

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 14, 2016, 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

None offered

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from January 7, 2016 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from December 10, 2015 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions – none offered. Approved by acclamation.

C. MSBU Update

Mr. Mopps began by reviewing the progress on Alligator Creek, providing details on the bid process, and noting that all authorizations are in hand; the consultant has performed an updated survey also. Buena Vista WW is in purchasing being prepared to go out for bid within the next week or two. Regarding Gulf Cove WW, it is currently the consensus of consultants that this one might not need to go through National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) review. Harbour Heights will benefit from the fact that there is now a County-wide dredge permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and we can now dredge our upland waterways with no additional review; the Stantec review discovered that the volume of dredge material has gone down significantly, thus will cost less to do.

Regarding Manasota Key North, there was just a stakeholder meeting and the BSAC before that. The stakeholder meeting on the Key was one of the best-received ever, including many good questions from audience, all of which staff was able to answer. The Commission has already approved the potential to create a taxing district on the Key for a funding tool, and Legal and other staff

are working to identify different options so that the projection of costs can be presented to the citizens.

Northwest Port Charlotte, staff is going forward with a status survey for the new channel in the Myakka. For Pirate Harbor, Mr. Gertner is involved in completing an updated boat survey for checking what the dredging permit should actually be for. On this and other items, staff member Matt Logan will be taking Mr. Mopps' place, as he is leaving for other opportunities. The South Gulf Cove Boat Basin has been completed.

The Stump Pass project requires somewhat greater detail than given in the printed report. We still don't have the Federal authorization; we also can't impose an unreasonable timeline on the contractor. The permit's environmental window runs from November 1 to May 1, The contract can't be awarded without that federal authorization, and now it is getting too late to put the project out to bid and still be within the permit window and not have the contractor charge a rush premium. The boaters will have to live with the status quo for at least an additional four months. Commissioner Deutsch commented with additional details on this Stump Pass update: the ACOE is starting their review this week; there are no perceived problems and approval is anticipated by about Feb. 1st. The only possible glitch is that there may be construction activity still going on at the time of the second Waterfest, which will have to be worked around. Mr. Mopps noted that these circumstances should not affect our state cost sharing of \$2.5 million (and we will ask for another \$1.2 million for next year).

Finally, regarding dayboards and the slow speed/minimum wake meetings, Mr. Mopps noted there was a meeting at which staff gave them a new plan, worded slightly differently, which should go forward. Mr. Mopps then thanked the Committee for the good times; Chairman Ireland thanked him in return for his hard work.

Mr. Harris asked regarding dredging costs, whether they have started to increase; Mr. Mopps responded that the last bid received (for South Gulf Cove) was under \$35/yard, and he added that the County gets more bids now, from better contractors. Further discussion ensued on some technical matters.

- D.** Budget Update – Mr. Darden offered comments regarding the handout he provided at the beginning of the meeting (copy attached) which provides the outcomes of various existing grants made the prior year. He mentioned that the Harborwalk project has not yet started drawing down their money, which he is going to investigate, because construction has commenced. Mr. Darden said he has been collecting the new grant applications (20 requesting about \$600,000 so far) and Chairman Ireland noted that these will go to the all-day meeting in March. Commissioner Deutsch asked how this application influx compared to last year's and what would be done about late-arriving requests; Mr. Darden said the volume was about the same as last year, and that pre-agenda discussion indicated late-arriving applications would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Chairman Ireland asked about a detail on the handout sheet, whether the figures showed what they have spent or what's left; Mr. Darden clarified it was what they have spent. Mr. Darden indicated he would have all the applications online next week, and will send email versions to send out to anyone who isn't able to view them online. He noted that the deadline for submittals is January 15th; he also

confirmed that the Commission had approved the Punta Gorda request for an underwater metal detector.

Presentation by Chairman Tom Ireland of a plaque to David Johnston, with thanks for his service to the MAC over the years.

7. New Business

Lunch options during the March all-day meeting were briefly discussed; members were encouraged to consider whether they would prefer to go out or eat in, and to be prepared to vote their preference at the February meeting.

8. Old Business

Boca Grande Minimum Wake Zone: Jason Ouimet addressed the group on the most recent work, noting that staff had significant troubles with FWC getting this passed; in the end, staff used the State Statute to solve the problem. The statute calls for a 300 ft. buffer on either side of any railroad trestle (that would be area 2 on the maps.) In area 3, there can be a buffer on either side plus one of 500 ft. for the fuel facility at Uncle Henry's Marina. That left area 1, the middle bridge. After hearing from FWC that it didn't meet the statute, staff researched and found that the statute says "**any** span under 25 ft." which they argued successfully with FWC. Then in area 4, at the docks along Boca Grande the "winding channel" argument was also successful eventually. Area 5 is the remaining problem: Resident affidavits regarding speeding boats have been rejected by FWC; this is the battle they are in now. Staff has asked FWC if they could approve the approvable items and deny the other one separately, so another approach could be found.

9. Other Business

- A.** Commissioner Deutsch spoke regarding the railroad trestle bridge and the concerns regarding stability; he noted that the pilings are worm-eaten and failing, the structure needs to be addressed, and the County hopes to get WCIND to pick up much of the cost (the project would be very expensive) because this could be very dangerous if/when it starts coming apart. The Commissioner also noted, correcting the prior month's minutes, that he's not yet actually the WCIND Chair; he's been nominated, but it's still in process.
- B.** Chairman Ireland called on Capt. Blago to comment on his attendance at BSAC, where Capt. Blago says he is learning a great deal. Regarding the Stump Pass delay, he learned that turtle nesting starts May 1st; that Manasota Key has the greatest numbers of nesting turtles; that ACOE is still futzing around; that it seems, at best, the project will be delayed between 4-9 months; as Mr. Mopps has reported already, the State is holding up an easement to the County over state park land, in an attempt to get the County to pay for one of their employees, which Capt. Blago felt was sad because they would get the majority of the sand from the Pass. Further discussion ensued on this topic.

Mr. Hamilton mentioned there will be another Manatee protection plan meeting on the 28th of January; Tina Powell of Community Services added it would be held at Mid County Regional Library at 5:30 p.m. on the 28th. Capt. Blago asked how the Federal Wildlife Service move to delist the manatees from endangered to threatened will affect the County's plan; Ms. Powell indicated it won't change anything, since the state is our primary reviewer and the delisting is not affecting the state listing status, so won't affect our plan. Capt. Blago noted that several years ago the state wanted to have the manatee delisted; what if they go ahead

now? Ms. Powell responded that the manatee will still be a threatened species, so it will still be listed; it might change some of the details, but it wouldn't change the need for the plan. Capt. Blago wondered why there is continued need for regulation when the manatee population is at 6000; Ms. Powell responded that this plan is primarily about the siting of new docking facilities, and won't affect speed zones, nor will it add new zones. She further expanded, noting that there will be no areas where NO docks will be permitted; it's about the total number of slips allowed.

10. Citizen Comments

None offered.

11. Good of the Order

None offered

12. Next Meetings

- The annual Joint Workshop will be held Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Mid County Regional Library on Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte
- The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room B-106.
- The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

13. Adjournment

On motion made and unanimously accepted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Moore,
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved

Tom Ireland, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee