for the record). See BELOW for the related motion.

- h. **Charlotte County Community Services, Parks and Natural Resources Division – Artificial Reef Construction and Monitoring - \$50,000**

Roger DeBruler advised that he has tons of concrete to upgrade current off-shore reefs. An RFP will be put out for this project this year. They are no plans at this time to permit any new reefs.

On motion by Captain Ron Blago, seconded by Chuck Gertner, and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$50,000

- i. **Civil Air Patrol - Charlotte County Composite Squadron – To Offset Some Costs Of Operating Aircraft On Four (4) Sundown Patrols Each Week - \$12,500**

On motion by Sarah Buck, seconded by Jake Dye, and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$12,500.

- j. **Peace River Sail & Power Squadron (PRSPS) – To Reduce The Cost Of Materials For Students Thereby Hopefully Increasing The Number Of County Residents That Attend Safe Boating Courses And Seminars - \$3,000**

No one was in attendance to make a formal presentation regarding this application. Action on this item is deferred to the April 12, 2012 meeting. Andy Stevens was asked to contact them and invite them and request a report of their activities for the last two years.

- k. **Charlotte County Community Services – To Continue Marking Charlotte County’s Blueways – Phase II (Central) - \$24,000**

On motion by Chuck Gertner, seconded by Raymond Rose, and carried on a vote of fifteen (15) to two (2) the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$24,000.

- I. **Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center** – Boat-Based, Environmental Education Programs For Citizens Of Charlotte County, With Focus On 4th-Graders, Teachers And Chaperones (Estimated 112 Board Tours); Waterway Clean-Up Programs; Maintenance And Operation Of Two Vessels: 2004 29-Ft Fiesta Pontoon Boat And 2008 26-Ft Fiesta And Trailer - **\$26,100**

On motion by Doug Donovan, seconded by Sarah Buck, and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$26,100.

- m. **Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center** – Outboard Engine Replacement On The 2004 25-Ft Fiesta Pontoon Boat - **\$10,189**

On motion by Mike Quinn, seconded by Jake Dye and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$10,189.

Captain Les Parkington of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office narrated a video/audio presentation in support of their requests for funding. Discussion ensued.

- n. **Charlotte County Sheriff's Office** – Funding To Cover 14 Shifts To Pay Extra Manpower For Holidays And Special Events Which Will Enhance Patrols On Water And At County Boat Ramps During Large Events - **\$5,000**

Sarah Buck made a motion to DENY the request as submitted. It was seconded by Chuck Gertner, and carried on a vote of sixteen (16) in favor and one (1) against.

- o. **Charlotte County Sheriff's Office** – Replace Antiquated Equipment for The Dive Team: BCDs; Masks; Dive Tanks - **\$9,130** Discussion ensued.

Mike Quinn made a motion to not approve the request as submitted. It was seconded by Jake Dye. The Motion FAILED on a vote of eight (8) in favor and nine (9) against.

William Kumm made a motion to APPROVE the request as submitted. It was seconded by Doug Donovan. The motion CARRIED on a vote of nine (9) in favor and eight (8) against in the amount of \$9,130.

- p. **Charlotte County Sheriff's Office** –Fuel for Volunteer Boat Patrols - **\$30,000** The SO has 2 boats and approximately 60 volunteers. Discussion ensued.

William Kumm made a motion to approve the funding request as submitted. It was seconded by Jake Dye. This Motion FAILED on a vote of 2 in favor and 15 against.

- q. **Charlotte County Sheriff's Office** – Replace Motors on Two Patrol Boats - **\$30,000** Discussion ensued.

Chuck Gertner made Motion to approve the request as submitted. It was seconded by Mike Quinn. The motion FAILED on a vote of five (5) in favor and twelve (12) against.

- r. **Charlotte County Sheriff's Office** – Replace Aging Electronics on Two Primary Patrol Boats Used for Patrol, Search and Rescue - **\$17,360**
Discussion ensued.

Doug Donovan made a Motion to approve the request as submitted. It was seconded by Captain Maurice Sabourin. The motion FAILED on a vote of eight (8) in favor and nine (9) against.

- s. **City of Punta Gorda** – Provide ADA compliance shore access to Gilchrist Park for dinghies and small sail boats through dredging of the existing small boat basin located at the Punta Gorda Boat Club - **\$175,000** (\$150,000–dredging; \$15,000–installation of floating docks; \$10,000 ramp and connection to shore) Discussion ensued regarding: tourism, power boat activities vs. activities for non-motorized vessels, etc. Dianne Quilty of the County Fiscal Services Office advised that funding for this request is not coming out of boater registration funds.

On motion by William Kumm, seconded by Herman Novak, and carried unanimously, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$175,000.

- t. **City of Punta Gorda** – Design and permitting costs for the establishment of a 62-ball mooring field within the National Estuary Boundaries adjacent to Gilchrist Park - **\$200,000**

This request was formally WITHDRAWN at the meeting by City Manager, Howard Kunik.

Member, Mike Quinn, left the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and was not present for the vote on Item “U” below.

- u. **Boca Grande Fire District** – Enhance Capabilities; Upgrade Operator Safety; Help Protect the Boat from the Elements - **\$3414.80** Discussion ensued.

Doug Donovan made a motion to approve the request as submitted. It was seconded by Tom Ireland. The Motion carried on a vote of ten (10) in favor and six (6) against, the request was APPROVED in the amount of \$3414.80

Following the review of the funding requests, Chairman Harris advised that the County Attorney's Office advised that the communication from Garland Wilson regarding his comments on these requests should be included as part of the Minutes.

Old Business

None

Other Business

Chairman Harris brought to the attention of the membership that here was a minor correction needed to the By Laws for the MAC so that they conform to the establishing legislation.

On motion by William Kumm, seconded by Sarah Buck, and carried unanimously, the recommended change in the language of the By-Laws to read Fiscal Year rather than calendar year in order to conform to the language of the establishing legislation was approved. This information is to be forwarded to Derek Rooney in the Office of the County Attorney.

Citizen Comments

As a member of the general public and a taxpayer, Tara Musselman spoke regarding the remaining balance of \$250,000+ following the approvals today. While understanding that it is the discretion of the Committee to make the recommendations for approval, she feels that many items could and should have been funded, if only in an effort to preclude an increase in taxes for all of Charlotte County.

Good of the Order

None

Next Meeting

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 9.30 a.m. the Building Construction Services Conference Room.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

Adjournment

On motion by, William Kumm, seconded by Scott Schermerhorn and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on April 12, 2012

Len Harris, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee