

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 14, 2013
Charlotte County Administration Center
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 the Secretary 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
Susan Bareither - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor
Captain Ron Blago – Member at Large
George Bobko – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Sarah Buck – Punta Gorda Sailing Club
Jay Buckley – Member at Large
Ken Dieffenbach – Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
Jake Dye – Isles Yacht Club
John Homer Fleming – Member at Large
Chuck Gertner – Pirate Harbor Yacht Club
Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights Yacht Club
Tom Ireland – South Gulf Cove Yacht Club
Captain Tim Lynch – Member-at-Large
Herman Novak – City of Punta Gorda
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda
Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large *
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club*

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club

MEMBERS ABSENT

NONE

STAFF

Charles Mopps, Community Development – Engineering
Richard Kolar, Financial Consultant – Fiscal Services
Roger DeBruler, Jr. – Parks and Natural Resources
Andy Stevens – Community Services
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch – BCC Liaison (correction)

GUESTS

Aly Busse – Mote Marine
Randy Broderson, City of Punta Gorda

Changes to the Agenda

NONE

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deutsch stated he received several responses following the Joint Meeting on February 6, 2013. He said there were about 30 regarding Stump Pass and all were positive; there were about 10 regarding the Mooring Field and all but 1 were positive.

Regular Business

On motion by Tom Ireland, seconded by Chuck Gertner and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting held on February 7, 2013 were approved as presented.

Due to computer problems, the Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 10, 2013 will be delayed until the March 7, 2013 meeting.

Charles Mopps previously submitted his MSBU Report to the Committee and is attached hereto. He provided a verbal update which included the following:

Ackerman/Manchester Waterway:

- a) Jason Ouimet successfully removed debris (aluminum pole) from the Knox Waterway. All other conditions are very adequate.
- b) Permit application is currently under review by staff for some additional dredging in the Ackerman and Manchester Waterways.

Northwest Port Charlotte:

Pre-Bid meeting was held yesterday to provide a 5' mean low water channel in all three Northwest Pt. Charlotte waterways. Bid Opening is scheduled for March 13th with the award scheduled for March 26th.

Pirate Harbor:

Bid opening was yesterday and BCC approval is scheduled for February 26th. Bid came in under the budgeted amount. Because the existing permit is scheduled to expire in the middle of March, the contractor expects to begin at the end of Yacht Club Boulevard on the 27th in order to complete the work.

Southbridge Waterway:

Work has begun on this project, with larger dredging equipment enroute.

South Gulf Cove:

Trimming has been completed and safety issues resolved.

Suncoast Waterway:

This Bid will also be heard at the BCC on the 26th. The Committee has agreed to borrow the funds necessary to complete this project.

Stump Pass:

Presentation was made at the Joint Meeting last week. Their initial recommendation and analysis results will be presented in April, and a full presentation to the BCC in May. This will be after the stakeholder meetings on Palm Island, etc.

Alligator Creek:

The mangrove trimming is currently underway.

Buena Vista Area Waterways:

Permit application is currently being reviewed by staff for Sunrise, Beeney, Elkcam and Gardner. It should be submitted next week.

Edgewater North: Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) is out for survey of this area for approximately 56,000 linear feet of canals.

Commissioner Deutsch reported that the BCC has given direction to aggressively seek funds to offset costs of Stump Pass and the suggested mooring fields. Charles Mopps reported that the initial grass application was completed by staff and the County's engineering consultant and is in Jason Stoltzfus' office for review. (the County's FEMA liaison).

Commissioner Deutsch complimented Andy Stevens and staff for the success of the regatta which was held last weekend.

****moved from Old Business below** Aly Busse, Director of Education of Mote Marine in Sarasota provided a most informative PowerPoint Presentation regarding the status of Mote Marine's expansion of their educational program into Charlotte County. (copy attached) She provided a short Q&A session following the presentation.

Quarterly Funding Update/Status of the Application Process:

Rich Kolar reported that CHEC had taken its full draw and that several applications for the 2013-14 fiscal year have been received. He provided a draft copy of the spread sheet listing the applicants, requested amounts and funding sources. The applications will be posted on the MAC website. Requests received after this will be taken on a first-come/first-served basis and only if funds remain available. There was some discussion regarding the applications. An historical review of CHEC was requested; Roger DeBruler was uncertain about the request received for the Matlacha Bridge; Andy Stevens and Rich Kolar will assure that all applications will be complete prior to presentation at the March 14, 2013 meeting and advise all applicants to be present at the meeting.

WCIND will be meeting March 1st and information will follow. The current budgeting policy is based upon 3.94 mills, which converts to approximately \$.5 million; BIF Local and BIF retained are anticipated to be about the same as currently which is another \$.5 million. Therefore, it is anticipated that there will be approximately \$1 million in new revenue and approximately \$300,000 carry over and \$200,000 in reserve.

Andy Stevens complimented Rich Kolar for all the work he put into preparing the information

New Business

Update/Discussion of Joint Meeting held on February 6, 2013

- There was a parliamentary issue regarding the vote by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, they had a quorum and a split vote, with two abstaining. The Vice Chairman then changed his vote on the motion and it was carried by majority vote.
- Ray Rose suggested that there be a U-shaped table with all members of all committees at the table.
- Ken Dieffenbach asked if there was a ruling regarding the parliamentary issue. Commissioner Deutsch did ask the County Attorney. He, however, did not really need a vote.
- Discussion ensued.

Chairman Len Harris, a representative included in the East-West Spring Lake Wastewater Expansion Pilot Program Stakeholder's Group reported on the meeting that was held on January 30, 2013. He provided the following information.

- Four meetings are scheduled with the Group and the day after each, there is a meeting with the general public.
- A feasibility study is being conducted
- There are approximately 1850 homes
- Average age of septic tanks is 30 years
- They are looking at a 20 year bond at 3%; grant funds are being sought to reduce the cost of any bond
- Estimated costs at this time is
 - \$10,000 for homeowner
 - \$6400 for vacant lot owner (with the remainder of the cost to be borne by the owner at the time a new home is constructed)
- It will be necessary to provide positive information to the public to assure they are onboard with this project
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation from that meeting is attached to and part of these Minutes.

Commissioner Deutsch provided additional information: This work MUST be done in accordance with an agreement with DEP when the permit to remove the Manchester Lock was approved. The BCC is making an effort to be as "user friendly" as possible during this project.

Tom Ireland updated the Committee on the recent field trip to Stump Pass. He felt that it was very informative. Commissioner Deutsch and Charles Mopps provided additional information on the trip and the status of engineer's reports to the BCC.

Old Business

- A. Andy Stevens provided an update on Boca Grande, El Jobean and Placida Fishing Piers. County owns 8500 linear feet of the trestle, some of which has fallen off. All piers have been evaluated by the contract engineer. Mr. Stevens will put their full report on the MAC website.

- B. Update re: Mote Marine Educators in Punta Gorda. *****This Item was taken out of order see "Regular Business" above. Presentation was made by Aly Busse.***

Update on the Mote Marine Aquarium – Herman Novak, MAC representative for the City of Punta Gorda. Mr. Novak deferred to Ms. Aly Busse of Mote Marie, who provided a brief update: Proposals from feasibility study companies and funding sources are being recruited. Additional information may be available in 8 to 10 weeks.

- C. Roger DeBruler provided an update on the status of the Abandoned Vessel and Artificial Reef programs.

a. So far this year, only 3 vessels have been pulled out. Many of the boats belong to some elderly residents who have neglected their vessels. The Sheriff's Office, FWC and the Coast Guard have joined forces to assist in the notification of the owners of these submerged boats. About \$90,000 remains in the current budget.

b. Matlacha Bridge Reef at the Novak Reef has just been completed. This was totally funding by residents and business in the area of the Bridge.

An additional question was raised about a large red abandoned sailboat in South Gulf Cove. The boat was foreclosed on by Wells Fargo Bank. Obtaining title is a difficult legal issue at this time. It will be very expensive to remove.

Commissioner Deutsch left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Other Business

Randy Broderson, City of Punta Gorda, provided an update on the status of the Punta Gorda Boat Basin project. It is completed except for sodding. Although final billings have not been submitted, it appears that it will be substantially less than the \$175,000 grant approved by the MAC.

Citizen Comments

None

Good of the Order

None

Next Meeting

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. **Room B-207.**
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

On motion by Jay Buckley, seconded by Jake Dye and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved **as corrected**
on March 14, 2013

Len Harris, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee