

**MINUTES**  
**CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, January 9, 2014, 9:30 a.m.**  
**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 Tom Ireland at 9:28 a.m. and he led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tom Ireland, Chairman - South Gulf Cove Yacht Club  
Herman Novak, Vice Chairman – City of Punta Gorda  
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary –U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 87 Englewood  
Captain Ralph Allen – Member-at-Large  
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  
Captain Jay Buckley – Member at Large  
Jake Dye – Isles Yacht Club  
John Homer Fleming – Member at Large  
Chuck Gertner – Pirate Harbor Yacht Club  
Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club  
Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights Yacht Club  
William Hoffman – Member-at-Large  
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club  
Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club  
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc  
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda  
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

None

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

## **VACANCIES**

Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida

## **STAFF**

Charles Mopps, Community Development – Engineering  
Pamela Alexander, Clerical Liaison – Community Development  
Debrah Forester – Redevelopment Manager  
Dianne Quilty – Fiscal Services  
Stephen R. Deutsch, District IV – Commission Liaison

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.

### **Chairman Comments**

Chairman Ireland 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.

He wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work with the committee. He noted that the new Vice Chairman, Herman Novak, is super organized and they will work well together. He advised that he is not a parliamentarian but will try to maintain order and to let him know if there are errors in conduct. In addition, Mr. Ireland stated that he is a power boater but does appreciate those with non-power boat interests.

He then reported the following items will be taken out of order to accommodate the two presenters who each have another meeting to attend:

- Regular Business, Item C – MSBU Update by Charles Mopps
- Under Old Business, Item A - Project Update by Debrah Forester

### **Changes to the Agenda**

Approval of the Pre-Agenda Minutes from January 2, 2014 was added to Regular Business as Item D.

### **Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

None

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Deutsch reported that he is very optimistic that the permits and submittals from Coastal Engineering Consultants for the 10-year Stump Pass Management Plan will be approved.
- He further reported that anchorage areas are very important and being investigated. This will be another item that will be discussed at the Joint Meeting scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a great deal of discussion on this portion of his comments.
- The Commissioner stated he will follow up on the MAC's request to find a location to serve as a storage area for the collected reef materials.

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- When asked about the status of the scheduled Power Boat Race, Commissioner Deutsch advised that it is moving forward and he remains cautiously optimistic. The permitting issues for the race are being handled by the group's permitting committee.

### **Regular Business**

- A. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting from November 14, 2013 were approved as presented.
- B. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting from December 12, 2013 were approved as presented.
- C. *This item was moved to the top of the agenda.*

Charles Mopps' MSBU update was taken out of order. He provided additional updates to the report he previously submitted (see attached). Much discussion ensued.

Committee member, Chuck Gertner, raised some questions regarding the MSBU process, specifically as it relates to Pirate Harbor. It is his understanding that their MSBU Committee (three people) could make a decision regarding dredging 2300 feet in the aquatic preserve which will impact all of the residents without affording those residents an opportunity to provide input or to vote on the issue. It was suggested that he arrange to discuss his concerns with Deputy County Administrator, Kelly Shoemaker. Charles Mopps provided the following: During the 2007 permitting process for the rock, this 2300 feet of dredging was included. It was later deleted because, with the political climate at the time, it was felt that its inclusion might delay the approval of the permit for the rock. During this discussion, Commissioner Deutsch stated that he felt that all the residents should be part of the decision-making process and would meet with Mr. Gertner and/or Ms. Shoemaker, if requested.

- D. The Minutes of the Pre-Agenda meeting held on January 2, 2014 were approved as presented. (*This item was added under Changes to the Agenda above*)

### **New Business**

None

### **Old Business**

- A. *This item was moved to the top of the agenda.*

Debrah Forester provided an update on the Groundbreaking for Gateway Phase I Construction. This is the signature project that will be located at the base of the northbound US 41 bridge in Charlotte Harbor. The construction will include a small boat launch, parking area, rest rooms and replacement of the seawall. She reported that the Charlotte Harbor CRA is requesting that the Marine Advisory Committee consider a fourth extension of both Boater Improvement Funding-Retained (BIF-R) and West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) funding in the amount of \$68,000. Special consideration is requested to extend WCIND funding into the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Permits are in place but FDOT is not able to advance the funds at this time due to concerns on the Federal level. They will be forwarding their letter of funding approval approximately 7/1/2014. As soon as that letter is received, the CRA will be able to go out for

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construction bid which must be out for at least 30 days. The expiration of the funding approval is September 30, 2014 and they cannot assure that the funds will be expended by that time. These time constraints are completely out the control of the CRA.

Chairman Ireland deferred to Len Harris to lead the discussion on this item as he was involved in the initial funding approval. Mr. Harris noted that the BIF-R funds do not expire, however, the WCIND funding will. Additional discussion ensued.

*Jay Buckley made a motion, that the Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee supports the project with the recommendation that the funds (\$68,000) that are currently in the WCIND funding remain on the project and, in the event they do roll over to the CIF funds, that Commissioner Deutsch and Andy Stevens negotiate with WCIND for the funds to be taken out of the CIF and back into the project. Motion was seconded by **Len Harris** and, following some discussion, carried unanimously.*

B. Update on Manatee Plan - **Andy Stevens**

C. Update on Kayak Zones - **Andy Stevens**

Both Items B. and C. above were continued to the February 6, 2014 MAC meeting as Mr. Stevens was out of town.

#### **Other Business**

None

#### **Citizen Comments**

None

#### **Good of the Order**

A. All were reminded to attend the joint meeting of BSAC, MAC, and Parks and Rec on Wednesday, Feb 5th. We need a quorum if a vote is needed on any issue.

B. Clerk, Pam Alexander, reported that filling the vacant organization position on the MAC will be discussed at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. In addition, she will assure that the updated meeting schedule will be on the County website ASAP.

C. It was reported that applications for grant funding will probably be scheduled for review at the March meeting.

#### **Next Meetings**

- The next meeting will be a Joint Meeting between the BSAC, the Marine Advisory Committee and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee on **Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Mid County Library, Meeting Room C, 2050 Forrest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte.

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 9.30 a.m. Room B-106.

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- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

### **Adjournment**

On motion by Len Harris, seconded by George Bobko and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander  
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on February 13, 2013

Tom Ireland, Chairman

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