



## MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 9, 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 November 3, 2021  
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from November 10, 2021.  
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

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

**Jim Darden** handed out copies of the marine advisory grant application process. He went through the process for new members to learn. These applications go to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval. These are projects recommended by MAC. There are different grant sources that we combine to

put into this fund. Charlotte County has the west coast navigation district, they are usually the only grants source available for other counties. Charlotte County uses the boater improvement fund. This boater improvement fund and the State boater improvement funds come from your boat registration. (when you register your boat there is a tax on there) The tax goes to the State and they do have regional programs they fund but then they send back some of that money to the Counties. This is called the Biff State funds. There are restrictive uses with the biff. This is pretty much restricted to navigational aids, boat ramps, strict boater access. The biff local is an additional tax that the County chose to put onto the boater registration and all of that money comes back to the County with the exception of some manatee dollars. That money is much more flexible in terms of grant qualification. We use that money to fund a lot of the boater activities, such as the sailing club, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Civil air patrol. So we have the Biff State, we have the local biff and we have the WCIND funds. The West Coast Navigational district is an external source for funding. They are an entity of their own. There are 4 counties associated with them and they fund navigation aid projects, safety and recreation projects, boater access and law enforcement. Finally there is another fund called the County navigation improvement fund. That is pretty much a hurricane fund, that is what we adopted that as. WCIND grant funds come from property taxes. When you pay your property tax, look at the bottom and you will see West Coast Inland Navigation District. WCIND is in Venice. Any money we do not spend it goes into the County navigation improvement fund. Any money that was granted that was not completely used, that also goes into that CNIF fund. They use that CNIF fund in the case of a hurricane and they need money quick to move vessels and disaster recovery. There is about 1 million dollars currently and we keep a buffer for emergencies.

WCIND, the safety recreation grants, require 50% match. We want to maximize the use of our grant funds, so we use the biff local for the WCIND match. This way the organizations applying use zero of their funds.

The grant period for the MAC grants – the cycle is October 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. The grants they apply for now before March, are available for October 1, 2022. Grant applications open December 15, 2021.

**Mr. Ireland** mentioned people can go to DeSoto County to register their boats because DeSoto does not charge the boater fee. He wondered if there was a way to stop that.

**Mr. Darden** said we do not share funds with DeSoto County.

**Dr. Strube** said on behalf of the Charlotte Harbor Youth sailing, he wanted to thank the committee for the support given to the Charlotte Harbor youth sailing over the years. We have about maxed out our ability to take care of things on the grounds. We are set for 501C3 on the grounds for the CH Yacht Club. We have about 80 kids each summers with 8 week long sessions and all year around Saturdays and special events. Through support of this committee, we have been able to purchase coach boats, crash boats and he donated a dingy, but this was all possible by the grants from the County.

**Mr. Savino** said up north the State passed a law the boat has to be registered in the town or city it is in or the owner's town or city. Once a year, two cops go along in a boat and one walks the docks and they check every registration.

**Mr. Welsh** said when he lived in Lee County, his boat was registered there. Automatically when I got my renewal notice, it was from Charlotte County. I don't know somehow the Counties communicate.

**Mr. Darden** said he picks the grant funding depending on what people ask for with their application. Applications must be received by January 31, 2022. We will not accept any after that date. Once the

applications are received, he brings them to MAC and we go over them. We can invite the applicant to the pre-agenda meeting to ask them questions if you have any. I take the recommended applications to the BCC with your recommendations. After BCC approves the applications for grants, I go in and source those funding's. He then makes up the contracts for each one.

**Mr. Ireland** asked if there are a greater number of applicants today?

**Mr. Darden** said we do get a lot of applications but they have gone down a little recently. Last year we funded everything and we still had some money left over.

**Mr. Darden** said October 1, the cycle begins and you can start spending your money. These are reimbursement grants. The organization needs to come up with the money to pay for it at first, then we reimburse them. Sometimes we can come up with creative ways to help them.

#### D. MSBU Update – Zach Patchell/Matt Logan

**Mr. Patchell** was 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 and volumes for -3.5' MLW and -4.0' MLW. 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 – A request letter of Interest went out to engineering firms to complete the design of the Gulf Cove interior dredge project. Negotiations for scope and fees is under way.

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

Hayward canals – Johnson Engineering has submitted final bid documents to the county and this project is under final review and will be sent to purchasing in coming weeks for the bidding process.

Manchester Waterway – Awaiting next MSBU advisory meeting to discuss possible dredging options.

Northwest Port Charlotte – Final documents and budgeting have been worked out and this project was sent to purchasing to rebid this interior dredge project.

Peace River shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor: Request for letters of interest went out to engineering firms for the design and permitting of a maintenance dredge project and we are waiting for letters of interest for firm selection.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: A bid package for the Turn Basin / Access Channel maintenance dredge was sent to purchasing and this project will be out to bid soon.

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. ACOE permitting may be further delayed due to a manatee death incident in early Oct. 2021 at the existing lock. FWC is performing an investigation and will advise on manatee safety conditions. 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 last month he gave us a brief update on the Stump Pass dredging. The contractor is in route, being delivered on Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>. They were a little delayed because of weather. They will start December 15<sup>th</sup> to January 19<sup>th</sup>, then they will pump out on Palm Island. This would be January 24<sup>th</sup> thru April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

#### E. Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

**Roger DeBruler** said he had a few updates.

**Mr. DeBruler** said there was a 30 foot boat that sank on Tuesday in Gasparilla Sound. FWC is working the case. He had CCSO go out and check it out. They sent Roger pictures. FWC is in contact with the owner.

**Captain Blago** said he noticed there is no more Chadwick Cove.

**Mr. DeBruler** said the boat that is in Lemon Bay, is a 32 foot Carver. #AV-368 on your list. That boat was in Chadwick Cove, it was bounding around. When I first saw it, it was sitting in front of the Sandpiper Condominiums, winds began to come out of the west and it pushed the boat across from the ICW and put it on a sandbar. This was in front of Ainger Creek.

**Mr. Bigness** asked about mooring balls and what do we do about that?

**Mr. DeBruler** said he spoke to DEP about it and they said if you want, you can pull them out but that is not my job. You are supposed to permit anything that sticks to the bottom. Mooring balls, a piling, what have you. All of those balls out there do not have permits.

#### F. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

**Tina Powell** is present.

Ainger Creek – The park redevelopment project is managed by the Facilities construction and maintenance department. The most current information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage.

Allapatchee – The fishing pier replacement design budgeted for this fiscal year; the construction bid package has been submitted to purchasing.

Anger Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Bayshore Live Oak park – Fishing Pier replacement design will kick off after the holidays.

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; the construction bid package has been submitted to 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. Facilities provided the following: Comments for the schematic design deliverables are being incorporated and contractor estimating is in progress.

Port Charlotte Beach Park – the 2020 sales tax project for recreation Center is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance. Facilities provided the following: BCC approved the start of negotiations with the design team selected.

Community Services is in design kick-off for the addition of an ADA lift to allow the transfer of a handicap person from the boarding pier to a vessel.

Riverside Park – ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels - due to safety issues cannot be addressed via repairs. Ramp full redesign is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department. Facilities provided the following: the selection of the design team will go to BCC on 1/11/2022.

South Gulf Cove Park – Design for the South Gulf Cove Park boarding is complete; the construction bid package has been submitted to 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; ACOE and SWFWMD permits have been applied for. ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department.

**Captain Blago** said his understanding is they are still closed?

**Ms. Powell** said all of the parking meters have been removed. It is pay by app, by phone or a parking permit.

7. New Business  
None offered.

8. Old Business –

**Ms. Diekman** said the information she was given about the missing marker by Rocky Creek is the poles are not registered or permitting with Army Corp, US Coast Guard, DEP, FWC, anywhere. After doing more digging, I found out there was a grant given back in 2008 from West Coast inland to Charlotte County for the maintenance. She's at a loss now to figure out who should maintain this waterway.

**Mr. DeBruler** said what he knows so far, there is a person who works with the waterway signage. James Richardson. At this point in time, he cannot do anything because when WCIND put in the piling, all the paperwork got lost in a transfer between the old CEO and the new CEO and this was in 2008. Since that was not handed over to the County for maintenance at that time, the County did not know they needed to do that. They did not maintain those pilings. It stayed with WCIND. WCIND was going to transfer it, they never did. What will happen now, the County will request the pilings, all pilings – be brought up to date. When that occurs, the County will take over the maintenance. He said he would keep her in the loop.

**Ms. Powell** said WCIND just dealt with a similar issue like this in Manatee County. It is a process with multiply steps they have to go through. They did do the same thing. They updated the pilings, the signage, made sure the permits were in align and then turned it over to the County.

**Capt. Blago** said this brings out a weakness in the MAC. As we are going into budget time, we are giving out hundreds of thousands of dollars to various organizations, and here we have a situation where 2 pilings were knocked out by boats. Now people don't know where to go and run aground. With all of our smarts and expertise, can't we come up with a short term solution just to put 2 pilings in?

**Ms. Powell** said the permitting of 2 pilings is a big deal. In this case, the original permits were never filed or finalized. We do not have the authorization to do any of this on submerged state lands.

**Mr. Patchell** said James Richardson can if there is a hazard. He can put a temporary buoy out there with a marker on either side.

**Mr. Meckenberg** asked what action would be necessary to do that?

**Mr. Patchell** said we would have to let him know that. He said he would reach out to him.

9. Other Business -  
None offered.

10. Citizen Comments –  
None offered.

11. Good of the Order -

**Mr. Welsh** said there is a nautical flea market at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association February 12, 2022 on a Saturday.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, January 6, 2022 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 Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at 1120 Centennial Blvd., Port Charlotte, in B-106 Conference Room.

13. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair