

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 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.

Chair Ireland speaks to the members on losing Susan Bareither, she is retiring and has been here 11-12 years and presents award to her.

- 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 2, 2023 Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from November 9, 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 Carly I wasn't here last month. I am staying busy, keeping up with derelicts. Talks about the replacement who is taking over Roger's spot. Up in the Englewood area near Ainger Creek there is a 16-foot john boat we're working with FWC it has been removed to T street storage. Mentions the Ainger Creek boat ramp regarding one that, still working that and still trying to find the last owner, who wants to claim responsibility for that. There is a sailboat at Alligator Bay I think Bellavita is the name of it, we have been working with FWC they have found the owner for that vessel, papers have been signed. Laishley Park off Hickory Court working with FWC on the overturned vessel, the vessel was part of the hurricane Idalia removal process. That waiver has been signed; the removal was completed. Two vessels out for bids, one by Bayheights park which is already out for bid with the state and supposed to be gone within thirty days. The other vessel that was on Beach Road, which was a houseboat and has been removed. We have a vessel also in Chadwick that sunk, we're working with FWC.

Chair Ireland do you have any idea if the process is getting streamlined.

Deputy Carly not anymore that it has been in the past. I mean it's as streamlined as we can get it. You got to get so many days after we get in contact with them. So, they streamlined as much as legally possible, cause then we are waiting on the courts and then because the boats sit there, they get bid on and something happens with the contractors then it has to go out for rebid. We are on a rotation with the state, like every so many months we bid for this area, or they go to another part of the state of Florida and bid for that area.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch the thing that I see in the fourteen plus years that I've been involved. The state informed me they took stuff to WCIND about six or seven years ago. They are helping out a lot more than they did years ago. Talks about if a boat lands in your yard and the process that has to be followed and it takes time.

Deputy Carly discusses this with him on this and the issues.

Mr. Hickey I don't see the boat on the list that we talked about last month, there is a I believe it's a Carver up on Alligator Creek.

Deputy Carly I believe that is on the list, I will follow up on that.

Mr. Hickey there is a red sticker in the window.

Deputy Carly so if FWC is working that, I will check on that.

Mrs. Sargent roll call for Jim Darden is now present.

Officer AJ Russell will be back on the marine patrol back on the water, was training new people over the last couple of months. Our new volunteer boat the Carolina skiff is still waiting on lights and stickers. Should be done sooner than later. The two lifts in Laishley Marina are moving along, they are in permitting and all that stuff right now. The guy who is in charge of that is up to date, every time something gets checked off the list he calls me or the chief or somebody to keep us posted. There is a 53-foot Hateras it's beached behind Hurricane Charlies. Sea tow hasn't been able to get in there to get it out. The owner he is selling the boat with one of the companies here. The big thing on our agenda coming up is the boat parade on December 23rd at 6 pm. More people have pre-registered for this parade than in years past. Charlotte County, FWC and us we are all going to be out that night working.

Mr. Hickey I know you haven't been on the water. Last Saturday the Punta Gorda Boat club went out on the Christmas Light Cruise out of Fisherman's Village the harbor reaked of diesel fuel, it had a big shine on it, the wind was pushing it into the back corner to the front of Fisherman's Village. It smelt like a refinery, somebody billage or something.

Officer AJ Russell do you know if it's coming from the boats in the mooring field or in the marina?

Mr. Hickey hard to say. Both have a discussion on this.

D. MSBU Update - Matt Logan/Zach Patchell

Matt Logan informs everyone that Zach has taken a lateral position. So, it will be me until we get a new person to sit in the seat. He goes over his report quickly.

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

Alligator Creek: This dredge design project is currently awaiting permitting by ACOE.

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:

 Draft deliverables for the interior dredge design project were just received and are under review.

Harbour Heights:

No active project at this time.

Hayward Canals:

No active project at this time.

Manchester Waterway: No active Project at this time.

Northwest Port Charlotte:

 Navigational Trimming has been completed and final inspection will be held on December 18th. ATL mobilized to the site on December 4th and began the dredging of the interiors on December 11th. They are currently dredging the Ingersol Waterway.

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.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch asks him to explain trimming.

Matt Logan explains the navigational trimming and they discuss.

Mr. Hickey goes over problem of mangroves halfway across canal and discusses with Matt Logan.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch what about disposal of the branches?

Mr. Hickey how do we get behind the guy's house, it needs to be done from the water and done with a barge.

Matt Logan typically what we see people do is they hire an arborist to come out or a professional mangrove trimmer to come out and do that type of work. The work that I do is solely funded by MSBU within the boundary of the ordinance. I am very limited, and a discussion could be brought to MSBU's attention.

Mr. Russell how do you make a homeowner to do all that, take him to court?

Mr. Hickey I don't know there is probably five property owners and there is five of us up stream from this guy. I got a 34-foot Mainship over all to get out and it's scratching on the glass now. Talks about the MSBU and we are stuck.

Mr. Kumm speaks on Oyster Creek that is navitable water and the last couple of storms a portion of Oyster Creek is no longer navitable does that fall under your department or what does it fall under?

Matt Logan I am well aware of Oyster Creek on the far side, that's what we consider the fresh water storm water management side of Oyster Creek. To the clean up of our navitable and fresh water canals, it has taken us this long to clean up. They actually started about I think two to three weeks ago and are making great progress removing the debris. On the navitable side we initiated our stormwater clean up, our storm damage clean up contract last December. The contractor pulled out because the contract expired, the state then came in and took over. We are back going to FEMA to try and get some additional funds to clean up the remainder of the waterways.

Mr. Kumm asks him about the sand, and they discuss which is a different issue and no MSBU in that area and are aware of the problem.

Mr. Russell asks Matt Logan to cover the back side of the page.

Matt Logan continues with report.

Mr. Darden asks Matt is Sunrise channel part of Manchester Waterway?

Matt Logan it is part of Buena Vista project there is ongoing discussion on how obviously we get a grant from WCIND to address the Sunrise channel, we have FEMA, we found significant impacts from lan on the channel and so were pursuing some funding. We are hopefully replacing some sand on Port Charlotte Beach here in the not to distant future. We are reviewing the details for the Buena Vista job and the funding sources to make sure we are eligible for the funding.

Mr. Darden also Hayward canal says no active project at this time but there is a grant open for a dredge and was curious of the position of that.

Matt Logan forgive me for not being too well versed on that, I know Hayward we had the contractor pull out during Ian I don't know the current status. This was printed by Zach here and give me a couple weeks to get the status on all the projects and will get back to you next month.

Mr. Russell Buena Vista and Sunrise Waterway I had my boat dry docked sort of speak before Ian and just about two weeks ago. I launched it at the beach complex, going out where the issues are with the problems we have just off of the point. I noticed there is a definite change in that area there. I am wondering how much of that was picked up in the survey, since the last storm since Idalia and so that may have been there created by Idalia and we had the survey done before Idalia. That survey is moot because it's not going to be effective. We will be working off one thing and we didn't have it. So. I'm just making a comment that we may need to go back and have that checked out. Because that is a very important period, I got the signal that shallow water and I live in an area that it shouldn't have been shallow water.

Matt Logan that has been addressed, the engineer and for the sake of bidding the project we don't need to do another survey. However, we know that there may be some adjustments, in quantities for that. The template is the template, talks about the amount of money to spend. We got that channel covered financially, we are going to be able to dig it and get it cleared, get it restored the navigation.

Mr. Russell my concern is the area is shifted from probably where it was probably presumed or included in the prior survey.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch that always shifts and I talked Michael who was going to get back to us about looking into the possibility of a mini type of rain system there. Stump Pass not only has worked it saved the county and taxpayers millions of dollars since it's been in. So, we know that works, it stood up pretty good on the storms. There is three canals that merge, and then you got the boat launch. That sand keeps moving back and forth in that area and it fills in and it's pretty busy down there. I don't know what will work or what the answer is, if you can move the channel out further or put a system. I think it's going to be an ongoing problem unless we come up with some possible solutions.

Mr. Russell I have a question on another matter that has to do with marker 1 for the Elkcam Waterway, how long has it been missing.

Matt Logan the contractor was out there yesterday and should be replaced by the end of the week.

Chair Ireland thank you folks, thank you Matt, I blew right past Mark he thought he was getting off easy.

E. FY 23/24 Fiscal Reports/Grants - Mark Snow

Mark Snow I have talked to some of our folks that have active grants we did update the website this week. It does have the quarterly reporting document is there, it's been updated. Jim is no longer with the county, so I updated his name. Also, the annual reporting document is there for WCIND and any equipment, and then the fiscal report we are going to go over here in just a minute. Also, the application is out there for 2025, those are due January 31st to start the process. Just to go over real quick go over how we closed out FY23 and shows the power point presentation on the grants that were active and discusses with the members. Also discusses the FY24 and he gave the update back in June at our meeting that said those items that were presented to the board that were applied for and those that were approved. There were three grants that were applied for Waterfest, Manchester Waterway water testing and the Englewood Fire Department had asked for a boat. Those three were denied at the board just to give you an update and make sure that you all understand that those votes that you all do and the recommendations that you provide to the board. The board does take that into consideration and there was an extensive discussion about all of the grants for the MAC presented recommendations.

Mr. Darden asks which were the three?

Mr. Snow the Englewood Fire Department Boat, Waterfest for this past one, and the New Manchester water testing was about \$5,000 dollars or so. Then continues explaining the different funding sources and explains the ones that carry over.

Chair Ireland are they automatically extended when they just don't use the funds?

Mr. Snow yes, they request for them to be extended and both discuss.

Mr. Russell so all of these that are carried over have been requested and approved.

Mr. Snow yes, and there are a few and most of the ones from 23 there are some that you see, 2306 is the artificial reef monitoring that and the new marine markers had extensive problems following Ian they had to wait for vendors to bid. They are starting to have some progress on new marine markers, derelict vessels we got the update on that. It's moving along, PGPD they stated their boat is in manufacturing so there is installments that are paid, so that's the majority of that balance for PGPD is to pay for the boat. CCSO also has a boat again those installment payments. The marine debris removal was hung up with Ian it's definitely starting to move, between it and the Nav. Aids and marine markers I seen several P.O.'s come thru the last few weeks to start spending that money as well. Discusses the rest Coast Guard Aux., Cedar Point, Living Shoreline and explains.

Mr. Darden can you tell us how you are going to approach the application process for 2025 as it relates to vessels and dredging?

Mr. Snow that is more a question for the MAC.

Chair Ireland talks on policy for boats over past years and we've bought a lot of boats including upcoming items, and discusses with several of the members, which a discussion takes place.

Chair Ireland asks can we table this?

Mr. Darden I follow John's logic completely and I think that a subcommittee even if no one shows up it's really leadership of that committee of how much work you get done. So, whoever the leader is, if they have an objective and we can determine what we are going to fund and what were not going to fund or what we're going to recommend or not recommend.

Chair Ireland we would have to develop clear guidelines.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch it doesn't have to be tabled. It can be just put off to another meeting.

Mr. Darden continues, and a discussion takes place.

Chair Ireland announces the new member of the derelict vessel committee Jamie Scudera.

Ms. Powell says it is not Jamie, it is Liz she is our new community services environmental specialist and will be working on the abandoned derelict vessel program, artificial reefs, and a lot of our coastal stuff. She replaces Roger, so this is her first meeting and will give you her update.

Chair Ireland is she going to be here every week, every month?

Ms. Powell yes.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch tell us a little bit about where you are from, what you've done and what brought you here, I think they liked to hear that.

Ms. Eastes originally born and raised in Kentucky, always been into wildlife, my family always had some part in Florida since the 30's on both sides of my family. So, this has always been a second home. I have been a permanent resident here for almost ten years now. I'm going to USF, I've done some shark research, I've worked with FWC and their fish monitoring program, I've worked here in the county in permitting for the last year.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch any experience dealing with derelict vessels?

Ms. Eastes I am learning quickly.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch if you want, I would be happy to spend a little time with you to, maybe you should talk to the deputies.

Ms. Eastes I have been reaching out to a lot of the agencies, already had a meeting with WCIND, I've already spoken with someone with FWC and working very diligently to try to get this spread sheet as up to date and accurate as possible for everyone.

F. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Ms. Eastes has some updates, we have five that have been relocated, ten have been removed, sixteen are waiting for removal nine of them have been approved for bid out and are ready to be removed, contracted with FWC and we eleven open cases.

Chair Ireland thank you Liz welcome, we appreciate you thank you.

G. Community Services Update - Tina Powell

Tina Powell gives her update on report.

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: Permit plans were submitted to the FDEP and ACOE in August. Comments were received from FDEP, and the consultants have responded back to their comments and anticipate a permit in December. The USACE has not responded yet.
- Allapatachee Park: No projects at this time.
- Anger Fishing Pier: No projects at this time.

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; permits submitted to FDEP and ACOE.
- 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 design team is gathering preliminary information and preparing for a field inspection.

• 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% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.
- 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; work to begin after Waterfest.

• Harbour Heights Park:

- o Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permits have been approved; waiting on cost estimate and final plans.
- 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:

o Community Services will be initiating a project next calendar year to determining the feasibility of adding additional light to the small parking lot and solar lighting to the pier.

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: A joint meeting was held with FDEP and USACE. Additional plan options were provided back to the agencies based on their requests for additional reductions in environmental impacts. The County is awaiting permits from the agencies.

• 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 meetings with DRC and SFWMD. Design and Development 50% plans are being submitted to Facilities for review and staff is meeting every three weeks to discuss schedules, plans, furnishings, and community needs at PCBRC. 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. Firm has submitted their proposal which is currently under review by Facilities.

• 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: ACOE has responded we are requesting for a second time Letter of Permission which usually moves through faster, for Riverside Boat Ramp project.
- 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 60% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.

• 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 was award at the 10/24 BCC meeting, waiting on NTP from granting agency.
- o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: no updated provided for December.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch it took Army Core almost two years on the boat launch.

Mr. Darden is that the kayak launch?

7. New Business –

Election of Officers

Chair Ireland said we have one open office – the vice-chair, the chair and the secretary said they would stay on if you so desire. We need to have someone impartial arbitrator and that's Stephen R. Deutsch.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

I am going to go through the whole list and accept the nominations one at a time for each position.

Chair Ireland do it fast.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I open up nominations for chairman of the MAC committee.

Mr. Kumm made motion to nominate Tom Ireland, seconded by name unknown. No other nominations for chair

Mr. Moran motion to close nomination for chair, seconded by Mr. Welsh; with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch says any nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Ireland nominates Jim Darden for Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Campanella.

Mr. Moran motion to close nomination for Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Campanella.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch says any nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Kumm made motion to nominate Gerald Meckenberg for Secretary, seconded by name unknown.

Mr. Moran motion to close nomination for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Russell.

Old Business –

Mr. Kumm one question marker two is not working?

Mr. Hickey I guess we got to explain how this is all going down. The boater's alliance really, we spear headed it, we got the grants, the person who doesn't know how was an ex-meteorologist; and the power squadron have taken over the day to day operation of it. They also are doing the insurance on them. They had to have insurance for the Coast Guard. So, everything needs to be addressed now for the power squadron. We know it's down we have communicated it on to them. I can't answer why there is a delay in getting them back up. But it's been down for a while.

Chair Ireland is it down electrically?

Mr. Hickey they've had a component that failed both on Marker 4 and Marker 2 some type of an electronic, I think he calls it a modem. The whole system communicates back through cell signals back to the cell tower and then on. The last time this failed they asked to have the part back to do some kind of autopsy on it and see why it's failing. Is it salt air, what's causing it to go down. I just don't know the guy who really is intimate on it, has had some family issues out of state. They are aware of it; we have enough spare parts to build a whole other one. A hurricane could knock something apart or something like on a wind meter. I will try to get an answer from them and maybe they'll speak on it next month.

Mr. McIntosh just for the record we know that marker 2 and marker 4 are both down and have weather stations and haven't had them for months.

Chair Ireland we will try and get them back up.

Mr. Gloer new to the committee and everything, not sure if this is the right spot and has questions for our yacht club and to get more information. I talked to Tina on this about like water taxi between our yacht club and going over to the resort that is going to be opening up soon. I didn't know if there is any guidance on or who I could talk to. Obviously, there is not very many places for boats to pull up right now, they don't have a marina. There is that Park, Live Oak Park and the water taxi dock but I haven't received any information who can use that. Can we take a water taxi over there?

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch is it fully opened now?

Chair Ireland no, tomorrow.

Ms. Powell the dock is open and available however as far as the operating business water taxi out of it we are waiting on direction from administration and legal. So, we don't have those parameters yet. Up until now no one has inquired about it. A discussion takes place on this.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch talks about Live Oak Park and the prior CEO of Sunseeker who left them about 3 months ago. He had some ideas and concepts that they were going to use and also had a dream about dredging and putting docks in at Sunseeker. I don't believe that they may get a dock there it may have to go out a half mile, to get a couple of feet of water. I don't believe ever they got enough zeros and the end of the money they would offer the state, but the state would ever allow them to dredge. I know I won't see it in my lifetime, and I don't think that the youngest of us in here will see it that's my guess. Talks about the cruise ship that is coming to go down to the Keys.

Deputy Carly says it is American Cruise Lines, you can go to their website. It shows Punta Gorda is a standard stop for them for that cruise. It shows sixteen cruise dates in 2024 and they are all sold out. So,

we are a stop in that weeklong cruise and a discusses takes place with Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch and several members on this along with the harbor and sea planes.

- 9. Other Business None offered.
- 10. Citizen Comments None offered.
- 11. Good of the Order –

Mr. Meckenberg talks of membership of the MAC is individuals proposed by a parent organization. There are a few of the MAC members in off the street as you will. One of them is Jim Darden so we need to take a vote on Jim's qualifications for membership to supply the forwarding recommendation to the county commissioners. So, I'm going to ask for a motion to accept Jim Darden as the member at large.

Chair Ireland said so moved and all in favor of the motion.

Mr. Meckenberg said his neighbors right down there are newies to our organization, welcome guys.

Commission Stephen R. Deutsch said for the Good of the Order everyone have a blessed safe Christmas if you're traveling, enjoy and be patient with family if you talk about sports and politics.

Chair Ireland everybody have a great holiday season and we'll look forward to seeing you in January.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, January 4, 2024 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 11, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106** in Murdock Building B.
- 13. Adjournment

Chair Ireland said meeting is adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

releval

Minutes Approved

Tom Ireland, Chair