

**MINUTES**  
**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, September 13, 2012**

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  
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  
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  
Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights 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  
Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large  
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

**VACANCIES**

Member at Large

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Tom Ireland – South Gulf Cove Yacht Club  
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

NONE

**STAFF**

Tara Musselman, Community Development - Engineering  
Diane Quilty, Fiscal Services  
Richard Kolar, Fiscal Services  
Andy Stevens, Community Services  
Roger DeBruler, Community Services

## **GUESTS**

Lew Hastings, Boca Grande Chamber of Commerce  
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Advisory Committee  
Randy Broderson, City of Punta Gorda

Chairman Harris welcomed Ms. Bareither and Mr. Hoagland as new members.

Chairman Harris also provided a few “housekeeping notes” for the membership, and information for guests wished to address the Committee.

- a. Sign in
- b. Identify yourself when speaking
- c. Notify clerk of absence
  - i. If you should miss three (3) out of the ten (10) scheduled meetings without a valid excuse, your position with the MAC may be declared vacant
- d. Turn off or silence cell phones during the meetings.

## **II. Changes to the Agenda**

Len Harris added discussion of the Goals & Objectives to the agenda.

## **III. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Starr had a conflict and was unable to attend, however, Commissioner Stephen Deutsch represented the BCC at this meeting. He provided his background information. Discussion followed, with the membership concurring that if the BCC appoints Commissioner Deutsch to serve as Liaison for the MAC, he also be appointed to serve in the same capacity for the Beaches & Shores, Parks & Recreation and WCIND Advisory Committees so that the same information could be shared with all.

## **IV. Regular Business**

On motion by Ray Rose, seconded by Garland Wilson and carried unanimously, the Minutes of Pre-Agenda Meeting from September 6, 2012 were approved as presented.

On motion by Ray Rose, seconded by Jake Dye and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Regular MAC Meeting from June 14, 2012 were approved as presented.

**Tara Musselman** read her MSBU Update into the record (see attached). Additional discussion ensued regarding Stump Pass and the use of alternative structures. Andy Stevens advised that the County Engineering Department had a discussion with FDEP and received a favorable response. The possibility of federal funding is also being discussed.

**Andy Stevens** provided an update on the Boca Grande Trestle project. The company did a very good job. Some additional WCIND district funding may be available for additional evaluation of the trestle and that is currently under discussion. The portions of the trestle that are encased in concrete appear to be stable; others are not and may need to be removed at a later date. No additional information on the possible sale of the steel portion of the trestle.

**Len Harris** reminded the members whose appointments are scheduled to expire 12/31/12 to have their organizations send an e-mail to the Clerk with their recommendations.

A discussion ensued regarding Suggestions/Recommendations for Agenda items for the scheduled Joint Meeting of MAC, Beaches & Shores and Parks & Recreation Advisory Committees which is scheduled for October 3, 2012. Suggestions should be e-mailed to the Clerk

## **V. New Business**

Dianne Quilty introduced Richard Kolar as the new Fiscal representative for MAC. He will formally begin his service at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The membership thanked Dianne for her service and that she will be missed. Mr. Kolar addressed the group by providing his experience in Sarasota County.

### New Budget Items

1. **Charlotte County Community Services, Parks & Natural Resources Division** – Replace Tow Vehicle for UF/IFAS Research boat/motor/trailer - **\$39,556**

Dianne Quilty presented the request. There are two options for funding this item: a one-time expenditure of \$39,556 or 1/5 of the cost each year for five years. Discussion ensued.

***On motion by Sara Buck, seconded by Mike Quinn and carried unanimously, the funding request to replace the tow vehicle was APPROVED in the amount of \$39,556.***

There was additional discussion regarding future funding of this vehicle.

2. **Boca Grande Chamber of Commerce** – World's Richest Tarpon Tournament educational video and materials emphasizing a sustainable fishery - **\$5,000**

Lew Hastings of the Boca Grande Chamber addressed the Committee regarding the need and benefits of providing the requested funding. Discussion ensued.

***A motion was made by Richard Hoagland and seconded by Jake Dye to approve the funding request. The motion FAILED on a vote of zero (0) in favor and seventeen (17) against. The funding request for educational materials for the Boca Grande Chamber of Commerce Tarpon Tournament in the amount of \$5000 was DENIED.***

Roger DeBruler provided a report on the Abandoned Vessel Program. Twenty-four vessels have been removed, 2 are pending and 3 are still being researched, all with the assistance of the Marine Patrols Divisions of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and the Punta Gorda Police Department and the Florida Wildlife Commission. Approximately \$40,000 has been spent.

He provided an update regarding the Artificial Reef Program. Tires cannot be utilized for artificial reefs. The reef locations are shown on the map he distributed. (see

attached) Betty Staugler, Florida Sea Grant will be making a presentation soon regarding the monetary benefits of the artificial reef program to Charlotte County,

## **VI. Old Business**

Len Harris reported on the recent By-Law Changes: One was requested by the MAC and the second was discovered by Assistant County Attorney, Derek Rooney. These changes were 1) to change the language to read "fiscal year" rather than "calendar year" in Section 2.01 so that it mirrored the enacting legislation; and 2) in Section 3.02 regarding the annual election process so that it mirrors the County Code which requires all elections be held in December. These were both approved by the Board of County Commissioners at their regular meeting held on August 28, 2012. (see copy of agenda item attached)

## **VII. Other Business**

### **A. Delayed Projects all Ready Funded**

1. Delay of the Cattle Dock project placed on hold. Recovery of funding already allocated to date, prior to and including 2011 funding question.

Andy Stevens reported that this project was put on hold due to the current economic conditions. The County will have to go through a process to attempt to recover and/all of the \$50,000 already allocated to fund this project. When recovered, it will roll over to NCIF. Andy further advised that there is a WCIND meeting scheduled for tomorrow (Friday, September 14, 2012) and will address this issue with them and will provide a update at the next meeting.

2. Harbor walk permit issues and construction start date 2012 moved out to 2014 -2015 (*Written report provided by Debrah Forester*)

Len Harris would like to monitor the project so that if we see that this is not moving forward, we can attempt to retrieve those funds also. Grace Amodeo stated that the funds could be borrowed from the BCC, but there needs to be assurances, that the funding will be there to repay them at the appropriate time.

3. Information plans, cost and other information regarding Bay Heights Boat Launch (to be provided by Administration)

Andy Stevens reported that this project is under permitting for the launch site itself and that there are some citizens in the area who are concerned about the trees. The number of trees to be removed has been reduced significantly. There are others who feel that it should be a kayak launch. The planning process will continue.

Discussion ensued. Many of the negatives attached to this project: location of trees versus the location of the launch; the location of the park in relation to a curve on a heavily traveled road and an adjacent traffic light; condition of the access road; etc., were discussed, along with the feelings of many of the membership that it should be a community park. Andy Stevens reminded the group that this was a Sales Tax Project at the time work on this property was initiated. It was noted that several members of the MAC have visited the site.

***On motion and amendment by Captain Ron Blago, seconded by Gerald Meckenberg and carried unanimously to withdraw the Marine Advisory Committee's approval of a power boat ramp at Bay Heights and that the \$300,000 allocated be returned to the MAC budget.***

Quarterly funding updates reviews discussion. Len Harris advised that the MAC gets regular updates on the status of projects funded for the City of Punta Gorda, but he would like to have quarterly updates on other projects. Dianne Quilty and Rick Kolar will provide these reports beginning in October.

Andy Stevens advised that his staff is currently reviewing the engineer's reports on the Placida, Boca Grande and El Jobean Fishing Piers. He will provide a full report at a future meeting.

### **VIII. Citizen Comments**

Grace Amodeo stated that she felt this was a good meeting

### **IX. Good of the Order**

Len Harris advised that he is working on the Goals and Objectives for next year

The vacant Member-at-Large interviews will be held at the November MAC so that the recommendations can be forwarded to the BCC for ratification at their December meeting.

Sara Buck reported that a participant in the Local Disabled Sailing Regatta in Punta Gorda was on the USA Paralympic Team and represented well.

### **X. Next Meeting**

Len Harris reminded all of the following:

- The next meeting will be the **Joint Meeting** with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at the Mid-County Library at 1:00 p.m.
- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. the Building Construction Services Conference Room.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

### **XI. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander  
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on October 11, 2012

Len Harris, Chairman  
Marine Advisory Committee