

**MINUTES**  
**CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2013**

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Chairman Len Harris called the meeting to order at 9:30 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  
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  
Jake Dye – Isles Yacht Club  
John Homer Fleming – Member at Large  
Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights Yacht Club  
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club  
Captain Tim Lynch – Member-at-Large  
Herman Novak – City of Punta Gorda  
Raymond Rose – South Gulf Cove Yacht Club  
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Chuck Gertner – Pirate Harbor Yacht Club  
Tom Ireland, Vice Chairman - Peace River Squadron, Inc.  
Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda  
Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large

*\*\*\*Please note that one or more Charlotte County Commissioners may be in attendance at any meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee\*\*\**

### **STAFF**

Charles Mopps, Community Development – Engineering  
Richard Kolar, Financial Consultant – Fiscal Services  
Andy Stevens – Community Services  
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, BCC Liaison  
Pamela Alexander, Clerical Liaison – Community Development

### **GUESTS**

Gary Disher, City of Punta Gorda

### **Chairman's Comments**

The following reminders were noted by Chairman Harris:

1. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.
2. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes.

### **Changes to the Agenda**

NONE

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Deutsch reported none at this time.

### **Regular Business**

**A.** Dan Gallagher, Assistant County Attorney presented for discussion the recent dissolution of the Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association and the vacancy now created on the Marine Advisory Committee. Mr. Gallagher distributed copies of a draft Resolution that, if approved by the MAC, would be submitted to the BCC for approval. This suggestion would change the makeup of MAC to include 6 Members-at-Large. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Capt. Ron Blago, seconded by George Bobko and carried unanimously to advertise for organizational applicants to replace the vacant Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association position on the Marine Advisory Committee.

**B.** There being no additions, corrections or deletions, the minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from September 5, 2013 were approved as presented.

**C.** There being no additions, corrections or deletions, the minutes the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from June 13, 2013 were approved as presented.

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**D.** Charles Mopps was unable to attend the meeting today. Andy Stevens took some inquiries which will be address by Mr. Mopps in next month's report. (copy of report attached)

Mr. Stevens reported on the status of Port Charlotte Beach.

Chairman Harris suggested that there be an update on the information from the next stakeholders meeting regarding Stump Pass, possibly as a joint meeting with the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**E.** Richard Kolar, Fiscal Department, provided a printout demonstrating the quarterly report of the expenditures of funds recommended by the Marine Advisory Committee. (copy of report attached). Andy Stevens thanked Richard for all the work he put in to make the report complete and understandable.

### **New Business**

**A.** Andy Stevens reported that he had received numerous phone calls about a misplaced marker. He determined that it was actually in Lee County but affects Charlotte County boaters. He met with Lee County representative and will be having another meeting. They anticipate putting the marker back on the piling to make it safe for the boating public.

### **Old Business**

**A.** Chairman Harris used this opportunity to remind all of the expiring terms for several members in December.

### **Other Business**

**A.** MAC member Sarah Buck spoke about the upcoming YMCA Youth Regatta at the Punta Gorda Bayfront. She has received cooperation from all organizations she contacted and teams from up and down the west coast of Florida to participate. She still needs a few more volunteers. It is scheduled for September 28, 2013. She extended an invitation to all and shared one of the posters with the membership.

**B.** Chairman Harris will have his proposed Goals and Objectives for the new Fiscal Year (2013-14) at the next meeting. Please provide comments to the Clerk, Pam Alexander.

**C.** There was to be hearing on the litigation regarding the Riviera Marina just prior to this meeting. Chairman Harris would like an update on the status. Commission Deutsch will look into it. There was some discussion regarding the ownership of this parcel.

### **Citizen Comments**

NONE

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## **Good of the Order**

A. Gerry Meckenberg reiterated to all that the applications and endorsements must be submitted to the Clerk prior to the end of September. The Members-at-Large with expiring terms are Tim Lynch, Ron Blago and Scott Schermerhorn.

Herman Novak reported on a few items.

There was a meeting held recently with the Punta Gorda City officials, Members of Team Punta Gorda and Jerry York and his group regarding the Power Boat Race Parade scheduled for the weekend of April 14-16, 2014. There are two conflicting events: the annual City of Punta Gorda Block Party and the Dragon Boat Races. One of the proposals is for the parade route to be from Charlotte High School down Taylor to the Event Center, with static displays of the boats on both sides of Marion Avenue. Another option was to have the static displays at the Event Center. There will be another meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will include members of law enforcement and Public Works, who will report the costs of supporting the parade on that Friday.

Tom Cavanaugh, City Council Member has invited Betty Staugler and some of her group to make a presentation to the City Council on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. This will be regarding two areas of interest: the Marine Access Study and the Regional Waterway Management System Study. All members of MAC are invited.

The last item: the Aquarium Project Study Group had obtained the necessary funding to begin the study and has contracted with Consulti-Con and they anticipate a report in approximately 2 months.

Commissioner Deutsch provided additional input. He supports the aquarium project and is greatly concerned about public safety regarding the boat race. He pointed out that, in addition to the two conflicting events, the race is scheduled on Palm Sunday. It will be an exciting event for Charlotte County. Additional discussion regarding possible restrictions and other issues took place.

## **Next Meeting**

Chairman Harris reminded the board about the MAC meetings for October.

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 9.30 a.m. Room B-106.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

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**Adjournment**

On motion by Jake Dye, seconded by George Bobko, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander  
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on October 10, 2013

Len Harris, Chairman  
Marine Advisory Committee

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