



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 12, 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. 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.

3. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

4. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

5. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from September 7, 2023
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from September 14, 2023.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

6. Roll Call

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

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

Lt. Williams glad to be back, we have a couple of updates as far as the boat that is currently being built. It is the 24-foot bay boat that was funded through the request of the MAC Committee. We got an extension on that boat because of delays and probably back in June, they told me that the motor wasn't gonna be in

until January or beginning of February. I spoke with them last week; motor came in early and has been installed on the boat. We are hopeful that delivery could be towards the end of December. It's not a definite promise but we're hopeful on that. The next thing we are starting to see some marina burglaries again, typically they're more of an organized groups that are going it, that work around the entire state. This week we had, used to be the old Gator Creek Marina on Del Tona. I believe it's that Black Label Marina now is the name of it. They were broken into and had thousand, and thousands of dollars' worth of marine electronics stolen. As you're out and about let people know or if you keep your boat at a marina, just kind of be aware. Let the marina staff know this is going on. They're targeting the high-end electronics. We are reaching out to the marina's as well on our own just to make sure they are aware. Other thing we have is the derelict stuff. Out in the Englewood area we are working a few derelicts, over by the Tamarind condo. There is a 40-foot cabin cruiser that's a ground. It is actually owned by somebody who is deceased, and we are in contact with the next of kin, we are doing the authorization for removal. Hopefully that'll be going out for bid soon. There is an aluminum john boat that was sunk at Ainger Creek and tied up to the dock. Certified letters were sent out, the owner of that had called in this morning. There is a 32-foot Wellcraft up at Bay heights Park that's submerged, we filed criminal charges against the owner. It was difficult to get a hold of him, finally did and filed the charges against him. He is saying his insurance company is working on getting it removed. Hopefully there is some progress with that. Down into the Harbor area we are working a derelict over in Leland Street area, and that vessel was actually brought out of derelict status enough to donate to the Sailing Club out at the Beach Complex. We had a 24-foot Well craft abandoned at Harbour Heights Park and that was removed by Sea-Tow. Then we have another 21-foot boat that is at Harbour Heights Park and we're working on that. It's another deceased owner, we have had several deceased owner's that we're had to deal with. This involves a process of contacting the next of kin. We also just started a new case at Al Pache Park down in Punta Gorda, that boat is overturned and submerged. We do not have any information on it. Probably this coming week we will have to get into the water and see what we can find on that. We do have several boats out for bid to be removed. That includes the houseboat cause it's kinda submerged and tied up to the docks right next to Tom Adams, it's an eyesore and that's out for bid. There is another 26-foot Trojan that's sunk out towards Bay Heights Park area, Florida Marine Works won that. Then a 40-foot houseboat down in Pirate Harbor area that was removed by Sea-Tow.

Chair Ireland asks have you seen Roger lately?

Lt. Williams I have not seen Roger lately, I was actually on leave. I don't know if there is any changes going on. They have a small discussion on this.

Commission Stephen R. Deutsch have you seen any pickup in canal thefts at all?

Lt. Williams I have not seen any increase in thefts along the canal systems within the county. The other thing I have to add is we've been working harder with the vessel turn in programs. That is a tool we have and we've been working with FWC, we are exploring some other options with it. Talk about the boats and becoming derelict and how this program works.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch they have put in a large request to the State because of the involvement with helping to remove boats. Both discuss this.

Chair Ireland asks is anybody here from Punta Gorda?

Mrs. Sargent informs the members about AJ Russell had sent an email that he is working and won't be able to attend the meeting.

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

Mr. Snow goes over his report and shows the presentation on the big screen to all the members. He discusses the BRF, what the roles and responsibilities that the MAC has as well as the agencies that we provide grants to with the commissioners. He discusses the MAC, the Commissioners, and all areas included with the grants to support our waterways here within the county. It includes the Sheriff's Department, City of Punta Gorda, Peace River, Steel Power Squadron, several Coast Guard Auxiliary units, and all the other agencies represented. Mr. Deutsch is our Liaison to the Commissioners as well as concierge. The county also has departments that receive grants, parks and rec, public works, and then obviously me here to be your Liaison and advisor on a fiscal note. Talks about the funding sources that fall within the boater revolving fund, which is made up with four types of funds. One is the state, then the county provides funding to the BRF and then we get WCIND (West Coast Inland Navigation District) provides us funding. Two sources of funding, current year and then also rolls over into what we call CNIF, and I will explain those in a little bit. BIF State obviously comes from boater registration fees these are exclusive for debris removal, navigation improvement and boater access. In 2023 we had \$201,302.00 provided by BIF State. The boater improving fund BIF local is another additional registration fee that comes from the county. This is very flexible; it's really a broad grey area of boater related activity falls within this. In 2023 we provided \$378 thousand dollars and some change for grants from the BIF local. Then our last one like I said West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), these come from Ad Valorem Property Taxes. Most of you from within the county pay a fee, you'll see that on your tax statement. It provides for marine law enforcement navigation improvement, boater safety and education, environmental education, and boater recreation. There is for boater safety and education and recreation there is a 50% match by the agency that has awarded those. In 2023 WCIND provided \$823 thousand dollars for our BRF grants. County Navigation Improvement Fund (CNIF) this is where funds for that are not used within WCIND for a year, say your grant you were awarded \$75,000.00 dollars the agency only used \$65,000.00 that balance would fall into, recaptured into the CNIF. The difference with CNIF it's only for navigational improvements and so in 2023, we were able to take some prior WCIND projects and roll them together and we got \$350 thousand dollars for CNIF projects. What is my role in the fiscal grants section, I am the primary financial contact for BRF grants, I deal a lot with it. The agencies that we award grants to seek reimbursement for expenses that the grant covers. As well as support, I take in applications, the first quarter as most of you may have seen we have it out on CCTV, we have it out on the county MAC webpage for this next round of grant applications for 2025. Those are out on the street now and we will seek those back by the 1st of January 2024. Then I stack those applications to the MAC for a recommendation, we vote on those usually the end of March and then we take those to the Board of County Commissioners middle of April for approval. Once those are done then I give you updates on those in the May meeting. Then on the Liaison as I said to MAC, I give you the grant analysis and updates, which you all have a financial update of where we stand with the grants that we had in FY2023. Then goes over the voting for those.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch in the 90's with just you guys know because we appreciate your input. I think we're somewhere around 95% consistent with the recommendations and I don't know of anything else in the county when it comes to one that does that well with the commission. So, either we're on track or you guys should feel good about what you do.

Chair Ireland there is more or us than anybody else.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch that is true, you outnumber us.

Mr. Snow obviously we prioritize so it's to fit within the budget, and then bottom line the MAC only recommends they don't have the authority to approve grants. The BOCC meeting we discuss those, and

those funds and then the recommendations to get approval. Then just want to give some updates on what we're spending our money for. As you know each year with the MAC, the BRF provides funding for some dredge projects at Stump Pass and Manasota Key. They do have pictures of some of those, those efforts of being done. One on our grants was the artificial reef grant, the team from Parks manages this grant. Talks about the pictures being displayed. As Aaron said the abandoned vessel and debris removal projects, we are doing those. We did have an interesting one that came after Idalia, we had a DV that broke apart and it washed ashore so it was no longer considered a DV it became marine debris. If we were able to use these two grants to remove that. That shows you what they have to go thru and get done. I said education was a big part of what WCIND supports and what we support as the board has the Sailing Club, Charlotte Harbor Education Center and Environmental Center has a fourth-grade education program and provides classes to teach the kids about the importance of our water ways and maintaining those and keep them fresh for their generation and generations to come. Air patrol provides service each year with distress calls and maintaining there isn't any vessels out there that need help. On a monthly basis, they do about 10-15 flights per month for a couple of hours at a time. The marine markers and navigation needs, these grants obviously supports the repairs, the signs and make sure the waterways are clearly marked. They have a lot of delays this past year obviously because of Ian. Over the summer they did start picking up with processing projects and MPO to get some signs and navigational markers in place. Punta Gorda Police Department and Sheriff's Office we've bought boats in the past. They're already being used obviously, and they do provide a valuable service, especially during the holidays. Maintaining safety and providing rescue service when needed. Those are some of the boats that we've purchased. EMS we did provide a boat to them a couple of years ago. I just want to reiterate on boater revolving fund grants, obviously comes from West Coast Inland Navigation District about \$500,000 dollars to county annually. Boater Improvement Fund from the State, it was about \$200k it's been dropping every year. This past year it was about \$145,000 and this year it looked like registrations were down again to about \$137,000.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch are we losing any other counties that you're aware of?

Mr. Snow not that I'm aware of.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch there was one time somewhere years ago, I think it was DeSoto it seemed to take a hunk of some of our registrations.

Mr. Snow the BIF local those are about \$300k.

Mr. Wolley last year when we were going through this, we had some discussion about the 50% match. Organizations whether or not it needed to be money or if it could be something in time like hours worked. What is the current thinking on that?

Mr. Snow it's the same this year, it can be in time or monetary.

Mr. Wolley is there an hour rate they use for the in time?

Mr. Snow yes, I think it's \$29, I think it's what we used this year.

Mr. Wolley ok great thank you.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch we thank you that was a good job. It might be an idea and hang onto this and do it once a year particularly for any new members that come on. It's really a good orientation.

Chair Ireland yes, we very much appreciate it.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I'm gonna talk to Hector it might even be a good idea to share it with the rest of the commission so thank you.

E. MSBU Update – Matt Logan/Zach Patchell

Mr. Logan says that Zach did provide the MSBU report, I'm not going to cover that because that's his. However, if you have any questions let me know and I will get you guys answers. If there is anything that was in the report that you need additional information on. I will have him provide that and disburse it. I am really here about the beaches; I'll give you a quick update on the beaches. It's been a while but with Idalia we did have impacts, we are working thru, and I am happy to say that we have our final approval of the application for FEMA and State funds. That was just signed off on so we're in the que work through the process and the funding to deal with the lan repairs. Idalia is a different story, we just had coastal engineering go out do all the surveys. We met with FEMA unfortunately our shoreline does look drastically different that it did pre-Idalia. On Manasota Key it was actually when we applied the background erosion. It was actually found out that we have more sand in the system than we did prior to this storm. Unfortunately, we're not gonna get FEMA funds the Idalia on Manasota Key. However, Stump Pass and the North Beach, the tip of the island and seen some significant erosion out there. We are applying for category G funding to FEMA for those. We are going to try and working on the Idalia and lan repairs simultaneously. We have state funding and FEMA funding in the works for the lan repairs we're trying to fast track the Idalia application so that we can get this same on some mobilization and construct these simultaneously. I do want to thank Mark because we did have that vessel that washed up on the north end of Manasota Key, that we were able to secure funding and get it taken care of quickly before it buried itself on the beach.

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 lan 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 lan 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 and those bids came in well in excess of the current budget. This project has been cancelled for this year due to elevated dredging costs.

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. Recently ATL freed up their schedule and is in discussion with county staff on starting this project sooner than the 12-4- notice to proceed date. Details are currently being worked out.

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. Hickey Alligator Creek marker 1 and 2, when do you think they're gonna get, 1 is still there and it's slowly leaning over, 2 gone I don't know if it's broke off right at the water and somebody can hit it or it's completely gone. The red markers are a lot easier to see against the mangroves cause over there, there's no beach or anything and the green ones are harder to see. Of course, it's leaning over.

Mr. Logan I will reach out to our sign and marking department and see if I can do something about it.

F. Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

Roger DeBruler is not present.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell is not present.

Mr. Snow informs Chair Ireland she is on vacation.

- **Ainger Creek Park:**
 - o 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: Plans were submitted to the FDEP and to USACE for permitting. A request for additional information was received from FDEP; a response is being prepared. No response from ACOE.
- **Allapatachee Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Anger Fishing Pier:**
 - o Community Services is managing repairs to the sidewalk undermining and rock revetment; this project is complete.
- **Bayshore Live Oak Park:**
 - o 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; design is in progress.
 - o Grass Parking project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; Facilities provided the following: Work is completed waiting on response from vendor to schedule walkthrough with Community Services and final sod grow-in.
- **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 is in negotiations.
- **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 hardware replacement and repairs to the structure of the showers; staff is meeting onsite in the next week for a pre-construction walkthrough.
- **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: The design team has prepared a revised site plan to address the environmental impact reductions that were requested by both FDEP and USACE during their permitting reviews. The design team is working on setting up in-person meetings with both agencies to review the proposed plan.
- **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: We are initiating the Pre-application meeting for DRC and SFWMD in the coming weeks. They will also start working on the site design related to the area around the rec center. Schematic design plans were emailed for review and comments to all departments.
 - 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: Meeting was held to determine if the FEMA flood zones can be re-designate or shifted to better accommodate the development of the pool and pool house. Waiting on engineering firm to issue proposal for this work.
- **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: Awaiting on response from ACOE, permit application submitted on April of 2023.

- **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; construction will be award at the 10/24 BCC meeting.
 - o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: no updated provided for October.

Chair Ireland speaks with Eric from signing, he goes over the report on Navigational Aids/Marine Markers and gives information on all areas.

Chair Ireland goes over the new members for this organization. We have Angus McKinnon replacing Steven Scott, we have Jim Darden replacing a member-at-large, Bob Beiter replacing Daniel Voorhees of Harbour Heights Yacht Club, and Bill Moran from the Burnt Store Isles Boat Club. Any comments on any of those or questions?

7. New Business –

Voting on New Member Applications and the Re-Appointment Applications.

ACTION: A motion was made by Robert Hickey to approve Angus McKinnon, U.S.C.G.A Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor for appointment to the Marine Advisory Committee, seconded by Paul Bigness. All in favor. Motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

ACTION: A motion was made by Paul Bigness to approve Jim Darden, Member-at-Large for appointment to the Marine Advisory Committee, seconded by Betty Campanella. All in favor. Motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

ACTION: A motion was made by Hank Killion to approve Bob Beiter, Harbour Heights Yacht Club for appointment to the Marine Advisory Committee, seconded by Laura Gassett-Shoemaker. All in favor. Motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

ACTION: A motion was made by Susan Bareither to approve William (Bill) Moran, Burnt Store Isles Boat Club for appointment to the Marine Advisory Committee, seconded by Dave Vigne. All in favor. Motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair Ireland talks on voting for the Re-Appointment Applications.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch just make sure, if any feed back from the Attorney's office, has their record all been good that they're still active members, that they didn't have too many absences to throw them out of the race here.

Chair Ireland no they're all good.

ACTION: A motion was made by Hank Killion to approve all seven members for Re-Appointment, seconded by Betty Campanella. All in favor. Motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair Ireland says we all have a full slate again. We are still the largest committee this county has and with significant size. We will continue to do good things we hope. We have an open position for a Member-at-Large and the Port Charlotte Yacht Club. Asks Mrs. Sargent have we been in contact with the Port Charlotte Yacht Club to see if they have an applicant.

Mrs. Sargent I don't know I will have to check on that.

Chair Ireland we can take a look at that between now and next month.

8. Old Business –

Mr. Bigness says the Commissioner can chime in and we hear in papers but nothing official, I know it's not Charlotte County but Middle Beach it does feed to Charlotte County and affect traffic into Charlotte County part of Manasota Key. Is that under, what is going on with that do you know?

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I don't know.

9. Other Business –

Mr. Killion can somebody give us an update or whatever, on the Sunseeker wanting to put a marina in. Whether that's feasible or non-feasible. I mean the amount of dredging it's like dredging the harbor. There is no water out there at all.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch it's going to be interesting to watch this because the two most borderline absurd government agencies I've ever dealt with in my life. FEMA and the Core of Army Engineers nothing happens quickly with the Core. My guess is we won't hear anything for about two years. Also, I don't believe the State and/or the Core will support any dredging at all of that area. However, with that being said, I believe they have a shot at getting the docks in there. It goes out far enough, you will have three or four feet of water. You're certainly not going to get a sailboat in there, anything that's going to draw more than two, two and a half feet. Which means unless you can pull it up or down, you're probably looking at a sailboat 16 feet or less. I wouldn't think that you can get in there, you're not going to get a 30-foot sailboat in there. A discussion takes place.

Ms. Campanella has one suggestion, when we're voting on these new people, I would suggest that or ask that we have them come in introduce them to us, so we know who we are voting for. Is that too much to ask.

Chair Ireland no it's not, we have done it in the past.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch let me add if I may, most of those people, they sort have been vetted because a lot of them come from the organization.

Ms. Campanella yes but some of us don't know.

Chair Ireland asks any Old Business, Other Business which he already did prior. See above.

10. Citizens Comments –
None Offered.

11. Good of the Order –

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch speaks on Bill Gaines Park, I just want to share the events going on. October 18th was Bill Gaines birthday; Bill would be 61 years old this October 18th. Because it was 40 years ago on the 23rd of October that he was one of the 241 American's that were blown up in Beirut. Which literally was the beginning of the war on terror. We are going to be having on the 21st of October at 3pm at the Gaines Park. He discusses all of the events and what is going on with the park with all of the improvements and asks everyone to please come and see it will be a 1-hour program. We are expecting 100 motorcycles at the entrance of the park, a big flag will be over the top, program for one hour, have snacks, then the motorcycles will go over to the Twisted Fork and they're holding a concert / fundraiser for the park. They are asking for a \$10.00 donation. He has a small discussion about the talk show he did earlier in the morning, and they discussed all about Bill Gaines.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, November 2, 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, November 9, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106 in Murdock Building B.**

H. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair