

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 14, 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 None offered.
- 5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items None offered.
- 6. Regular Business
- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from June 1, 2023 Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from June 8, 2023. Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.
 - C. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and City of Punta Gorda Police Dept. Marine Updates

Deputy Richard Carly says we've been busy, working with derelicts again. There is a new FWC web base for removals that they changed and hired to a third party that FWC got through the state. So, as of a couple weeks ago I do know we at the Sheriff's Department were the first and only non FWC agency to get access

to it, permission and actually using it to get our derelicts on the list to help removal a little bit quicker. So, that's a good thing. I do not have an updated list we've been busy the last few weeks with our biannual trainings and stuff so that our derelict deputies are in training right now and did not get me his list on time. We do have some new misplaced boats from the last hurricane, we are working on. They have the dive competition coming tomorrow and Saturday, if you want some good entertainment stuff and tells all to go down to FSW campus. You can watch the dive competition; this year they have underwater cameras, and you can see some stuff going on under water on the Jumbotron. So, you're not just watching bubbles. Food trucks will be there, please come by for a good time.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch are we still finding new boats in the canals?

Deputy Richard Carly not so much new boats anymore, not from the storms. The last one we got a few that got displaced that we found pretty quick. But not that I am aware of that we're finding any new boats from last years hurricane.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I mentioned a couple different venues I don't do it, but I was asked about it by a couple people. I guess there was things on Facebook saying Oh if the boats in your yard it's yours. No, it's not! That was all over for a few days and if the boat's documented it's a whole other story. Because it goes beyond the state registrations, so it's not yours if it lands in your yard.

Deputy Richard Carly we still get the phone calls, hey I found this boat floating, do I get to keep it. No, that's not how this works.

Ms. Campanella are you guys responsible for the Riviera Marine Cleanup?

Deputy Richard Carly uh, no right now that's a lot of the DEP, Federal, I think FWC is involved, I haven't been down there recently with the guys working there tell me it's getting cleaned up pretty quick.

Ms. Campanella it's absolutely beautiful and whoever is responsible thank you!

Deputy Richard Carly that's going to be the new owner who ever took it over, they are paying to get all that cleaned up and move quickly and all that stuff.

Ms. Campanella I hardly recognized it when I was down there it's beautiful.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I'll hitch hike on that because we talked about it at Beaches and Shores. They finally resolved the ownerships been defined, and DEM has been working in cooperation with them. I haven't been down there either, but I understand that there doing a great job.

Chair Ireland we've seen the pictures of it looks really good.

Mr. Hickey I spoke with the owner, his name is Joe Pacington. They are in permit process right now, with a whole new seawall in the inner basin. He still has the permit to put another 50% of the docks on the outside on the river side for docking boats to go to the Tiki hut. They're on order hopefully, he's hoping to have them installed before Christmas time. So, but they already moving ahead, the brand-new travel lift that was sitting in their other yard is out there already. Kudos to him, in one months' time they removed all the derelicts.

Deputy Richard Carly he's done a lot.

Mr. Hickey you bring in big enough toys, I was watching with my grandson crush boats. These machines are so big they crush them like an egg.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch what did that process take about three years, plus or minus or more.

Mr. Hickey the only thing he has permits right now is the docking on the outside.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch we need to get the ownership defined. They all discuss.

Mr. Hickey it was all about liability of, who's gonna take the responsibility of the fines for the pollution. Which he was not, the estate of the previous owner and whoever the powers to be. They had to iron that out. In the meantime, he couldn't do anything.

Chair Ireland any other questions?

Mr. Hickey I have a kudos, I know we are not supposed to talk about helicopters. I happen to be on Palm Island the day you guys did your training, with your swimmers.

Deputy Richard Carly yes,

Mr. Hickey so we have a couple hour long show, we just sat outside of the ice cream shop. Your pilot is phenomenal, he can hold that thing steady. Pick these guys up and take the swimmers out and bring them all back it was a really amazing training.

Deputy Richard Carly so on that, if you folks don't know our aviation, is got the certifications for what we call long arm rescue, which is this 50-foot line dangle from the helicopter. We go in and get people out of desolate areas, water rescue and stuff like that. We also, he is getting certified and has the equipment and training on it for a basket lift. Just like we said it goes far, it can go up and down with a hoist,

Mr. Vigne and we pay for it.

Deputy Richard Carly yes, and so he's gone thru and got, so the marine unit, and he has his aviation crew. We're all actually certified in water rescue swimmers now. That we can deploy from the helicopter, we're in the process now, we go up to Fort Campbell and are viewing the, they call it the flipping, drowning helicopter, we actually go in and they flip it under the water, and we have to escape from the upside-down helicopter. We're doing a lot, so we are such in a middle aspect between the north and south areas of the Coast Guard that we can get called to go and do water rescues offshore. He discusses this with the members of the training and equipment. We are on standby in the panhandle for aviation to go up there in case they need our rescue stuff to get up there.

Chair Ireland now Punta Gorda.

AJ Russell how are you doing? AJ Russell Punta Gorda Police, like he said welcome back. We don't really have anything to big right now. Our storm boats from our last hurricane and the hurricane before. Those are all moving forward, they were kinda in standstill for a while. Because FWC working them, the guy who was in the middle of his investigations retired. So, they sat for a little, til they got reassigned to a new

officer. Those are all moving forward, so there is a couple of boats, Laishley Park there is one against the seawall there, there is a boat that is in between the two bridges that is tied up to the signage there. Two boats outside of Fisherman's Village, those are all moving forward to be removed. We had a small little probably 14ish foot center console boat that was, it looked like it had been sunk for maybe years. Somebody brought it into the Laishley bay dock probably a month and a half ago. Assume they were trying to help out clean up, but they did, ya know there is a process to us taking stuff out of the water. So, that actually just got pulled out yesterday. That's good it's no longer stuck under day dock. Other than that, we got pretty lucky during the storm, no real issues in our mooring areas. Anything that did have an issue was remedied really quick by the owners. Which usually never happens. We had two boats that had issues, one was that little houseboat, I don't know if anybody saw it out there, a little pontoon houseboat. That flipped over. We had it up righted and removed by Sea Tow through his insurance the next day. We have a delivery of a boat today actually after this meeting. We're getting a Carolina Skiff which is going to help free up more of our patrol boats because our metal shark boat that is our Police/Fire rescue boat right now. Also doubles as our volunteer boat so they daily use that, they use it if there's an emergency. They're being the volunteers are being taken off that boat and they are going to have their own 16-foot Carolina Skiff. It is going to stay in the canals for the most part, it's gonna be docked there. So, they will have access to that, kinda frees up for us to use our main patrol boats. But other than that, everything is going well, things are going smooth, canals look pretty good, and the two other smaller issues of boats anchored in the canals after the storms. It kind of tossed them around but any questions for me.

D. FY23/24 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Mark Snow

Chair Ireland said the next thing up was Mark Snow, has done some really great work and putting together this presentation on all the things we do with our grant and give everybody an understanding of WINC and all the agencies we work with. But Mark can't be here today he will do it in October and sent a female employee to sit in on the meeting. First of all, welcome back I didn't say that in the beginning. Everybody else beat me to it. I hope everybody had a decent vacation and we're back at it. We have a new member Angus McCinnon, he is from Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor welcome Angus. You don't have to come in your uniform anymore.

Mr. McCinnon thank you.

Female speaker says that Mark just wanted me to remind everyone to get their reimbursements in as soon as possible and to remind everyone that quarter reports are due on the 10th of October.

Chair Ireland says now is a good time to talk about it I guess, you all knew Jim Darden. Who chickened out and retired, but I got a call last week that he would like to be a member at large in our committee. That is excellent for us, it maybe that he looked into committee and said in doing good work and like to be part of it or it may have been he looked to the committee and said holy crap they need help. We don't know that yet, but he is going to come and fill in and that's excellent. He's been good to us, he's been good for us, and we'll be happy to have him as an ongoing member. Zach do you have anything.

E. MSBU Update – Matt Logan/Zach Patchell

Mr. Patchell said sure and Matt's not here, but I will give you the waterway report here and discussed the items on his MSBU project update list.

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

Alligator Creek: CEC started design phase receiving initiation docs from county. CEC 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

• Final plans and specifications are under review and include hurricane Ian impacts. Bid phase will commence once finalized.

Edgewater North: No active project at this time.

Gulf Cove Waterways:

• The interior canal dredge design project is in a holding pattern until hurricane Ian impact results are finalized. Those result are currently being processed by engineering and will be submitted to the county for review in the coming weeks.

Harbour Heights:

No active project at this time.

Hayward Canals:

• No active project at this time.

Manchester Waterway:

• The dredge project for Christopher, Knox, and Bay Harbor canals was just bid those bids are under review by county staff and the MSBU Advisory Board for recommendation.

Northwest Port Charlotte:

 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:

- Coastal Engineering has completed the post Ian Bathymetric survey of Pirate Harbor channels and found that there were only insignificant impacts because of that storm.
- The dredge design project is in final design stages and construction bid document are expected in the coming month.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: No active project at this time.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock:

- 30 percent Tender House plans were just received and reviewed and returned with comments. The
 consultant will be advancing towards 60 percent submittal and matching the level of completion
 with the parallel lock plans.
- The Geotech work for the tender house was just completed.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

Mr. Russell speaks to Zach on Spring Lake Waterway peeves at the Beach complex, there is not MSBU for Spring Lake.

Mr. Patchell that's correct.

Mr. Russell so they have the benefit of coming down and teeing right into Beach complex and then going out Sunrise Waterway free of charge. The biggest problem we have right there where they tee in, at the Beach complex. That's where that build up is, from various directions but I mean obviously, boats coming down from Spring Lake, East Spring Lake, West Spring Lake. I mean they gotta have several hundred boats up there and every time I'm seeing them coming down. I've been up there they've been going much faster than minimum wake. This stirs up stuff, because when you make the turn, I am just saying I think it's inevitable that we're having to bear the brunt at Buena Vista for people that benefit from Spring Lake. Something needs to be done to make it more equitable.

Mr. Patchell, and Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch joins in with Mr. Russell on this conversation regarding the minimum wake. Mr. Patchell says obviously the Sunrise infill we know that's an ongoing thing. Two or three years we have to dredge that out, I think historically and thru coastal engineering we're found probably the majority of that infill is coming off the beach itself. That's why parks and Matt Logan have an ongoing design project and a discussion takes place.

Mr. Ireland one quick question, alligator creek what' your best guess before we'll see dredgers out there.

Mr. Patchell says we'll if you can see the current pricing situation. I am talking internally and were not sure if that's maybe try to pair some of these projects together if it's feasible. If we can get a contractor here for a longer duration, opening projects, higher quantity you know obviously more money maybe we can get better rates. I'm not sure that that's going to work but um we're looking at that. Otherwise, it's really hard to say without the permitting. The good news is that they finally got a formal section chief again down there in the Fort Myers office for army core. They have had it going on that someone had it for a couple weeks at a time, or a lump at a time and then it was on a rotation. We'll they have filled the position; they have a couple new reviewers. The latest reviewer that was reviewing Pirate Harbor project, he reached out to the consultant with some questions. They were back and forth, within a month or two, we had an authorization under nation one. Where alligator documentation sits on his desk in that pile, I couldn't tell you. I know they're inundated with work down there.

Mr. Russell who and how is the maximum rate for the MSBU to determine, at Buena Vista we got an excellent rate of \$679.00.

Mr. Patchell yeah, you're getting a little bit outside of my job description here. Those questions at our MSBU meeting with Buena Vista you asked Carlene or Erica or there and they could point you in the right direction. In addition to your last question, MSBU's are typically set up when they want to create a funding source and in some kind of service unit. Without people in Spring Lake saying hey we want to start dredging and this and that. How to enforce them to chip in on the costs, it's outside on my, a small discussion takes place.

F. Derelict Vessel Report - Roger DeBruler

Chair Ireland says Roger it off doing his job.

Ms. Powell says I will step in for Roger for a few minutes. So, we don't have an updated report, the combination of the new FWC database that the county no longer has access to, and Roger has been on extended leave. We will get an updated report when we can.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell said she will give a brief update on projects.

• Ainger Creek Park:

- Park Redevelopment project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: DEP and USACE have received our permit applications and reviewers have been appointed.
- Allapatachee Park: No projects at this time.

• Anger Fishing Pier:

o Community Services is managing repairs to the sidewalk undermining and rock revetment; the project is anticipated to start at the end of September and will require closure of the pier.

• Bayshore Live Oak Park:

- Fishing Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; additional project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. The pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions; regulatory agencies are requiring the project to be fully re-permitted.
- o Grass Parking project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; Facilities provided the following: Construction was nearly completed prior to Hurricane Idalia, but site sustained additional damages will need to be repaired.
- Boca Grande Fishing Pier: No projects at this time.
- Butterford Waterway Park: No projects at this time.

• Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center:

o Seawall replacement design project is being managed by Community Services; the project design has been awarded.

• Cedar Point Environmental Park:

- o Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July. The design team is working on an initial design for review.
- Centennial Fishing Pier: No projects at this time.

• Darst Park:

- o Community Services is managing the boarding pier replacement and seawall replacement along with ramp scour protection; the design is at 60%.
- o HURRICANE DAMAGE may affect the status of this project moving forward.
- 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:

- o Community Services is managing a repair project that includes repairs to the fishing pier at Chadwick, as we all as to the boardwalk pavilions on the Englewood Beach portion of the park; the project is complete.
- o Community Services is managing a repair project that includes hardware replacement and repairs to the structure of the showers; the project in purchasing.

• Harbour Heights Park:

- o Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permitting package is under review by the regulatory agencies.
- Hathaway Park: No projects at this time.
- Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park: No projects at this time.

• Live Oak Point:

- o The erosion assessment project has been completed. The project design has been awarded; however more damage was sustained as part of Hurricane Idalia.
- Placida Fishing Pier: No projects at this time.

• Placida Park:

o 2014 Sales Tax project for the boat ramp expansion is being managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: FDEP has required a redesign to reduce the mangrove impacts significantly more and USACE has rejected the current plan also because it does not show any avoidance or minimization for the proposed mangrove impacts.

• Port Charlotte Beach Park:

- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Recreation Center is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: The project is schedule for pre-application meeting for DRC and SFWMD in the coming weeks.
- o 2020 Sales Tax Tier 2 project for the Pool is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: Working with the design team on where the best location for the new pool and pool house would be.
- o Community Services is managing the T-dock replacement project; project is complete.

• Riverside Park:

- o Ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels due to safety issues cannot be address via repairs. The project is being managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: FDEP has issued their permit, waiting on ACOE to issue their permit.
- South Gulf Cove Park: No projects at this time.

• Spring Lake Park:

- o HURRICANE DAMAGE of the c/k launch boarding pier project; repairs waiting on determination from FEMA.
- o Community Services is also managing a ramp scour protection project the design is at 90%.

• William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park:

- o The trails, boardwalk, fitness equipment and signage project is being managed by Community Services; additional project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Permits have been received from SWFWMD ACOE; project is out for bid.
- o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: no updated provided for September.

Mr. Welsh on the Charlotte Harbor Event Center seawalls and maybe even Stephen R can answer this. I presume it to the joint city council county commissioner meeting several months ago for proposal to put in day docks and quote on quote. That's a low hanging fruit I believe what was said. We need to do this, should that not be incorporated into the design of the seawalls.

Ms. Powell because the seawall had additional damage from Ian, the decision was made to keep those designs separate incase there was any ability to get FEMA money, either for damages or for hazard mitigation for improvements. So, those are separate, and we wouldn't be able to design the docks until after the seawall design is complete. To make sure that those are compatible.

Mr. Welsh is it on the books to design?

Ms. Powell we don't currently have any funding source for design for that. However, we know that, that is something that the board discussed. So, when we get to the point where it's appropriate to initiate that and we will go back to the board and request funding.

Chair Ireland it's not dead.

Ms. Powell it is on our project list, we're just not at a phase where we can initiate it yet, with all the other steps we have to go through with the seawall steps.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch you're looking a ways off. Most of the community I don't think really knows the extent of the depth of the damage that we took from the hurricane a year ago. We're really trying to play catch up with that, I know we've discussed it. But I don't think it's as severe as a FEMA program at this point. We have to get the seawall done and that's on a prior contract. You can't add in like that.

Mr. Welsh so who would submit it as a formal program?

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I think you would have to present the concept to the county. I would first of all go ahead and see how it's feasible from a public safety point of view and that will work, will it fit in. There is going to have to be certain criteria that were gonna have to do. I don't know the depth of the water there. My guess is it's probably only 5 to 6 feet. It's not very deep so, it's possibly could be done, but I don't want to mislead you to say hey yeah were going to be getting to it in a couple of months.

Mr. Welsh I understand that.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch it's a long slow process and so many of our projects, you hear people say talk about the core of Army of Engineers. Usually when were moving ahead we got to wait for them, a year, and a half to two years before they'll finally get out and approve one of our projects. The process is really frustratingly slow.

Ms. Powell so the process to initiate the dock project on the county level once we get to the point where we have a full seawall design. Since it's on community services project list we will bring it to administration. Then we'll take it to the board and ask if they want to move forward with this project.

Mr. Welsh the other reason I ask that is if it's something that we need to do from the boater's alliance to make a formal proposal we can do that. But if we don't need to, I want to make sure, we don't drop the ball.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch it wouldn't hurt, it would certainly help raise some attention to it. But again, the reality is you're not looking at weeks, you're looking at years.

Mr. Welsh I understand that, but any journey begins with the first steps so.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch exactly, I think that might be a good idea. You bring some attention to it, you give it some sex appeal, you talk about the need and present it and it will go through the process.

Ms. Powell I think as I provide my updates when we get to the point where that would be most effective. Prior to us bringing it, I can certainly let you all know. I would caution doing it right now, because did already get the direction from the board to put that on our project list. But as the commissioner said the time frame for the seawall is quite long so we're not even at a point where we can initiate it. So, I can certainly keep everybody in the loop with the best time to bring that back to the board.

Chair Ireland thank you very much! Anybody else have a question for Tina? Thank you, Tina, very much!

7. New Business -

Chair Ireland said I have a little point I would like to make in this new business. Every week before the general meeting like this we have a pre-agenda meeting and as always been quite beneficial, most of us learn something from it. Because we talk about a lot of different things there. We talk about ways to present issues here at this meeting. We aren't getting the attendance that we really should. It doesn't take long, last week was a record seven minutes. It wasn't worth the drive over. I don't want to eliminate the pre-agenda meeting; I like to get more out of it or put more into it. So, if you would consider, first of all Kim could you put this on your reminder list to agenda and let's see if we can get better attendance, good

discussion, it's different than this not as formal. We can get things decided so um consider that next month. I appreciate seeing an uptake in attendance.

- 8. Old Business None offered.
- 9. Other Business None offered.
- 10. Citizen Comments –

Deputy Richard Carly do any of you know anything about the River Cruise or the cruise line that is coming into Charlotte Harbor coming Christmas Day to Fisherman's Village?

Chair Ireland no, we talked about it we don't know. Where are they gonna dock?

Deputy Richard Carly what I found is there in the anchoring, they will do shuttle boats to Fisherman's Village. I don't know if anybody has heard any more or if it's stuff that's being pushed.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I heard about it, curious what it draws, where are they gonna put it that's all.

Deputy Richard Carly yeah, it's like a 300-foot catamaran style, I call it a river cruise boat. Supposedly it's going from St. Pete to the Keys. It's like a weeklong and they're advertising, I think it's like a \$6,000 per person charge.

Mr. Welsh the only thing there was an article in the sun paper about it. The mayor of Punta Gorda announced it at the city counsel meeting. So, other than that I don't know if anybody has any other details.

Mr. Russell have they said where they're going to anchor out at?

Deputy Richard Carly it's going to be somewhere off of Fisherman's Village in the deeper water.

Ms. Campanella the first I saw of that was in the Newsbreak and they were saying they gave the cost. This is the first we heard. They were saying if you want the luxury suite it's \$11,000 but prices for individuals start at \$67,000.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch \$6,700

Ms. Campanella no, it said \$67,000

Mr. Welsh they can't be right.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I've never been on one of those small boat cruises. I've been on a number of regular cruises and the reality is, the people I've talked to that have been on, first of all they are very expensive. But it's usually because they only have 100-150 people.

Ms. Campanella they include everything on there.

Chair Ireland I saw somewhere in the paper I guess it was Stephen R.'s birthday a couple weeks ago.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch that was a type O.

Chair Ireland right after that the next day or so I noticed a commissioner was investigating term limits, I don't think there connected.

11. Good of the Order - None offered.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, October 5, 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, October 12, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106** in **Murdock Building B.**

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. Minutes Approved

Tom Ireland, Chair