



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 14, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Charlotte County Administration Center

18500 Murdock Circle Room B-106

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Upon the roll being called it was determined a quorum was present.

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, STAFF 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 September 2, 2021
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from September 9, 2021.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. FY21-22 MAC Grant Application Review – Jim Darden

Jim Darden was not present. He was attending another meeting but sent an email to say there was no fiscal report provided this month because of the end of year reimbursement requests.

D. MSBU Update – Zach Patchell/Matt Logan

Mr. Patchell and Mr. Logan were both present.

Ackerman and Manchester Waterway – no projects at this time – refer to Manchester waterway.

Alligator Creek – No active project at this time.

Buena Vista – Coastal Engineering prepared and submitted permitting plans to state and federal agencies. FDEP exemption status has been received. ACOE permit application submitted and awaiting a response following request for more information submission. Pre-storm bathymetric survey for Buena Vista interior canals is complete and final deliverables have been received. Results will be reviewed with MSBU at next scheduled meeting.

Edgewater North – Coastal Engineering completed the field survey work for the bathymetric survey of this system. Draft deliverables have been received and reviewed by the County. Partial final deliverables have been received. The results will be reviewed by both the County and the MSBU Advisory Board for determination on whether to proceed with a dredge project.

Gulf Cove Waterways – Atkins has completed the interior bathymetric survey project. All deliverables received. Final budget approval was granted at the fiscal budget public hearing. County staff will discuss options of bidding final engineering required to be bid ready for a dredge project.

Harbour Heights – Johnson Engineering was selected to design the upcoming maintenance spot dredge project. Johnson is preparing permitting plans and application to submit to agencies.

Hayward canals – Initial design complete and permitted. A change order was completed to fund a new bathymetric survey of the main channel and plan update of quantities ahead of the bid process. Johnson is working on this survey.

Manchester Waterway – AIM engineering has completed the 2021 pre-storm survey of the Manchester interior waterways. Final deliverables have been received and reviewed.

Northwest Port Charlotte – Design phase is complete. Interior dredge project will be rebid this fall. NWPC access channels included in pre-storm bathymetric survey was completed and reviewed by the MSBU, no project planned at this time.

Peace River shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor: No project at this time. Rate increase for the new fiscal year have been approved. Discussion of a future project will be discussed at our next meeting.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: We have received all permitting, and Johnson engineering is finalizing the plans and specifications for bid readiness.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock: Lock design working towards 90%. Awaiting ACOE response on permitting, EOR has requested updates, ACOE has provided they are working on this project and approved permit is expected soon. The County received and reviewed engineering scope and fees for additional services to add a Tender House to the design. Comments and questions were given, and negotiations continue.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

Matt Logan said they are working to get stump pass dredged again. This would be a repeat of the 2017 project. We placed those bids out and received an excellent bid from an up and coming dredge company. It is about 1 million dollars below other bids. They should start bringing equipment just after Thanksgiving. The dredging should begin by December 15th and wrapping up on Stump Pass State Park by the 19th. Then they will switch the pipe over and mobilize to Palm Island. The northern part will start by the 24th and anticipate the project complete by April 1st, 2022. This is all subject to weather and tides, but as of right now, they seem very confident and they are highly recommended from both the Army Corp and the Jupiter district.

Commissioner Deutsch said Stump Pass has worked. The groin system that we put in has worked. We feel we have saved millions of dollars of dredging. We have not been dredging every 2 or 3 years like before. We are saving money and getting the work done.

Mr. Bigness asked if the County required a performance bond for that company to guarantee that project will be completed?

Commissioner Deutsch said we do require it from every company now.

Mr. Savino asked who pays for the parallel lock in South Gulf Cove?

Mr. Ireland said MSBU pays.

Mr. Logan said they had to go with a larger dredgers. The volume is reduced and it is half the volume as 5 years ago.

Mr. Vigne asked about a rate increase.

Mr. Patchell said all rate increased were approved this year. They will get one last okay to move forward and then he will put the dredge out for engineering design. He said it will be the land use portion of the access channel and then all the connector canals around the inside. The finger canal themselves, they have adequate depth, so there won't be a lot of dredging needed in those.

E. Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

Roger DeBruler said he had a few updates.

Mr. DeBruler said AV360 is ready to be pulled. He sent a few more letters out for some sailboats. 363 and 364 I sent letters to the owners to have them removed. 365, I found out who the owner is, and sent them a letter as well. CCSO and FWC are watching the Riviera very closely. There have been a few boats that have

left that area and are being watched by CCSO. There were a few boats that headed to Lee County and they have been pulled out of the water by Lee County.

Mr. Ireland asked how are they able to act faster than us?

Mr. DeBruler said no, actually one ended up on the beach, so therefore, they wanted it out as soon as possible. The other one ended up in the marina, and the marina asked the County to remove it because the owner walked away from it.

Dr. Strube said thank you for getting the dancing iguana out of there. I understand all the other boats we presented picture of are outside the marina but in the river or creek, they are the problem of the marina, correct?

M. DeBruler said that is because Bob Carr gave the person in control of those vessels permission to tie them up there. Because the marina gave permission, the FWC officers are looking at it as those are inside the marina.

Commissioner Deutsch asked if that was the marina's property?

Mr. DeBruler said it is. That finger that comes out, is part of the marina land.

Dr. Strube was concerned with the contamination of the grounds back when Charley went through and they busted up boats and just let the oil and diesel fuel gas go into the ground. They want the State to clean it up before they take ownership. He feels the oil boom should at least be kept intact.

Deputy R. Carley said they did have a vessel in Lee County that was leaking, I worked with FWC and the Coast Guard. They took pictures but due to the lack of amount of the spill, the Coast Guard said they would not even touch it. It wasn't enough to warrant them to spend that much money on a small amount. FWC took over.

Mr. Nowak said all the boats at the Riviera have been pumped out. All the transients are gone. The owner is trying.

Mr. Russell asked where were they relocated to?

Mr. Nowak said some of the boats were move to J&R, some to other marina's and abandoned.

Mr. Bigness asked, the boats at Chadwick cove, there are no lights, no activity. Are we citing them for that?

Deputy Carley said yes. We work with FWC and do a night operation. We are dealing with the few that had live aboards on them. There was another new boat yesterday, with no FL numbers. I need to track the VIN number. Some boats were towed from Riviera. It can take up to a year to go through this process.

Commissioner Deutsch thanked the Charlotte Co. Deputies for attending this meeting. He spoke with them about the solar lights on a derelict vessel so there is a warning when someone else is boating in the dark.

Deputy Carley said then you have to be careful you might hear someone say you damaged my property. Solar lights are illegal for the boats to count as a warning light or anchor light because they are not coast guard rated lights.

Mr. Hickey said a lot of the boats leaving the Riviera marina, seem to be just becoming a problem for someone else. To get these boats to move, is Sea Tow or someone else involved with dragging them out?

Deputy Carley said Sea Tow did bring 2 boats from the Boca Grande causeway. Both had memberships to Sea Tow but I gave them a certain amount of time. I have to give them at risk tickets.

Mr. Hickey said there should be a mandate that if a boat cannot run on its own, it needs to be towed to a repair facility, not leave them floating in another location. Can this action be worked on?

Commissioner Deutsch said that would have to be changed by legislation.

There was a little discussion about people living on their boats, sovereign citizenship, being towed and the expense.

Mr. Bigness asked if we should make a motion recommending the County Commission to see what they can do to address this problem?

Commissioner Deutsch said you can do that to get it on the record.

Mr. Hickey asked if your boat was towed and didn't function, no sail, no motor, isn't that a derelict boat?

Deputy Carley said the definition of a derelict is it has to be either completely gutted and unusable, no motor, no anything, it has to be pretty much sunk or broken apart. Right now, if a boat is sitting with a working bilge and working toilet, it is considered at risk, just doesn't have a working motor. Once a vessel is given 3 at risk tickets, in a consecutive 18 month period, then I can go to a derelict vessel and work on a removal process.

Mr. Bigness moved to submit to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners to make a recommendation from our MAC board to address the route causes that mitigate these situations, do research how other Counties clean up, and helping CCSO or whoever we can, to address these problems and put pressure on them, Seconded by **Mr. Hickey**.

Mr. Russell gave an example of a 63' yacht in his neighborhood who was moved to the Riviera marina, this boat was in the middle of the Charlotte Harbor half sunk, they caught him living on the boat, this all took almost 5 years to clean up. He said the timeframes should be cleaned up not give them 6 months.

Dr. Strube said these are Federal laws not State and he feels the Commissioner should take this to the County and have them take it to the State. He asked if the motion could be simplified?

Commissioner Deutsch said they will contact the State. The Motion was approved unanimously.

F. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Ainger Creek – The park redevelopment project is managed by the Facilities construction and maintenance department. Due to the budget constraints of the RLI process, an RFP will be created and advertised for prospective design teams to continue the project.

Allapatchee – The fishing pier replacement design budgeted for this fiscal year; design has been completed. Staff is preparing the bid package for purchasing.

Anger Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Bayshore Live Oak park – Fishing Pier replacement design budgeted for next fiscal year.

Boca Grande Fishing Pier – no projects at this time.

Butterford Waterway Park – No projects at this time.

Cedar Point Environmental Park – No projects at this time.

Centennial Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Darst Park – No projects at this time.

El Jobean Boat Ramp – No projects at this time.

El Jobean Fishing Pier – No projects at this time

Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Harbour Heights Park – No projects at this time.

Hathaway Park – Design for the Hathaway Park floating dock and gangway is complete. Staff is preparing the bid package for purchasing.

Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park – No projects at this time.

Live Oak Point – No projects at this time.

Placida Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Placida Park – 2014 Sales Tax project for the boat ramp expansion is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department; the most current information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: The project is currently in schematic design following the concepts of the master plan and are anticipated in mid-October.

Port Charlotte Beach Park – the 2020 sales tax project for recreation Center is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department; the most current information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage.

Community Services is evaluating the addition of an ADA lift to allow the transfer of a handicap person from the seawall to a vessel.

Riverside Park – ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels, cannot be addressed via repairs. Ramp full redesign is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department.

South Gulf Cove Park – Design for the South Gulf Cove Park boarding is complete. Staff is preparing the bid package for purchasing.

Spring Lake Park – No projects at this time.

William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park – grant for additional trails, boardwalk, fitness equipment and interpretive signs was awarded; design in process; ACOE permits are being submitted this month. ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department.

Dr. Strube asked, regarding the ADA lift at the Beach Complex, were those the floating docks that were built for the international sailing event? He said they were built at his warehouse. They were built with corners that have 4 inch spun holders and we had hydraulic lifts. He said these lifts can pick up someone in a wheelchair. He said there is a separate 501c at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club and they have a lift for them to use at the yacht club. It may be a short cut.

7. New Business

Mr. Ireland said at the pre-agenda meeting last week, a company brought in these solar lights for the derelict vessels. He feels we should not really get involved in case, there is a liability we do not want. The idea is good, but he feels we should avoid.

Deputy Carley said they will probably get stolen off the boat.

8. Old Business –

None offered.

9. Other Business -

Mr. Russell said October 30th, Saturday 9:00 a.m. at the US 41 bridge, south end of the north bridge, there will be a gathering at the bridge of people who would like to oppose the rezoning of DeSoto County's application in DeSoto County, for Mosaic doing workshops selling the neighbors and commissioners they will not pollute the waters. He said Charlotte Harbor does have areas that look like soap suds. The is what phosphates look like. They want to put another plant 15 minutes up the river in Punta Gorda.

He said in the City of North Port, they signed an amendment for water quality and understanding.

We want to make a statement and save our waters. The news media has not been very open with stuff like this.

Mr. Blago said this month's Water Life, there is an article about phosphate and mining.

Mr. Welsh said October 21, 5 to 7 pm at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, there will be a water quality assessment and improvement seminar, free of charge, by the County Water Manager. It is hosted by the Civic Association. 2001 Shreve St. Punta Gorda.

Steve Scott said at the last meeting, someone asked was the Coast Guard going to remove some shallow draft aids to navigation. He checked with the Coast Guard navigation center and a study was done. There was an on-line survey. The study is complete. He handed out a copy of his email with the on-line address for the survey.

10. Citizen Comments –
None offered.

11. Good of the Order -

12. Next Meetings

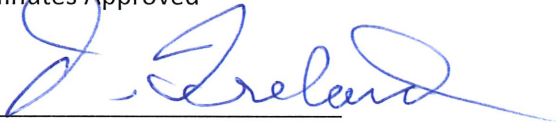
- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the **E. Jay Carlson Large Conference Room. (f/k/a Building Construction Services)**
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, in B-106 Conference Room. (Closed Thursday Nov 11 for Veteran's Day)

13. Adjournment

Dr. Strube made a motion to adjourn, second by **Mr. Hickey**, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair