



# Charlotte County

## Manatee Advisory Committee

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### Contact Information

Charlotte County Parks & Natural Resources  
Attn. **Tina Powell**  
514 E. Grace Street  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 613-3220

### Members

**Zac Extejt** – Chairman  
**Dorothea Zysko** – Vice Chairman  
**Daniel Ferraris**  
**Thomas Hamilton**  
**Robert Humpel**  
**Clarke Keller**  
**Steve Lawrence**  
**Derek Rooney**  
**Ian Vincent**

### Distribution List

**Ray Sandrock**, Charlotte County Administrator  
**Kelly Shoemaker**, Deputy County Administrator  
**Tommy Scott**, Director of Community Services  
**Tina Powell**, Charlotte County Parks & Natural Resources  
**Jamie Scudera**, Charlotte County Parks & Natural Resources

# **Charlotte County Manatee Advisory Committee**

**June 7, 2016, 5:30 PM, Grace Street Annex,  
Historical Conference Room**

514 E. Grace Street  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

## **AGENDA**

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introduction of Committee Members
- III. Review of Manatee Protection Plan
- IV. Question and Answer Panel
- V. Public Comments – 3 minute duration and Committee Discussion

*Next Meeting: TBA*

# Minutes

**Manatee Advisory Committee  
March 9, 2016 – 5:30 pm-7:00pm  
Historical Conference Room  
514 E. Grace Street  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950**

## **Members Present**

Zac Extejt  
Dorothea Zysko  
Thomas Hamilton  
Robert Humpel  
Clarke Keller  
Steve W. Lawrence  
Derek Rooney  
Ian Vincent

## **Charlotte County Staff**

Tina Powell, Natural Resources  
Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources  
Jane Ravella, Administrative Assistant

## **Members Excused**

Daniel Ferraris

## **Call to Order**

The **March 9, 2016** meeting of the Manatee Advisory Committee was called to order at **5:30 pm** by **Zac Extejt**.

*Introductions were made by members Zac Extejt, Dorothea Zysko, Robert Humpel, Clarke Keller, Ian Vincent, Derek Rooney, Steve Lawrence, and Thomas Hamilton.*

**Tina Powell** made introduction of staff.

*State and National Representatives*

**Mary Duncan**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)  
**Ron Mezich**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)  
**Victoria Foster**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

### *Question and Answer Panel*

Maps were the first issue reviewed – maps have been updated with new information based on data collected and your recommendations. Maps and Data were discussed and it appeared the maps being updated got thumbs up. There were still a few questions that came up Zac asked: in regards to the first draft and this one and how it would affect Marina's. There were numbers like 100+ dry and 50-60 wet; if those go out of the system are they allowable to come back or go to another marina or site; are we trying to keep the boaters where the action is? Steve asked if this was based on data from 10-11 years ago the, the population has grown and usage has definitely increased. Ian questioned the Map 4.2 the color Red on West Spring Lake – the color is based on data for Manatees and this was the larger population. Definitions were discussed. Page 102 Section 5.0 is the criteria established the chart. The study was used to show what impact of expansions in certain areas related to Manatees vs. Boating use. Steve asked again how did “5” become the number – Mary gave a brief history to what the other 13 counties consider – slip to shoreline ratio; reasonable development for certain types of activities with a concept to keep density of foot traffic lower than in areas of manatees. There are 3 different levels: Restricted, Preferred and Unrestricted, and reading this as additional slips to what you have, but it should read existing, everything will get something. Ian asked if there will be a process for exemptions. And will this plan be re-reviewed in so many years? This will be a data based plan which is best available and of course there will be room to talk. The plan is scheduled to be reviewed at least every 5 years. Rumor has it that this will be part of the Comp plan as an addendum. This is a living document that should be an Ordinance so this is reviewed every 5 years. Any problems, tracking complaints, etc. will be kept in Natural Resources.

Victoria Foster of USFWS spoke on the reclassification on Manatees. Down Listing/De Listing Endanger or Threatened. As to what's been proposed and again I say proposed it's in review and still has to go to Public Review for comments, it won't affect the way you proceed for permits now you will still need to go to Fish & Wildlife while the protections are in place. Nothing of consequence in terms of regulation will effect this document.

Question that has been asked before – What is the current count of Manatees in Charlotte County? Can't give you a definite number for just the county it is West Coast / East Coast. New Assessment has said 6000 this year but next year could be 4000, populations not declined trends do change. Does this plan add restrictions to what we can do today? In general it expands what we can do. Are there stats on deaths of manatees by red tide as to Boats or natural causes? Ron couldn't say off the top of his head but he will have an answer at the next meeting. Is there a caring point number? Don't go by caring capacity. Sea grass is plentiful which would sustain Manatees for quite a while. Once this plan is adopted there will be a minimum 5 year review plan.

Action Items brought up by Dorothea and opened up for discussion - 1) educational pamphlets I see this being a liter problem - would rather see information on kiosks. We've reached out to the Tax Collector and in hope to those buying yearly passes. The same information needs to be throughout the whole county. 2) Page 116 Education exhibit at Cedar Point - Yea! 3) Page 114 Conservation Charlotte – do we have any money - answer NO. Derek explained. 4) Language clear to appeal to the state, not used to deny.

Once this plan is adopted there will be a minimum 5 year review plan. Tina will make changes

as asked then come back for one more review and approval.

*Public Comment*

Dean Beckstead – confused on a few terms – Usage - 4.2 variety of figures, maps are color coded and size of dots – how the rational 1 to 100 per shore line? Mary answered his questions. Discussions went on with Mary and Torre explaining different situations.

There will be one more meeting after today's recommendations are made to the Plan, and it is sent out to you for review. After that, the next step will be for two public meetings, barring any major changes it will then go to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Jane Ravella, Administrative Assistant