

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 10, 2015, 9:30 a.m.
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance 9:30

2. Roll Call

3. 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.

4. Changes to the Agenda

Election of Officers will be moved up on the agenda, because the Secretary, Gerry Meckenberg, needs to leave early.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from December 3, 2015 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from November 12, 2015 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

C. Election of Officers – Mr. Meckenberg conducted the process; he noted that all existing officers have indicated a desire to continue on in their current positions, but that does not preclude nominations. There followed a call for Chair nominations; none were offered. Next followed a call for Vice Chair nominations; none were offered. Finally, the call for Secretary nominations; none were offered. All three candidates unanimously re-elected to their posts.

D. Chair Ireland then noted that all members whose terms were expiring had been re-nominated by their organizations; by acclaim the group accepted the re-nominations which will now be forwarded to the Commission for confirmation.

E. MSBU Update

Mr. Mopps began by noting the progress on Alligator Creek, entering into the construction bidding, and construction should begin by March. He noted that additional minor updates to the previously-distributed Project Update can be found online for Buena Vista, Gulf Cove, and Harbour Heights. Under Northwest Port Charlotte, Mr. Mopps indicated that there are a couple of projects the

Committee has asked for, such as line-of-sight vegetation trimming, which are in various stages. Commissioner Deutsch asked if these Northwest Port Charlotte canals tend to fill-in as quickly as other locations in the County; Mr. Mopps spoke briefly on the subject of in-filling and the long-term effects of good maintenance. Regarding Pirate Harbor, Mr. Mopps noted that this needs an updated boat survey and offered further details on this item.

In South Gulf Cove, Mr. Mopps indicated the second of the as-builts was completed this morning; he plans to visit the site to view the work, particularly in a location where there is rock. He reminded the group that this is a maintenance dredge, so there is no authority to remove the rock under this permit. Further discussion ensued on this aspect.

Regarding the South Gulf Cove parallel lock project, the Committee decided on postponing for a while in an effort to garner support from other consultants for a new bid process. Chair Ireland said he thought the issue was that the bid was too high; he asked whether the group can still pursue a better bid, but Mr. Mopps indicated the project really needs to wait for more money to be available for this very expensive project. Mr. Hamilton questioned that the wait would result in lower prices; Mr. Mopps responded that in addition to needing more money to be available to pay for the project, it was also understood that more competitive bids were possible in future -- only one bid came in initially.

On Stump Pass, Mr. Mopps provided new information on a possible minor modification of permit to update piping requirements now that a route offering less hard-bottom impact has been found; this would offer a cost savings due to no floating pipe being required. The bid package has gone up to Purchasing but it still needs to be updated to reflect this new cost-saving information. Another thing that needs to be worked through is an agreement with the State Parks, regarding County ability to work on their property.

Commissioner Deutsch asked for a ballpark estimate of the shortfall on the second lock cost for South Gulf Cove; Mr. Mopps indicated he didn't want to field a number without the information in front of him. They agreed to get together to discuss this separately. Further discussion ensued on conditions that might influence additional monies being available for this project.

Capt. Blago returned to the discussion of Stump Pass, asking what it is the State Parks are looking for in terms of 'numerous specific conditions' that would increase the cost of the project. Mr. Mopps responded that whereas the County had requested a Use Agreement, State Parks had sent an easement; he then provided more current and historical detail on the arrangements. Additionally, he noted, the County would be increasing their acreage by putting sand there, so he asked for some leniency in their easement terms. Further discussion ensued on this item.

Mr. Ludvig asked about obtaining a map showing location of the waterways, whether there is one available online. Mr. Mopps showed how to find such maps on the County website, through Project Updates, selecting Coastal Projects, and using the "project map" link to see the general location of any of these waterway features, such as this one:

https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/projects/Project%20Documents/2014_Manchester_WW_MSBU_8x11P.pdf .

Mr. Buckley asked about Alligator Marina, after having changed hands, a report that soil had been removed. Mr. Mopps responded regarding the conditions there after H. Charley when the original owner had begun storing waste on-site which he then covered with dirt; the new owner is removing the dirt and debris that led to a consent order against the original owner. Mr. Buckley indicated that the new owner says they are now in compliance, and asked if that was true; Roger DeBruler answered from the audience, that he can't answer for DEP, but the County is satisfied. Mr. Mopps wrapped up with comments on Dayboards.

- F. Budget Update – Mr. Darden offered comments regarding retirement of David Johnston, and gave updates on BIF, reflecting information in the handout distributed with agenda. Chair Ireland requested clarification on MAC's budget extent, indicating that it sounded like the Committee had access to about one million per year, which Mr. Darden confirmed. Chair Ireland asked if any 2017 grant applications have come in? Mr. Darden responded that they have received about \$171,000 in requests at this point. Commissioner Deutsch suggested various ways of promoting the grants, such as getting Brian Gleeson involved, a mention in Ray Sandrock's weekly column, and also on Channel 20; Mr. Darden commented on the methods current in use. Further discussion ensued on this and on old and new grant requests.

Additionally, Mr. Darden discussed the Punta Gorda Marine Police seeking approval to use excess funds from their GPS monitor request, which due to some discounting by the seller left them with extra money (\$650) which they now want to spend for an underwater metal detector. Mr. Darden recommended approval. Mr. Hamilton moved approval, seconded by Mr. Bobko. Discussion on the matter ensued, with Mr. Harris noting that this underwater metal detection request came in several years ago; he asked, what is under the water here? Mr. Davidson spoke to the issue, as a diver and dive instructor, noting there is lots of rebar and other metal, and poor visibility in cloudy water. Mr. Harris clarified that this is a safety issue for a diver, which Mr. Davidson confirmed. The question then called, the vote was for unanimous approval.

Mr. Meckenberg, who was leaving the meeting early, offered the group his holiday wishes.

Mr. Harris asked, once all the grant applications are in, when can they be reviewed; he assumed the group would have to wait until the close of acceptance of new applications, which was confirmed. Mr. Hamilton suggested having a "consent" agenda for reoccurring projects that are funded every year, breaking up consideration into two sessions. Discussion ensued on the process, with Mr. Harris describing the split into sessions, one for the "slam dunks" and a second for the more contentious requests. These two meetings will occur on one day at the March meeting.

7. New Business

None.

8. Old Business

Gasparilla slow speed zone project required resubmittal of a new survey, new application and revised maps. The project is moving forward, however.

9. Other Business

- A.** Commissioner Deutsch spoke regarding the recent Commission meeting, confirming committee assignments; he will continue on as liaison to MAC and BSAC. He indicated he has also been nominated as Chair of WCIND.

10. Citizen Comments

None

11. Good of the Order

- A.** Capt. Blago gave his BSAC meeting comments, noting that Stump Pass is at a critical time-schedule phase and he indicated he is disturbed that the County has not received the ACOE final approval. He described Michael Poff's contingency plans for use if ACOE comes in late, and he said that the State Park complications are just one more possible slowdown to a complicated project. Capt. Blago said it was amazing the obstacles this project has had to contend with, and noted that he was very happy with Mr. Poff's efforts.
- B.** Chair Ireland encourage everyone to come to Joint Meeting in February.
- C.** Mr. Hoffman advised the group of his resignation of his membership.
- D.** Ms. Buck encouraged everyone to attend this weekend's lighted boat parade; and she offered her happy holiday wishes to everyone.
- E.** Chair Ireland noted that South Gulf Cove also has a lighted boat parade.

12. Next Meetings

- The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. **B-106.**
- The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

13. Adjournment

On motion made and unanimously accepted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Moore,
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved

Tom Ireland, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee