



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 8, 2023

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

Mr. Ireland said we were planning on having Mark Snow give his presentation and I think what we will do is A) we have a lite attendance today and B) it would give us some time to look it over get an idea of what it is all about. This is what we wanted to do anyways is to get a better understanding for everybody, regarding WCIND and how we work together. So, Mark has agreed to give it, his 15- or 20-minute presentation on our next first meeting in August. We appreciate him doing all that work, didn't want to waste it. Maybe he'll think of even more things from now until two months from now. Then says Matt Logan is here and that's unusual too. Matt, do you have an MSBU update for us? Matt says Zach does.

Mr. Logan says I can give you a quick update on the beaches if you want.

Mr. Ireland says hang on a minute folks we skipped over something and was just reminded.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from May 4, 2023

Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from May 11, 2023.

Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

Mr. Ireland says sorry to Matt, I called you out of turn, my fault.

C. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and City of Punta Gorda Police Dept. – Marine Updates

Deputy Carley good morning, everyone, our busy month for our year we had Memorial Day weekend. Saturday being the busiest of days, first we had the free concert at the Boca Grande Sandbar.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch how many people were actually there.

Deputy Carley they estimated 40,000 boats, it get's bigger every year. Knock on wood very low key, we didn't have a lot of issues, no fights, no injuries a few arrests. Which is given for the amount of alcohol that's out there. But, between us and FWC other than that it was really low key. Everybody behaved themselves, there wasn't garbage floating, they were pretty good about policing themselves.

D. Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

Deputy Carley gives presentation due to Roger is not present. The derelict's that we're currently working on in the county. There is a couple of vessels that washed up on Little Gasparilla Island that we have been working with, near Grande Avenue. Our investigator has located and served the owner with the DV packet, so his 21 days started on the 4th. So, we can get those on the list to get removed. On Beach Road there is a 43-foot houseboat that broke anchor, we figured out who the owner is, now we are just trying to locate the owner. So, we can give him his paperwork. Manchester Waterway there is a new 44-foot Carver, that's where we identified the owner which lives out of state. So, we sent the DV paperwork certified by mail. So, we can get that to him. Port Charlotte Beach Complex we currently have a vessel at risk. It's a 24-foot sailboat and it keeps breaking anchor and drifting into the swimming area. We have identified the owner and attempted to make contact with him to get that resolved. Then found on the 4th a boat sunken at Harbor Heights Park. The owner is showing as deceased, so we are working on trying to find next of kin. So, I've got to get the paperwork. That is the update on our current derelict's that we're working. Other than that, just staying busy, talks about the new boat, that is getting put into service and getting striped. Just staying busy it's summertime and we are out.

Mr. Ireland we appreciate your efforts.

Deputy Carley any questions?

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch there is an issue of, I think I know the answer to this. But are we still finding some boats that we didn't know that were sunk in some of the canals. We realized that a couple weeks ago still finding a couple smaller boats there.

Deputy Carley says yes, some of the boats especially the smaller boats, that we have been seeing in pass or sunk and some of the stuff that the storm has uncovered that was prior to. Probably closer to Charley

timeframe. The storm uncovered debris that we're seeing as we are scanning the canals. So, just working on cleaning the canals and still seeing the guys out there working, seeing the barges and stuff.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch this question is probably, you know it's one of these frustrating areas, cause I couldn't get something done right away. We got a call where there was a dog that had fallen in the water at Manchester Waterway. I think that the dog drowned, the dog was bloated and puffed up. In the waterway and the neighbors contacted Animal Control and they said they only have one person. They couldn't get out and do it, they said they contacted the FWC, and they said they don't do that. I am not sure if they contacted you guys, but you don't that. They both discuss this matter.

Mr. Bigness couple of questions, I think over the last few years, quite an expansion of rental boats, jet skis and you know the people of the beach and all that. Are you guys seeing any issues that are developing, I've notice a lot of boaters that aren't very good at boating and crashing into the dock's. Are you guys seeing a trend that you think we need to think about and look at?

Deputy Carley said Yes, I know we work with FWC because they do a lot of the livery inspections. We have seen an increase with the rental boat population and the lack of education. And the lack of education of the vessel renters. We're seeing more of the private boat renters, that you find on Craig's list or online or whatever. They meet you at the boat ramp or they meet you and you pay and deliver their boat to the boat ramp, and you go out for the day and come back, and they pick their boat up and you have a great day. They have jet ski's that do that and boats that do that, they are all around the county. Even I day our biggest one is Freedom Boat Club. I have to say that's a majority of my educational stops in the water. Our people from Freedom, you know the renters from Freedom boat club. Which is ironic because they all say I didn't know. I know Freedom makes them go through a boating safety class prior to being able to take the boat out themselves. They have to sit through a boater's safety class. So, I always call them out on that. It's lack of use, lack of knowledge and not paying attention. You know we are still working on getting the signs back and slowing coming back to remind people of the manatee zones, the slow speed zones and stuff like that. So, we are still doing a lot of education, but we are seeing a large of boat rentals. Especially the private rentals that are coming out.

Mr. Bigness asks how many officers do you have full time in all of Charlotte County like say today, how many guys are in a boat? I mean different boats.

Deputy Carley so, currently we have a Sergeant which we share with the traffic unit, he splits duties between us and the traffic unit. So, our full time Corporal is Corporal Aaron Williams, which is normally here but he is actually on vacation this week. There is myself, Deputy Smith and Deputy Nelson. So, there is four and half marine.

Mr. Bigness I just find that amazing for our entire county that all we have is four and a half. Both discuss this matter, the volunteers, the shortage of deputies and not enough manpower.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch joins in on the discussion.

A.J. Russell I am taking over for officer Trufan, he'll still be around. He is just going to reserve status, family and kids are growing up. He might be here, or I might be here. Manpower is also the going trend, I am currently in a like transitional period. I am not full time on the boat yet, right now. I am still handling partial duty on my unit, and I will be full time on the boat. As of right now we are still trying to fill holes in the roads, public school is out right now so that's less of an issue. But our status right now, we have one

derelict boat were working it is going back out to bid for removal. So, it's at the end of the process hopefully that will be remedied soon. We have one boat that we just got this holiday weekend it's at risk. It's in the canals off Rio Tiegra I believe so, we'll be checking in on that probably tomorrow. Its owner sold it, new owner obviously lives in Okeechobee or something like that. So, he's gotta come back and pick it up, hopefully it happens this weekend or in the coming days. A little bit about me, I have been with the Punta Gorda Police Department for about six years now actually this week. I was born and raised here in Charlotte County, Punta Gorda, grew up on the water fishing and all that stuff. I have my captains license so it's something I've been interested in. It's just were a one-man full time marine position so.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch you know your way around.

AJ Russell I do know my way around. So, the position opened up and I was happy to take that hole. So, if you have any questions for me. I am not a hard guy to get a hold of you can call the police department and ask for me and they'll send you to my phone or I can give you business cards and all that stuff. As of right now I don't have too much to give for you or answer to many questions. The on-job transition training was quite limited honestly. I've been a sub member of the patrol group for about 3 years now, so I was trained long ago. I've been on the boat when we need extra staffing for about three years but, the intricacies of all the paperwork and stuff. Well, Joe was getting the transition out I was covering the roads. There wasn't a lot of that so that process might take a little bit longer. I might not be able to answer all of your questions right now but we're working on it. If you have any questions for me right now, I will take them but.

Ms. Bareither I don't know if you know or not, but I heard because I live in Punta Gorda that your marine patrol department has been dwindled down to where your thinking about dropping it.

AJ Russell we have me full time.

Ms. Bareither no, I mean your volunteers.

AJ Russell we have 23 volunteers right now. Then again, they are volunteers they do leave come season. We have 2 people on the boat are half our roster right now, they printed it up for me the other day. We are even some days are double shifts on volunteers so. We don't seem to be having any trouble getting volunteers out of the boat as of right now.

Mr. Ireland good deal and thank you buddy appreciate it.

AJ Russell thank you.

E. FY23/24 MAC Financials - Mark Snow

Mr. Ireland I can back on schedule a little bit. We had Mark Snow planning to tell us about his, all this information on our liaison WCIND but if we are going to put it off until we come back in the fall. He's happier to do that, do you have anything else you'd like to fill us with?

Mr. Wolley I just looked thru the presentation, which was really, really good but the pictures they were all references 2015. Was that the 2015 correct or do we have more current pictures.

Mr. Ireland he will give us the updated ok thank you.

F. MSBU Update – Matt Logan/Zach Patchell

Mr. Logan discussed the items on his MSBU project update list. Zach actually handles the MSBU, so if we could get his name back on the agenda that would be great. I am the beach guy, so I'll do a quick update on the beach and let Zach handle MSBU.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch you're not the beach you're a beach.

Mr. Logan yeah, the beach guy is Michael, I am just the county beach guy. So, we are working right now obviously we had Ian come through, we are working on the FEMA up in the pass. We've gone out and collected all the surveys we know how much sand was lost. We're working on securing funding both through FEMA and the State. To try and put some of that sand back, it's a complicated process because FEMA has one set of standards. The State has another set of standards so we're trying to get as much money for this recovery effort as we can it looks like we're depending on when the FEMA funding becomes available, we're going to be trying to do an interim drop called project out there. And place the lost sand from the storm back on the beach. Now this is a, we just hit our three years on Manasota Key, so this is our third year of monitoring. Our third year where we had to go out and do the beach tilling. Next year we won't see the beach tilling but were going to continue to monitor the beach. Make sure that were tracking the sand loss and the shorelines so we can hopefully we won't have to do a full-blown project ahead of the eight-year projection that we did. Obviously, the future dictates where our shore line goes and we'll continue to monitor that.

Mr. Darden all of the sand that we're going to be trucking in associated with Hurricane Ian will all be FEMA reimbursement.

Mr. Logan FEMA pays a percentage what happens is FEMA has a window like there's for FEMA we had to survey it out to 1200 feet offshore and so the sand stayed in that 1200 foot window which it a lot of it did. They said this is your loss, the state looks at it as the template. So, they said we want to make you whole for the template and the template is significantly smaller than the FEMA. So that sand that we lost out of the template that's still in the FEMA window. Doesn't qualify for FEMA but qualifies for the State. We've got two different criteria that we have to meet, and that's why our true beach guy the guru is on board to calculate. O.K. FEMA is going to pay for this, the State is going to pay for that, and he works his magic. We have to bet on this side of the house when it goes out for bid. We have to break it down, like FEMA is paying this much, the State is paying this much. Says I just have to take a moment just because this is Jim's last meeting and

Mr. Ireland says we were told that last meeting.

Mr. Logan this is true this is his last week, and over the past four years, five years we have like. He has got such a great handle on the beach management funding stuff that I know Mark is gonna take it and run with it. He is going to do a fantastic job, but I want to thank you for all the hard work you did. Because you made it a much simpler process.

Mr. Ireland says absolutely.

Mr. Logan says thank you and I know it's going to be left in good hands and congratulations.

Mr. Ireland thank you Matt.

Mr. Patchell I will keep my update short due to the fact that many of these haven't changed in the last couple of months that I've reported to you. As you know all my projects here on this list are in design phase, with the exception on Manchester I'll get to that. There either waiting on our report or permitting which has been seriously delayed, and/or that has been stalled out due to us doing the post Ian bathymetric survey work so, that way we can update current quantities. I've got to follow up with the consultant but if there not, all completed with a fewer workday, we'll meet in the next week or two. I should start getting deliverables and therefore updates to the project designs. So hopefully after your summer break I might have a little bit more feedback. Set up purchase request for dredging to get started and discusses that.

Ackerman Waterway: No active project at this time. Refer to Manchester Waterway.

Alligator Creek: Dredge Design Project- CEC started design phase and has drafted and submitted permit application to State and Federal agencies. FDEP responded with a request for information to which CEC submitted the info and since that permit was issued. Still awaiting and ACOE permit.

Buena Vista Area Waterways: Dredge Design Project

- FDEP and ACOE permits have been received
- Design deliverables have been received
- The MSBU Advisory Board and county staff is now waiting on the post-storm bathymetric survey results to dial in the exact limits of the upcoming dredge event. The Sunrise Channel is at the top of the list for dredging needs and will be included in this event.

Edgewater North: No active project at this time.

Gulf Cove Waterways: Dredge Design Project

- The county has submitted a purchase request to hire a firm to perform a post- storm bathymetric survey. Project design will be adjusted as need be based off that survey. Application for FEMA funding will be made for any storm impacts to waterways.

Harbour Heights:

- No active project at this time.

Hayward Canals: Dredge Project

- Sea and Shoreline had dredged close to half the project before hurricane Ian. The project has been on hold since. The county had to initiate the emergency debris removal contract and clear the waterway before the project could resume.
- Post-dredge bathymetric survey results were just received, and the county and contractor are working out details on resuming the project after a long delay due to hurricane Ian.

Manchester Waterway: Dredge Design – Dredge Project

- Atkins finalized and submitted construction plans and specification. County staff has reviewed and is ready to initiate a purchase request to begin the bid process to hire a dredging contractor.

Northwest Port Charlotte: Dredge Project

- County Staff and Arbor Tree & Land have agreed to yet another change order of time to move the project start date out to 12-4-23. This is due to Hurricane Ian delays and the need of canal debris removal.

Peace River Shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor: Dredge Design Project

- Coastal Engineering has started the design phase of this project, submitting permit application to FDEP and USACE
- We recently received a permit from FDEP and still await USACE.
- A post-storm survey will be performed, and project data updated. FEMA aid may be applied for.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: No active project at this time.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock: Design Project

- The design project is at 60 percent design and the Tender House design change order was just approved on the Sep. 13th
- The Tender House Design and Parallel Lock design components will be advanced together.
- DMK just submitted to the county the siting report for proposed Tender house and a new environmental report. Those reports will be submitted to permit agencies for review.
- 30 percent Tender House plans were just received and reviewed and returned with comments. The consultant will be advancing towards 60 percent submittal.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

Mr. McIntosh on Alligator Creek is that a spot dredge that you're getting a permit for?

Mr. Patchell it is there mostly all technically a spot dredge, that's a little bit more comprehensive. We're trying to go from to the beginning of the access channel out in the harbor. He discusses this and about marker one is missing and mentions being in bad shape right now. But it's being worked on, and they have a list of all of our channels, that have damage and missing markers. So, if markers haven't been replaced, they will be.

Mr. Ireland thank you Zach very much and Roger is conspicuous, he is absent. He has plenty to do, you can judge by the multi color list of derelict boats that he's dealing with, and he will be busy for the rest of his life.

Mr. Ireland then we are going to have Mark update us on the WCIND but A) we don't have a full boat and B) we'll wait till two months from now, so we'll have a chance to look at it, absorb what we can of it from what we can understand, and he will bring us up to date in a couple of months. Then asks any old business that would like to hash out.

7. Old Business –

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch is there any one here who can give us an update on Alligator Creek? Did they do the paperwork this week that we're talking about for the last six months? Supposedly the paperwork was to be done this or next week. But I have been hearing that for six months.

Mr. McIntosh speaks, and they have a small discussion.

8. Citizen Comments –
None offered.

9. Citizen Comments –
None offered.

10. Good of the Order –
None offered.


11. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, September 7, 2023 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, September 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106 in Murdock Building B.**

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Minutes Approved


Tom Ireland, Chair