

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 14, 2013
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harris at 9:28 am. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club
Tom Ireland, Vice Chairman - South Gulf Cove Yacht Club
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
Captain Jay Buckley – Member at Large
Jake Dye – Isles Yacht Club
Chuck 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
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda

MEMBERS EXCUSED

John Homer Fleming – Member at Large
Susan Bareither - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

VACANCIES

Member at Large
Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida

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STAFF

Charles Mopps, Community Development – Engineering
Andy Stevens – Community Services
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, BCC Liaison
Pamela Alexander, Clerical Liaison – Community Development
Roger DeBruler – Community Services

GUESTS

William Hoffman – Member-at-Large Elect
Capt. Ralph Allen – Member-at-Large Elect
Gary Disher – City of Punta Gorda

The Chairman reminded all in attendance to sign in at the podium and for the members to utilize the microphones. These actions assist the Clerk when preparing Minutes.

Changes to the Agenda

- A. Add funding application from Community Services (Item A under New Business)
- B. Add report from Herman Novak on the Punta Gorda seawalls (Item C under New Business).

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

NONE

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch reported that the activities for the 10-year management program for Stump Pass are moving forward and that State is providing good cooperation. They are still awaiting final comments from the State Parks Department in order to finalize the documents. It is his opinion that a savings of one-half to three-quarters of a million dollars per year.

Regular Business

- A. The Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from October 3, 2013, were approved as presented.
- B. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting from September 12, 2013, were approved as presented.
- C. MSBU Update (see attached) – Charles Mopps updated portions of his MSBU report previously submitted to the membership, including:
 - a. The Committee representing the Pirate Harbor Community moved to re-permit the channel dredge
 - b. Stump Pass: The State Parks Dept. has recommended a low profile rock groin as far south as possible. Michael Poff of Coastal Engineering Consultants will be performing additional modeling to determine possible impacts. The application is expected to be submitted in mid-December. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mopps also advised that the Stump Pass information will be available for viewing on the County Website at the

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following address, once the final information is received from the State Parks. The data will be updated as we move through the permitting process:
<http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityDevelopment/Engineering/Projects/>

A question was asked regarding the City and the County joining forces for the Alligator Creek permit. Mr. Mopps advised that this would be up to the City. Herman Novak advised that he would bring it to the appropriate personnel at the City and that there is a good relationship between the two jurisdictions at the present time.

New Business

A. Funding Application from Charlotte County Community Services – Parks & Natural Resources for purchase concrete materials for artificial reef enhancement in the amount of \$35,000.

Roger Debruler made this presentation. He reported that this material will be used at all of the existing reefs and will potentially attract more attention to them which will subsequently enhance tourism in our area. Discussion ensued.

On motion by Herman Novak, seconded by Chuck Gertner, and carried unanimously, the request was approved in the amount of \$35,000 from the CNIF funds and will be forwarded to the BCC for final approval.

Old Business

A. Discussion of draft brochure for City of Punta Gorda Pumpout Boat. MAC member Herman Novak led this discussion. He reported that Mark Gehring, Engineer for the City of Punta Gorda, Gary Disher, Canal Maintenance Supervisor Andy Heaxt, the Harbor Master at Laishley Marine, and Officer Kennedy were present and would contribute to the discussion as may be required. He apologized on behalf of David Hilston, Urban Design Manager, who was unable to attend. All were part of the process of creating the brochure.

The City Council and City staff are very involved in assuring that the pump-out boat will be operated in accordance with all laws and requirements, as well as in conjunction with Charlotte County with the best interest of boaters in the Harbor in mind.

Both the City and County seals will be displayed on the boat and all literature. Andy Heaxt will be certified to operate the pump out boat. The information for the brochure is being researched to assure that it is accurate throughout the document. Officer Kennedy provides a police presence on the water and does inspections of the cruisers for compliance with the rules. There will be no fees charged for pump outs at the present but the issue will be revisited in the future. It is anticipated that a log will be created to maintain information from the boaters that use this service. Much discussion ensued.

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B. Shrimp boat reef update. Roger DeBruler reported that a dumpster has been placed for the owner to dismantle it; all disallowed materials will be removed. The steel doors will either be removed, or welded in place. The Coast Guard will be conducting a detailed inspection when the owner is ready. It is hoped that the sinking will be scheduled for the end of December or early in January at the Jeff Steele Memorial Reef at a depth of about 62 feet.

C. Punta Gorda Seawalls for Reef Materials. Herman Novak reported that he has been in discussions with both Roger Debruler and Gary Disher about this issue. Marine Contracting Group, the company hired to replace the failing seawalls, is willing to truck these sections to the Landfill or any County facility of equal distance from PGI.

Roger stated that the Zemel Road Landfill had been storing some of his materials at their site, but is now expanding and his materials must be relocated. He feels that the seawalls would serve successfully as lobster and small fish habitat. Assistance was requested from Commissioner Deutsch in locating a site to store the approximate 8000 feet of seawalls.

Commissioner Deutsch asked if this material could be used as part of the rock groin that is part of the permit for the Management Plan currently being prepared. He will look for other possible uses for this material once he receives an e-mail from Roger.

It was pointed out that Rich Novak, the late Florida Sea Grant representative, was most interested in reef creation. A brief discussion followed.

Gary Disher of the City of Punta Gorda described the seawall materials as approximately 6 ft x 10 ft and weighing about 4000 lbs each...a total of about 6.4 million pounds of seawall.

Other Business

NONE

Citizen Comments

Bill Hoffman, newly appointed member, asked if materials could be stored where the Manchester Lock was removed so that a boat could pick them up and deliver them to their final location.

Good of the Order

A. Reminder: Election of Officers for 2014 will be held at the December 12th Meeting

B. Commissioner Deutsch reported that he will not be at the December 12th meeting as he will be attending his son's wedding. Commissioner Truex may attend in his place.

C. Ray Rose reported that the aquarium study is to be released in about 10 days. MOTE is not involved as they cannot afford it, but will be available for technical support. There are 4 potential locations: City of Punta Gorda, Placida, Murdock or at a location north of Charlotte Harbor. The Charlotte Sun will be covering the story.

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Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. Room B-106.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on January 9, 2013

Tom Ireland, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee

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