



## MINUTES

### CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 12th, 2024

**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

**Chair Ireland** said yes, we are adding the South Gulf Cove request for this state statute and ask are there any other changes to the agenda, hearing none we move on then.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

**Chair Ireland** speaks to the citizens that came from South Gulf Cove Yacht Club who came to speak about the Florida Statute.

**Unknown female speaker** said she went to Dianne Whidden and Commissioner Truex with the idea of seeing if he could put this state statute which is mostly in effect on the east coast. To put into South Gulf Cove area and it could be just for Charlotte County to try and limit some of this anchoring that's going on in our lagoon. We now have two sunken boats because of people anchoring overnight. It is starting to clog up our waterways in South Gulf Cove and we are growing and adding five to six hundred houses a year. We are a growing populous and this problem is impacting the area. There are safety issues, talks on the blind curve, in the middle of our waterway and the lagoon. People that are navigating at night there is no lights on these things, and they are just dumping the boats. But on the east coast they enacted this chapter 3.74108 which talks about using this statute to limit people being able to anchor overnight. It does allow for safe harbor if there is a storm that type of thing but to prohibit them from just anchoring in an area like this. We're behind the Locke it's protected but it's becoming a problem for our community.

**Chair Ireland** asks Commissioner Deutsch what do you think?

**Commissioner Deutsch** said I want to read through it, no one talked to me or contacted me about it, and this is a first I am hearing about it. A discussion takes place on this and then this could be put on the agenda for next months meeting so the members could look at this and discuss all that can be involved. Talks about the legal aspects of the community, it is a county waterway, there is state property we know on the other side, the discussion continues.

**Mr. Macintosh** said do you know if they erected signs in this area saying no anchoring after such and such?

**Unknown male speaker** said no, and a discussion takes place amongst Mr. Macintosh, unknown female speaker and Commissioner Deutsch.

**Mr. Darden** said Kim did you get her information.

**Mrs. Sargent** asks what is your name?

**Unknown female speaker** said Ann Regan Jean I am the commodore for the South Gulf Cove Yacht Club.

**Mr. Darden** said so in South Gulf Cove I don't know a lot about it, but I know there is a Locke there. So how are they getting past that Locke.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said we have someone there and they're supposedly doing a double Locke next to it. A discussion takes place with several people on this and the state statute.

**Mr. Darden** said to the unknown male speaker, you spoke for a while if you could give Kim your name.

**John Osanitsch** said I am logged in and represent South Gulf Cove.

**Chair Ireland** said we have two meetings a month, one is a pre-agenda meeting at which this will be inserted and brought up and then the next meeting is this one.

**Mr. Darden** said were you finished Ann?

**Ann Regan Jean** said yes.

## 6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from **June 6, 2024**.  
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from **June 12, 2024**.  
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 update

### Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

**Sergeant McRae** said Mr. Ireland we were going to update you and did not want the guests to leave from South Gulf Cove Yacht Club.

**Deputy Richard Nelson** said the recent vessel that sank there, the 39' Sea Ray I received that phone call about the end of August. That is why it is not on the derelict vessel sheet that Liz puts out. Everything that occurred for this was over that Labor Day weekend. We received the call and went out and investigated it same day. If you notice when you travel by boat out there, you'll see a gigantic orange sticker on the side of it now. The best thing is when you see that sticker on there you know we are actively working it and we are doing everything we can to get this removed. Updates it the owner has been located, and he was criminally charged with allowing the vessel to go derelict. He is currently in the twenty-one-day period to remove that vessel. After the twenty-one days he does not remove it, it gets sent out for bid for removal by Liz. Then the contractor then comes and removes that vessel, and the owner is liable for any costs incurred by that. There is progress on it, right now were kind of in that holding period where we have to give them that twenty-days of due process. Otherwise, we violate their rights which is never a good thing.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said you might want to add for information we deal with this, the big problem we often face is to determine ownership and that can sometimes hold us up six months. Being the fact that you know who it is that is a plus for us.

**Deputy Nelson** said interesting fact most of my cases a lot of times when I'm investigating these boats. People sells these boats over and over again and it's never reported with the DMV and it's usually me going through a paper trail or a text message trail to find the most current owner. So, there is a lot of work that goes into these. Then he explains about how they are working on these, and the sticker process and the time involved. The sailboat that was brought up also, that is an active FWC case, and I know they are working that one. It is on the FWC derelict website as well.

**Norman Hayes** said what's the timeline for the salvage company.

**Deputy Nelson** said so once the salvage company receives, they put it out on a bid packet. That I believe is a thirty-day bid packet.

**Liz Eastes** said it depends on what process it goes through.

**Deputy Nelson** said normally it is a sixty-day period for them to move that vessel. That is pretty much standard through West Coast Inland Navigation District. They have sixty-days from a warning contract.

**Norman Hayes** said I don't know if this is true or not, I heard a rumor that the sailboat had been categorized as it being sunk by the hurricane.

**Deputy Nelson** said I can not comment on for FWC, I heard the same thing as well. So, I don't want to speak for FWC, that is one of their active investigations.

**Mr. Hayes** said my question is if it has been designated as that does it stay with the state or does it go federal?

**Deputy Nelson** said good question, I know and again I don't want to pull FWC or speak for them, but I do know that falls under a different guideline. It is a natural disaster vessel and state statute says you have forty-five days vs. the twenty-one days when it's a natural disaster or a named storm.

**Mr. Hayes** said just for the record that boat sank way before that hurricane passed by.

**Deputy Nelson** said what I recommend you do is reach out to Fish and Wildlife I can give you the case number if you would like and you can talk with that officer directly so that they can obtain that information that might help their case.

**Mr. Hayes** said the head of our marine patrol has documented the calls that he has made to you guys and everything else. We've got all the information we just want to make sure we got in touch and they both discuss this.

**John Osanitsch** said just want to give you a quick update as of last night, because I live off over where that thirty-nine-footer went under water. As of last night, there was a big troller up there I believe they're trying to bring it up and you might want to know that. He discusses this with Deputy Nelson.

**Noel Hyde** said about finding owners to some of these derelict vessels, talks about the vessels that have no registration numbers or current decals on them. Do you investigate those boats with no registration numbers so that before that boat becomes a derelict. They have been investigated or notified that they're in violation and they discuss this matter along with Commissioner Deutsch.

**Ms. Campanella** said registered boats that don't have numbers if there documented in Florida, they've got to be registered but they don't have to display the numbers.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said the documentation has to be on the hull of that boat.

**Ms. Campanella** said yes, and they discuss with Mr. Hyde.

#### **City of Punta Gorda Police Department**

**MPO AJ Russell** was not present.

**Mr. Darden** said he would like to welcome the new representative from Punta Gorda, stand up give you name and give your background.

**Noel Hyde** said his name and he has been a resident of Punta Gorda for twenty-seven years now, sailor and avid boater, I took John Welsh's place who was the representative.

#### **D. FY24/25 Financials – Michael Cunningham**

**Michael Cunningham** said we can go over the fiscal year twenty-four numbers first well actually just going to give a run down of the open grants and disposition. If anybody has any questions let me know, it's in the handout and states he has two grants that need to be voted on. First one is for Peace River Sail and Boat Squadron they're looking to switch their budget lines from the original two budgets as you can see here the impact is closing one budget for \$1,150 move into the other line to pay for their modified budget which you see on the list, expenses for classroom that was wiped out in the hurricane.

**Mr. Darden** said OK, so their original budget was student manuals, abc manuals and charting materials and then also some tps laptop and life vests. They are changing that funding from that to a lot of classroom material, and both discuss this and that a lot of the stuff was pre-purchased and didn't tell him.

**Mr. Moran** made a motion to approve and seconded by **Mr. Wolley**, all in favor, motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Mr. Cunningham** said the second one is for marine markers, Sal is here from the department, and I would like to have him explain what is going on with the markers.

**Sal Crapanzano** with Charlotte County I am the internal signing and marker coordinator. I am here in place of my superintendent who had another commitment, Robert Campbell. We've been facing somewhat of an issue with Englewood Beach with the no boat swim areas, we have recently the third time this year put out some pilings and signs and with the rough tides coming in and the winds coming out right off the gulf we've had some issues with the signs staying in place. Also, with the pilings being in place, as of right now our goal is to do like we've done with anchors with some no boat swim area buoys so that way they can stay in place. We have done that in Pirate Harbor, some of the sea grass buoys and they've made it through Idalia, Ian and they have been very effective.

**Chair Ireland** said you say is costs about \$42,000.

**Mr. Darden** said I am trying to put together why we would need an adjustment; won't they represent new marine markers. A discussion takes place with Sal and Mike regarding this, and the language be changed in the first grant.

**Mr. Moran** motioned to approve and seconded by **Mr. Mayes**, all in favor, motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Mr. Russell** said we have an issue down at the beach complex in Port Charlotte, we have the channel cut it's at the point we now have had to remove the signs that told boaters not to beach their boats there. They are beaching their boats there now, and in addition to that they've got small kids swimming in the channel. You got a four-way intersection there, you got people coming down Sunrise waterway, going up Sunrise waterway. Coming from West Spring Lake and coming out of the launch at the beach complex. You got a real problem if some kid gets out there, some boats coming in not observing minimum wake when they get to the point and somebody coming out and not having room and running over somebody's kid. We need to do something about it, I don't know what it's going to take legally, we've been told we can't stop them from beaching their boats there. So, there is nothing to stop them from swimming there, I guess because they are doing it. I am just saying, I want to go on the record, something needs to be done and if somebody ends up with an injured child or adult because we haven't done something then we've got a problem. We need to make sure we take care of it before that problem arises. So, I don't know what it's gotta take but, if you're the guy with the signs is there anything that you could do and procedurally to move this up the chart to get it done. Get something there because that channel I found out is only a fifty-foot cut and they're cutting that right at the beach. That's right where they beach their boats ok so if a twenty-five-foot boat is sticking out into the channel for twenty-five feet and a kid is swimming around behind there. Now you got less then twenty-five-feet of deep water for somebody to get through there. We have some boats in our neighborhood that are twenty-five feet wide, they are power cast ok, so he explains a possible situation and we need to do something about it.

**Mr. Darden** said could the sheriff speak to this at all or has it been turned into law enforcement, is it a law enforcement issue. A discussion takes place with Deputy Nelson, Mr. Russell and talks about the signs being removed and people ignoring the signs anyhow, along with the issues.

**Mr. Crapanzano** said he will pass it on to the boss, I can't make any calls myself.

**Commissioner Deutsch** asks why the signs were removed and let us know.

**Mr. Darden** said if Kim could put this on the new business agenda next month. **Mrs. Sargent** said ok. Then he asks if anyone has any questions about the current status of any of the 2024 grants that are going to expire this month. He asks Mr. Cunningham about the projects that stick out to you from 2024 that we should be concerned about.

**Mr. Cunningham** said the marine debris removal is being done now. It was tied up for a while, but they are expending. Dave Richardson said they should be done by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Darden** said did they extend, and **Mr. Cunningham** said they did not extend now. **Mr. Darden** asks do they have a new 2025 grant? **Mr. Cunningham** said yes.

**Mr. Darden** said for the 2025 guys could you call in each one of them or send an email out and say Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> get to spending. It's September now and looking what people have left to spend their grant money yet and have to be more proactive.

**Mr. Cunningham** said I will send out an email for the fiscal year 24 and say hey you're not spending any money what's going on.

#### E. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

**Liz Eastes** said we have seven open cases, nine are ready to be removed, every single one of our Charlotte County ready to be removed vessels are on a bid or on a project to be removed.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said who is taking most of those out, Fish and Wildlife now.

**Liz Eastes** said WCIND they do a lot of them, FWC current, we do have three that were removed recently, one was relocated and still do have those two that are on hold with FWC.

**Sgt. McRae** said I know we met since Memorial Day so I will briefly go over with the fourth of July. Our fourth of July activities in the harbor we worked alongside the Charlotte County Fire EMS, Punta Gorda PD, Punta Gorda Fire, FWC in regard to all of the events that happened within a couple of weeks period. We did have the weekend prior to fourth of July there was a large, little concert on the water with some fireworks and then it carried on into the fourth of July weekend with the freedom swim. The freedom swim went off seemingly well with no real issues. We did have a few stragglers, and I think was misconstrued as far as the time frame of when the people were to get into the water to swim over to Fisherman's Village. It took longer than expected but we were able to cease most of all the boating activity to slow people down so that everyone could get over safely. Well into the night they had the fireworks there, and they also had fireworks out at Englewood Beach. We had no real issues to report sheriff's office wise. Moving forward to the Labor Day weekend, just recently we had the large concert event on the water.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said how many boats did you have out there.

**Sgt. McRae** said it was less than they expected because Memorial Day we had anywhere between fifty and sixty-five thousand people on the water in the areas of Placida and Boca Grande. A good majority of those

people are coming from the south and the north up through the ICW's into our area. The promoter for that event we meet with him regularly because he also does events on land at the fairgrounds and brings in large country music artists. He is trying to do the same thing for Labor Day and was expecting a larger crowd on Labor Day. So, we were estimating between maybe three and five thousand people, which is seemingly less with a lot less issues. On Labor Day we had one fight that we were made aware of, on Memorial Day we had multiple fights, multiple arrests, DUI's, Baker Acts, and all kinds of stuff on the water. Talks about Brian Turner of The Big Boy Toys Expo promoter may seek to this event again next year for Labor Day. I don't think it was as Fruitville as he intended it to be considering how large the Memorial Day event was. So, we're happy that also went off with no issues there to report and for that we also had Charlotte Fire and Englewood Fire, FWC there as allies to us. We thank you!

**Deputy Nelson** said on top of the companies that Liz mentioned, over the Labor Day weekend there were three more that were discovered. One that I already spoke about in South Gulf Cove which we already made the arrest on that one. I had one that occurred over by Port Charlotte Beach Complex the sailboat there, that was currently still an active investigation. As well as one along the east wall by Aqua River and is an active investigation.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said a few years ago we had a lot of issues with motors being stolen in the canals. Has that leveled off a little bit because I haven't heard much about that.

**Deputy Nelson** said I used to be one of our detectives and a lot of those cases got assigned to me because I was familiar with waters, and what swift boats are, and what engines are worth. Which ones are more Fruitville to the offenders and thankfully last year mainly all of those thefts that we had were from absentee owners leaving their vessels inside storage facilities. Some specifically out near South Gulf Cove and they were cutting the fences, going in and helping themselves primarily to the Yamaha series. A small discussion takes place with Commissioner Deutsch and Sgt. McRae joins the conversation about stolen vessels.

**Chair Ireland** said Kim are any of these applicant's are here do you know.

**Mrs. Sargent** said I don't know; I don't think so.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said call their names and see if they are here.

**Chair Ireland** said Robert Eckert.

**Robert Eckert** said I am here.

**Chair Ireland** said he is here to replace Gerry, but not as Secretary.

**Mrs. Sargent** explains that the U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla 87 has recommended Mr. Eckert to take Gerry's spot.

**Laura Gasset-Shoemaker**, Flotilla 99 made a motion to approve Mr. Eckert for Gerry's position and seconded by **Betty Campanella**. All in favor and nobody is opposed.

**Mr. Eckert** speaks to the members that he is glad to join.

**Chair Ireland** said we will hold the other two until next month.

**Mr. Russell** said my term is up at the end of this year and I submitted my application.

**Chair Ireland** said we discussed this once before we had a member who was busy and missed a lot of meetings and originally the limit was two meetings missed and you were gone. But I can't remember his name.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said if he misses the meetings, he's off and I think the Attorney came in and explained that, she went over the Sunshine Law.

**Mrs. Sargent** said Paul Bigness he resigned.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said he kept us up to date on Chadwick Cove and a discussion took place with several members.

#### **F. MSBU Update – Matt Logan/DeWayne Nodine – July - August**

**Matt Logan or DeWayne Nodine** are not present.

**Ackerman Waterway:** No active projects. Refer to Manchester Waterway.

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

#### **Buena Vista Area Waterways**

- Dredging project awarded to Kelly Brothers, Inc. They will start bringing equipment to the Charlotte County Beach Park on September 3. They plan to start dredging at the Sunrise Waterway on or about September 13, after making all preparations at the Beach Park needed in advance of dredging that channel. Parts of the Gardner Drive and George Road Waterways will also be dredged.

**Edgewater North:** No active projects.

#### **Gulf Cove Waterways:**

- Draft deliverables for the interior dredge design project have been reviewed and are being finalized.

#### **Harbour Heights:**

- Line-of-Sight Vegetation Trimming project was awarded to Florida Marine Contracting and Recovery, LLC. They have completed the original project scope; however, we are presently evaluating the need for more trimming at the request of the MSBU Advisory Committee.

#### **Hayward Canals:**

- No active projects.

**Manchester Waterway:** No active projects.



**Northwest Port Charlotte Interior Waterways:**

- ATL began dredging on December 11, 2023.
- The contractor has completed the project.

**Peace River Shores:** No active projects.

**Pirate Harbor:**

- The dredge design projects are in final design stages.

**Southbridge Waterway:** No active projects.

**South Gulf Cove:** No active projects.

**South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock:**

- 30 percent Tender House plans were 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 has been completed.

**Suncoast Waterway:** No active projects.

**G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell**

**Tina Powell** went over her monthly 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 update: No update provided for September. Community Services is working on a proposed funding package.

• **Allapatachee Park:**

- o Parking lot improvement project is being managed by Community Services; waiting on 60% plans; in permitting with regulatory agencies.

• **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; the FDEP permit was issued; we are still waiting on ACOE.
- o Hurricane Ian and Idalia repairs are being managed by Community Services; projects are in the FEMA Public assistance process.

• **Boca Grande Fishing Pier:**

- o Hurricane Debby damages repairs are being managed by Community Services; temporary repairs are in the planning stages.

- **Butterford Waterway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Cedar Point Environmental Park:**
  - o Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July 2023. Waiting on permitting with regulatory agencies.
- **Centennial Fishing Pier:** 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 working on 60% design plans and permit applications have been submitted.
- **Darst Park:**
  - o Community Services is managing the boarding pier replacement and seawall replacement along with ramp scour protection; the design is at 90% 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:**
  - o The Fishing Pier repair project being managed by Community Services; the pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions from the recent fire. Repair assessment has been completed, design in progress.
- **Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Harbour Heights Park:**
  - o Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permits have been approved; construction to start beginning of October.
- **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. Design is completed waiting FDOT.
- **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 update: No September update provided.

- o The ramp approach repairs are being managed by Community Services; this has been completed.

- **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 update: There was a Request for Proposals advertised on August 21, 2024, for a new consultant to design the Recreation center and the Pool House for Port Charlotte Beach. Proposals are due back to purchasing September 16, 2024.
- 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 update: There was a Request For Proposals advertised on August 21, 2024, for a new consultant to design the Recreation center and the Pool House for Port Charlotte Beach. Proposals are due back to purchasing September 16, 2024.
- o Park Amenities Project is being managed by Community Services; the second public input meeting was conducted in August and the final master site plan for the park amenities in being prepared.

- **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 update: United States Army Corps Engineers is working on their final review to draft the permit for Riverside.

- **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 construction has been awarded, waiting on a schedule.

- **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. Project competition is anticipated in late December.
- o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following update: Mobilization began in July.
- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Phase 3 is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: No September update provided.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said the kayak launch is on a flat bed and enroute, we anticipate that should be installed the end of the month, then we are going to finish up the groundwork around the kayak launch. The concrete is supposed to be poured around the pilings two weeks ago. We have actually started fundraising for Phase 2 and a discussion takes place.

**Mr. Darden** said on Placida did you talk about the boat ramp.

**Ms. Powell** said yes, and they discuss.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said the FEMA projects really frustrate us because we probably have dealt with FEMA for seven or eight years. We did decide at our recent commission meeting we are contacting the congressman's office. We're trying to see if anything is being done to try and move so many projects a little quicker before they get convoluted by the next storm.

**Ms. Powell** said we are already there and in addition to these projects per community services we have a total of 56 different FEMA projects.

**Mr. Darden** said can you walk us through just a little bit of how the funding for large scale projects are funded. Let me explain the reason I ask is because several years ago this body asked the finance people to beef up the navigation improvement fund at WCIND. In preparation for any hurricane that would occur we could throw money at it. Well, the reality is FEMA takes over that and so now we have a million and plus dollars in CINF that is really not being used. It continues to get higher because people don't use their grant money, the taxes going more than we anticipated in the budget. So how can we help you improve access to the waterway with this money.

**Commissioner Deutsch** said if we believe we can get the money and the reimbursement that we are entitled to from FEMA that's our number one priority because the problem is if we take money out of our reserves. That money will be used at some point in my mind. But it's when FEMA will pay for a whole project or won't do it all we have that as a backup. Some projects take a long time to get done with the bureaucratic process.

**Mr. Darden** said it makes sense and I understand the FEMA process and you have to exhaust the FEMA dollars before you can do anything else. What I was referring to is something like the Placida boat ramp. It qualifies for money to get it but there is no Placida boat ramp grant.

**Ms. Powell** said from a staff project perspective what we do in community services is the basic repair and replacement projects are put into our cap all maintenance plans. So, we plan those out in six-year chunks, and we plan for what projects we are going to be doing over the next six years. The larger redevelopment projects, tend to be funded through sales tax which the Placida development project is and through the capital. The particular CINF balance that we have right now, I do believe one of the recommendations coming for funding from the Ainger Creek project is going to look to use some of that funding. We did apply for a grant with the FWC that we did not receive. So, we are short funding for that particular project but most of the big projects will be funded through the CIP or through sales tax. The small repair and maintenance is through our capital funding. So be prepared for future grant applications through CINF for the Ainger Creek projects.

7. New Business – None

8. Old Business – None

9. Other Business – **William Kumm** said we have to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Chair Ireland said are there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the June 6<sup>th</sup> pre-agenda meeting or the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Hearing none they are approved.

10. Citizen Comments – **Leon Moyer** I am a boater, I live on my boats for eleven years, happened to be over in Punta Gorda, came over here on my bicycle this morning. Thank the county for all they're doing for the parks they have. It's a very nice area here to live and have been in many places from Tampa south to the east with my boats. You have a lot of attractions here from reasonable priced food, entertainment, the dingy dock is available at the boat mooring at the Fisherman's Village area. Something I would ask this committee to think about in the future is always think of public access for people who are living on boats. The floating dock is a lot better than trying to come in at a public beach and then you got to walking through the water. That is not very good and leaving our dingy in the water. So dingy docks are always a good asset, and an attraction for people. You also have free pump outs here, which I am using and appreciate that. Some places charge \$5.00 that's not bad either, I think it does help our water quality and always consider funding those types of things and thank you for what you are doing here.

11. Good of the Order –

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held **Thursday, October 3, 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, October 10, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m. at **18500 Murdock Circle 2 Story Building Room B-106, Port Charlotte.**

**Mrs. Sargent** speaks to Chair Ireland that we had under the new business it was there to go over the secretary position and with the discussion of the committee vacancies. I did find that Paul Bigness was the member at large, the other position from Harbour Height Yacht Club was the person that retired Bob Beiter. So, I will reach out to the organization.


**Chair Ireland** said we have the secretary position open, and a discussion takes place. Asks is there anybody here that wants to volunteer to become the secretary besides Betty.

**Mr. Darden** said if you're interested raise your hand now, and if you think you might want to then next month we will vote on if we have any additional members that are interested in the secretary position.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Minutes Approved

  
Tom Ireland, Chair

