

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 10, 2012

18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Chairman Len Harris 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 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 –U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 87 Englewood
Captain Ron Blago – Member at Large
George Bobko – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Sarah Buck – Punta Gorda Sailing Club
Ken Dieffenbach – Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
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
Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club
Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large (arrived late)

VACANCIES

Harbour Heights Yacht Club

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Herman Novak – City of Punta Gorda
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

RESIGNATIONS

Douglas Donovan - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor
Cody Vaughn-Birch – Member at Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda

STAFF

Tara Musselman, Community Development
Diane Quilty, Fiscal Services
Andy Stevens, Community Services

GUESTS

Randy Broderson, City of Punta Gorda
Dennis Peck, CHCSC
John MacDonald, Punta Gorda Youth Sailing
Dan, Bebak, MOTE Marine Laboratories
Grace Amodeo, citizen

Changes to the Agenda

NONE

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Starr discussed the recent MAC recommendations for funding to the Board of County Commissioners. He advised that the membership should not let their rulings deter them from making decisions. Based upon the knowledge of the members, their opinions and determinations are greatly valued. He told the members to keep doing what they do and that the BCC made their decisions based upon the information presented and the Sheriff's request.

Regular Business

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

B. On motion by Chuck Gertner, seconded by Jake Dye, and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 12, 2012 were approved as presented

C. Tara Musselman read her MSBU Update into the record (see attached) and provided additional updates: Harbour Heights will be completed today; under Stump Pass, "work" means working on the Management Plan. This information will be clarified on future reports. It is anticipated that the new permit application will be approved prior to the expiration of the current one, or at least an extension granted to the current one.

Betty Staugler, Florida SeaGrant, updated the group on the status of various channels in Charlotte County. She advised that they have been identified based upon WCIND statutory authority. DEP requested additional maps for these channels. MBSUs were added to the report and subsequently removed because it was slowing down the DEP permitting process. She anticipates that meetings between County staff, DEP and WCIND will commence soon. Additional discussion ensued.

Commissioner Starr advised that the County Administrator will be reviewing the MSBU funds which are inactive and will place them in a trust fund where no administrative services costs will be charged.

D. **Andy Stevens** provided an update on the Boca Grande Trestle project. The emergency work has been completed and the 100-ft section removed. An additional 60+ feet has also been removed. Some shallow areas near sea grass beds have been posted. Marine Contracting out of Punta Gorda has done a great job and found innovative ways to complete the removal and limit any negative impacts. Discussions are continuing regarding the military-grade steel portion of the trestle that remains. Monitoring of the condition of the trestle will be ongoing.

New Business

A. Harbour Heights Yacht Club submitted Richard Hoagland as the replacement for Mel Staudmyer. The members interviewed Mr. Hoagland. On motion by Raymond Rose, seconded by Tom Ireland, and carried unanimously, Mr. Hoagland's name will be submitted to the BCC for confirmation. It is anticipated that he will begin serving at the October MAC meeting.

B. Chairman Harris announced the resignation of Douglas Donovan, U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor. No name has been submitted as a replacement, however Clerk, Pam Alexander will make contact again.

C. Funding Applications

a. **Mote Marine Laboratory** – hire two new employees to staff the project and provide funds for operations at the new Punta Gorda facility - **\$85,000**

Dan Beback, Vice President of Aquarium and Special Projects for Mote Marine, made a presentation. This is one-time request to expand their education programs into the Charlotte County community. Many of these programs will be free or at a nominal charge. Marine research has been ongoing in the harbor for the last ten (10) years. There is no connection to the proposed facility in Punta Gorda. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Starr advised that he had attended a recent meeting of CHEC and learned that the funding for the 4th grade program was cancelled by the School Board for next year.

Betty Staugler spoke in favor of the funding as a representative of Florida Sea Grant. She stated that funding is currently available and that the application is time-sensitive.

On motion by Chuck Gertner, seconded by Jake Dye, and carried on a vote of nine (9) in favor and six (6) against, this funding request was APPROVED in the amount of \$85,000.

Commissioner Starr left the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m.

b. **Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing** – to purchase three (3) Club 420 sailboats, a trailer, dollies, cover and a lifting bridle in order to expand its program to include high-school-aged youth in instruction and regatta competition - **\$34,000**

John MacDonald of Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing Club delivered his presentation. Discussion ensued.

On motion by William Kumm, seconded by Sarah Buck and on a vote of three (3) in favor and twelve (12) against, this funding request was DENIED in the amount of \$34,000.

Dennis Peck of CHCSC reported on sailing programs for the disabled and expressed his appreciation for the funding of the floating docks.

D. At the request of the Chair, member Tom Ireland attended the regular meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee on Thursday, May 3, 2012. He reported on the presentation made by Michael Poff of Coastal Engineering regarding their proposals and activities regarding Stump Pass. Discussion ensued.

Old Business

A. Chairman Harris reported that Member-at-Large, Cody Vaughan-Birch, has forwarded correspondence to the County Attorney and resigned his position with the MAC as his new employment with the City of Fort Myers will not allow him to participate. His position will remain vacant until it expires in December, 2012. A replacement will be advertised in October, with voting at the November 2012 MAC meeting. The new Member-at-Large will begin serving in January 2013.

B. Discussion of BCC meeting on April 24, 2012 RE: funding applications from the Sheriff's Department.

C. Riviera Marine Litigation – Chairman Harris reported that a response was received from DEP staff advising that, since this issue is currently in litigation, they would be unable to address the Committee at this time. Discussion ensued.

Other Business

NONE

Citizen Comments

Grace Amodeo complimented the MAC members who spoke at the recent BCC meeting regarding the requests from the Sheriff's Office, stating that they "did a great job."

Good of the Order

NONE

Next Meeting

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 9.30 a.m. the Building Construction Services Conference Room.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119. Chairman Harris reported that he will be out of town for this meeting, but will be available via e-mail, if needed.

Adjournment

On motion by Chuck Gertner, seconded by George Bobko and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on June 14, 2012

Raymond Rose, Vice Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee