

**MINUTES**  
**CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2015, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Charlotte County Administration Center**  
**18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948**

**I. Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Roll Call**

**III. Chairman's comments**

**A. 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.**

**B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes.**

**C. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS TO PLEASE SILENCE THEIR CELL PHONES.**

**IV. Changes to the Agenda**

None were noted.

**V. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

None were offered.

**VI. Regular Business**

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from June 4, 2015 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions. – Approved by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from May 14, 2015 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions. Approved by acclamation.

C. MSBU Update

Chair Ireland noted that Mr. Mopps is absent, serving in the military, but that Mr. Jason Ouimet was present to answer questions in his absence. Responding to a request, Mr. Ouimet agreed that MSBU updates would be provided to the members throughout the summer hiatus. Mr. Harris noted that 90% of active projects were with the Army Corps at this point. Mr. Gertner noted the Pirate Harbor material on the MSBU updated concerned things happening in March and April; he asked what is happening currently. Mr. Ouiment said that while he could not provide details on that specific project, Mr. Mopps had indicated it is going as planned.

D. Budget Update – Mr. David Johnston, Fiscal Analyst, offered comments with reference to the handouts he brought to the meeting, which was a summary of where things are financially, including a page which indicates where every project is today, whether in carry-over or current position, with a budget and expense-to-date figure, along with balance left to be spent and what will be carried over if the expense is not completed. Mr. Johnston noted that his reports will be

produced on a regular basis going forward, and he answered the few questions raised by committee members.

Mr. Johnston also raised an issue about a minor change in the grant application put forward by the YMCA; the organization wants to buy a different kind of boat instead of Sunfish, as it was a better value for the same money. He asked for the members to approve that change; Mr. Hamilton moved approval of the change in vessel, seconded by Mr. Hofmeister. Ms. Buck recused herself; the motion passed with unanimous approval, and Mr. Johnston indicated he would amend the application to reflect the change.

Mr. Johnston next noted that the press of business has been such that they have missed the deadline for approving things and getting them to WCIND, which was supposed to be in May, but this year didn't go to the board until June. He spoke about how the application deadline structure contributes to the issue, beginning with releasing new applications January 1st. In this particular year, in addition, many more applications than usual were in the pipeline. In order to correct the problem, Mr. Johnston suggested opening the applications in November for two months, closing that part of the process in January, and having them ready for review by MAC in February.

Chair Ireland questioned who would be affected by the change; also, he asked whether WCIND could change their deadline instead. Mr. Johnston indicated that WCIND closed down for the summer also. Mr. Hamilton suggested that another approach was for the Committee to do its job in one day, or to schedule a second meeting in the same month.

Further discussion ensued on the various options; the consensus leaned toward two meetings in a month, with February being first suggested. Commissioner Deutsch commented that this meeting room is very busy at the beginning of year, and tough to reserve. He also indicated that the favored WCIND changing their schedule, if possible. Discussion continued on the various options and possible effects on members and applicants, with a reminder being provided that February will already have two meetings, due to the Joint Workshop which will be held. Mr. Johnston summarized that the least difficult option is to commit to completing the process in March. Mr. De Bruler added that when the group gets the applications, they should be reviewed in February and the applicants can be asked to have the necessary answers when they show up, rather than having to come back a second time. Mr. Harris also commented that the group can do two meetings in February (a regular MAC in addition to the Joint Workshop), noting that the group never used to skip the regular February meeting.

Mr. Johnston reminded the group that the application submittal closing date is important to when the applications can be delivered to MAC; if the closing date is in February, he indicated he wouldn't have the application available to MAC until March. Further discussion was held on these details; Mr. Hamilton then moved the group have a longer meeting in March and find room availability for second meeting that same month, e.g., on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, second by Mr. Hofmeister. The matter passed with unanimous approval.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Gasparilla Slow Speed Zone.**

Chair Ireland made opening comments about the matter, noting that he had spoken to Officer Lytle, who is very much in favor of it. Jason Ouimet has a presentation, but the Chair opened the matter first to public comment.

Mr. Palmer R. Long, Jr., a property owner in the affected area, said that all residents want additional signs. He spoke at length regarding some of the close calls and damage that have been experienced by residents of the area. At the conclusion of his comments, Chair Ireland assured him that no one here disagrees with him, but asked that he please understand that the purpose of MAC is to make a recommendation; it is the Commissioners who will actually pass the law.

Mr. Hamilton raised the issue of how much public outreach there has been on the matter, indicating that in his estimation, it is not general knowledge out in the community that this is about to happen; he suggested there was need for a workshop on this. Commissioner Deutsch said that he would check with legal on the requirements, who needs to know, and to speak on the issue. Mr. Hamilton pointed out that there were 3 public hearings on the subject of manatees; the Commissioner agreed, but suggested that because manatees aren't a public safety issue, there may be different requirements.

Mr. Ouimet indicated that the FWC has said they will look at it but would not be having a public hearing; it would be the Commission that would have that. Mr. Hamilton offered more comments regarding whether the wider public should be here to discuss; he expressed concern over how would the general public would know the matter was under discussion at MAC.

Mr. Harris commented on the various options the group had reviewed and that the final recommendation had been left up to Mr. Mopps; he noted they had also heard citizen comments. He moved to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that the project move ahead.

Mr. Harris also questioned which sandbar the gentleman who had spoken wanted the signage on; there are four sandbars in the vicinity, at least. Ms. Buck seconded the motion Mr. Harris had made. Mr. Hoffman asked first, if we approve this, does it set a precedent that anyone with a dock gets to ask for the same sort of signage; Chair Ireland responded that this is a special situation because the construction of the bridge to a greater height allowed bigger boats into the channel, creating the safety issue. Mr. Hoffman offered additional comments on his feelings about minimum wake zones, noting it takes forever to get anywhere on the ICW due to these. Ms. Buck indicated she agreed, but pointed out that it's the duty of MAC, in terms of safety for the citizens.

Mr. Hofmeister commented on his understanding that this is the only bridge in the County that does not have a minimum speed/no wake zone. He felt that a simple solution would be to have a minimum speed zone under the bridges, to take care of the issues specifically created when the bridges were rebuilt. He noted that the length of distance currently being proposed for minimum speed is nearly a mile; he suggested just addressing the the bridges. Mr. Hofmeister also commented that the people who bought in this area knew the channel was there; it's like buying near an airport and realizing that planes will be flying in and out. Mr. Ouimet commented on FWC requirements and related technical constraints regarding the bridge profile, and pointed out that the plan as proposed gets

around the technical constraints. Further discussion ensued on these points, and Mr. Hofmeister argued in favor of minimal restrictions on the area's boaters.

Mr. Harris commented on the attachment to the agenda which lists the criteria for regulating signs; the first priority is safety on the water. He also commented about how minimum wake works in the PGI canals with seawalls, where they can be damaged by wakes. Mr. Hoffman responded that PGI residents bought in a minimum wake area, not out in the wide open water. Further comments were offered, and then Chair Ireland called the question already on the floor; the question passed with three nay votes recorded: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Hofmeister. Mr. Hofmeister clarified that while he was in general agreement with the need to do something, he did not agree with the specific proposal that composed the motion.

## **B. Old Business**

Summer vacation announcement

Mr. Ludvig asked what the procedure was if a non-emergency request for funds comes up outside the grant process: Mr. Johnston commented that there are two reserves, one for disaster, one composed of contingency funds available for "adding on" to an approved project where some element had been overlooked in the original application. He also noted funds would be available in the event the Commissioner had some important project they wanted to see brought forward. Mr. Ludvig asked about the defined process for that; Mr. Johnston said it was fairly ad hoc. Mr. Ludvig indicated he wanted to propose someone who doesn't already have a grant approved; Mr. Johnston and Chair Ireland both indicated that would probably not be an appropriate situation, but Mr. Johnston said that he would bring it to the Board and let them decide.

Chair Ireland reminded the group that if there is a disaster during the summer hiatus, MAC would meet 10 days after the event, to discuss what might need to be done, or if funds need to be reallocated. Mr. Hamilton sought to clarify if he meant that the executive board would have a pre-agenda meeting and decide at that point if a full meeting is needed; Chair Ireland agreed.

Mr. Ludvig raised another question, about the email regarding the derelict vessel workshop in Tallahassee; Mr. DeBruler commented about this policy workshop, noting that it is to get ideas about how the program should be running. He confirmed that his group has ideas to contribute, so he would be going to that meeting. He indicated he wanted to get together with MAC before going, to take ideas the members might have also. He indicated he would communicate through emails via MAC's recording secretary.

## **C. Citizen Comments**

none

## **D. Good of the Order**

Sarah Buck showed the group a slide show featuring the activities in support of Crossroads Kids AMI, the group member John Davidson works with.

**E. Next Meetings**

- The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in B-106.
- The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

**F. Adjournment**

On motion made and unanimously accepted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Moore,  
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved

Tom Ireland, Chairman  
Marine Advisory Committee