



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 12, 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

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 sign in sheet is provided on the table for your convenience.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION 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.

D. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS TO PLEASE KEEP CONVERSATIONS TO A WHISPER DUE TO THE RECORDING SYSTEM PICKS UP ALL VOICES/NOISES WHICH THEN THE AUDIO IS NOT CLEAR FOR THE RECORD.

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 7, 2024
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from November 14, 2024.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Liz Eastes discusses and goes over the derelict vessel report. There are thirteen open cases, 7 were removed, 29 were relocated. So that is either by the owner or insurance normally. We have 25 ready to be removed.

Commissioner Deutsch said we have been having a discussion over the park. How many of those boats that are left to be removed do you anticipate will be removed and they discuss having the boats crushed at the park and the hazards involved.

Mr. Russell speaks to Commissioner Deutsch on the meeting next in Port Charlotte is going to go forward. Commissioner Deutsch expects it will go forward, that will be on the county website. Mentions the workshop, and they have a discussion which includes the crushing, the waterway and the stuff gets in the water. That will contaminate those canals, not only the air and pollution. Anyone who thinks about crushing them there ought to be held accountable.

Mr. Gloer is there any process to put reflective tape, lights, or anything on some of the derelict vessels. I know that out of the Isles Yacht Club when you come out there is one that sunk there with the mast sticking out. **Ms. Eastes** speaks with **Mr. Gloer** and they have a discussion. **Lt. Williams** states that so far, the Sheriff's Dept. hasn't done anything yet about putting lights on, we do mark things in the navigational channel. Talks about everything that is involved with marking vessels.

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

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said we don't have a whole lot for updates this month. We're working towards all the Christmas parades, PGI boat parade, assisting the city and some of the other ones in Charlotte County and around the barrier islands. We do have one additional derelict update to the list that Liz sent out. That would be the sailboat, we located it and it's in many pieces. That will be coming off the list, talks about the follow up report on South Gulf Cove. We did a nighttime operation for night lighting in that area. We encountered nine vessels that anchor in that area, out of those nine vessels four were displaying nightlights properly. The remaining two, those derelict cases are being worked by FWC and related to the storm. The other two vessels one citation was giving for not having the lighting and the other we are still working to locate the owner. **Commissioner Deutsch** asks questions about the boats and the Locke, which a discussion takes place.

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

Officer Russell said our biggest issue is still parks and marinas obviously. Marinas still working through and getting boats removed. In the last two weeks we got all these boats in Gilcrest ready for removal. We got the sand and the crane showed up yesterday. So right from here I am going to go meet with those guys since they are working today and said it should be by, one guy told me Friday and one guy told me Sunday. Hopefully Gilcrest park will be open by next week, at least grass areas and stuff like that, the amenities. The bathrooms and stuff like that will be closed due to the structural damage. The PGI Boat parade is the 21st set sails at 6pm so we are having the Sheriff's office and FWC extra help to run that organization and that whole process.

Commissioner Deutsch said do the boats on land count, for example there is a couple over by Gilcrest Park. There are some over behind Sunseeker, do those count. **Officer Russell** said those don't count as derelict, and they have a discussion on those, city property and the statute. **Ms. Eastes** joins in the conversation. **Mr. Hickey** asks who ends up paying. **Commissioner Deutsch** talks about ownership. **Ms. Eastes** says that

it depends on the location, the one near Sunseeker are on County property. There are two boats, and one was removed by insurance. So, anything on county property falls under county statute 11157 for storage of property. So, it's not abandoned and it's not a derelict, so it doesn't fall under the Florida statute. It falls under county storage statute. **Commissioner Deutsch** asks don't we have to define ownership of that vessel before we can do anything. They discuss the process, and procedure. Mr. Vigne asks what's the process if on private property. **Ms. Eastes** said it becomes a civil matter. **Commissioner Deutsch** said that is between the landowner and the boat owner. **Officer Russell** said that is a civil matter, I came up with a spreadsheet. Talks about getting a call on a boat and discusses the process. FWC told them if property owner wants to remove the boat it would cost \$6,000 and they can and charge it back civilly. A discussion takes place regarding all of this. **Mr. Hyde** talks to **Officer Russell** about the boats and the status, insurance and boats being destroyed. Marinas will be the biggest problem with insurance. **Mr. Darden** said unless you treat it like private property. **Mr. Gloer** said I was told by Les the manager of the marina, I guess at the end of the month they are closing Laishley marina down and taking everybody out of there to start repairs. **Lt. Williams** speaks on the marina and the grants for this fiscal year has been approved for a boat lift at Laishley. They reached out to the marina they are planning by the end of December, beginning of January to stop use of the marina for other than law enforcement and fire. At some point that may have to stop, they should have their engineering assessment done sometime towards the end of January. **Mr. Gloer** talks about the boat ramp with the marina and the timelines.

E. FY24/25/26 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Michael Cunningham

Michael Cunningham said he doesn't have numbers yet with the transition on system and will have them next meeting, pulls up the last presentation. Mr. Darden explains the applications and deadlines, talks about them being uploaded to the web. They both discuss about navigating through the system for the website, talks about how Mark did it and the process with everything and the reports.

F. MSBU Update – DeWayne Nodine

DeWayne Nodine discussed the items on his MSBU project update list.

Ackerman Waterway

- No active projects - refer to Manchester Waterway.

Alligator Creek

- The dredging project is currently awaiting permitting by the USACE.

Buena Vista Area Waterways

- To be good stewards of County taxpayer money Charlotte County has cancelled this dredging project, for the time being. The County will reassess the scope of work needed after the effects of the recent hurricanes and will rebid the project as soon as possible - the County realizes the importance of the Sunrise Waterway to the community.
- The County intends to make use of FEMA and WCIND money to the maximum extent possible to reduce the financial impact of the project cost on the Buena Vista and Edgewater North MSBUs. However, we have been informed that the approvals required must be in place prior to performing the work to be eligible for reimbursement for the additional volume to be removed from the waterways due to the recent hurricanes - we must follow the rules of the agencies providing the funds.
- Below is a summary of what was accomplished through November 13:

- Sunrise Waterway - prior to Hurricane Helene
 - September 6 - started dredging about 50 feet seaward of channel marker RG "A;"
 - Dredged towards shore and stopped approximately 300 feet seaward from the "point" at the Beach Park;
 - September 23 - Last day of dredging due to Hurricane Helene;
 - Length of the Sunrise channel dredged = 450 feet long by 50 feet wide (at channel bottom).
- Gardner Drive Waterway - did not start dredging until after Hurricane Milton
 - October 16 - started dredging from a point just inside the shore line;
 - Dredged seaward to a point approximately 200 feet seaward of channel markers G "5" and R "6;"
 - The channel does not need dredged seaward beyond this point;
 - Length of channel dredged = 700 feet long by 75 feet wide (at channel bottom).
- George Road Waterway
 - Not dredged - remainder of the project cancelled on November 13.

Edgewater North:

- No active projects.

Gulf Cove Waterways:

- Draft deliverables for the interior dredge design project need to be finalized.

Harbour Heights:

- Additional Line-of-Sight trimming needs to be re-evaluated after Milton.

Hayward Canals:

- No active projects.

Manchester Waterway

- No active projects.

Northwest Port Charlotte Interior Waterways:

- The contractor completed the project in mid-June.

Peace River Shores

- No active projects.

Pirate Harbor:

- The dredging scope will be re-assessed after a post-Milton bathymetric survey requested by the MSBU Advisory Committee.

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.

Mr. Russell said we have a meeting on Feb. 12th Buena Vista, question to move meeting back. **Mr. Nodine** said I don't think need to move it back and they discuss.

Mr. Vigne talks about the dredging scope be reassessed for Pirate Harbor, how does it affect permitting, and they discuss about resurvey the waterways due to Helene and Milton. They thought there was possibly some changes. That is another one that we want to take advantage of getting the Army Core permit applied for the emergency window and go from there. We want to do this because Alligator Creek for example and we were going to apply for an emergency permit for Alligator Creek.

Mr. Hickey said if and when we get the permit for Alligator Creek is all the original engineering been done or that's going to get done after the permit has been issued.

Mr. Nodine said it's been done, and they have a discussion, he talks about doing a sheet for keeping track of all this.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell is not present to give a brief update on projects.

• 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: Permits in hand. Community Services is working on a proposed funding package.

• Allapatchee Park:

- o Parking lot improvement project is being managed by Community Services; 90% plans have been completed; in permitting with regulatory agencies.

• Anger Fishing Pier:

- o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.

• Bayshore Live Oak Park:

- o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.

• Boca Grande Fishing Pier:

- o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.

• 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.
 - o Pier sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.
- **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% designs and permit applications were submitted.
- **Darst Park:**
 - o Community Services is managing the boarding pier, seawall replacement and ramp scour protection; design is at 90% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.
- **El Jobean Fishing Pier:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.
- **Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.
- **Harbour Heights Park:**
 - o Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permits have been approved; construction is ongoing.
- **Hathaway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.
- **Live Oak Point:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.
- **Placida Fishing Pier:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.
- **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: The engineering design team Costal Engineering is currently working on a revised site 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 update: The new design firm for PCB & Pool will be Harvard Jolly. CM@Risk Tandem Construction will be fencing off the construction areas within the park and start demo of the old PCB Center and pool & pool house.

- 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: See above.
- 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 has been finalized.

- **Port Charlotte Beach Park:**

- o Park sustained catastrophic damage is closed until further notice.

- **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:**

- o Boat ramp sustained damage and is closed until further notice.

- **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, this project is complete.

- **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: Contractor is addressing impacts from recent storms. Anticipated opening after the 1st of the year.
- 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: Final concept plan forwarded to Community Services for review.

Mr. Lombardo said what is troubling on this is none of them simply say, catastrophic damage no futher notice that is not an update and if they could update and let us know where they are for each project. **Mr. Darden** said what is the recommendation, and **Mr. Lombardo** said to at least identify what is happening at that particular site to change it from no further notice to here is what we are doing. They both discuss.

Commissioner Deutsch said we are addressing the issues with the storms and with us as a whole county we have been devastated beyond belief. He discusses all of the devastation, destruction which is over \$140 million and explains we will not open a facility until its safe. He explains that not all the aerial views show the amount of damage. **Mr. Lombardo** said I think you misunderstood my comment, and my concern is this

is a public document. They have a discussion, and the timelines are going to be long. **Mr. Darden** speaks to Commissioner Deutsch.

7. New Business –

Mr. Darden welcomes the new member, Ralph Lombardo, then explains about the shortage at the last meeting. Talks about Mr. Killion filling in and did an outstanding job. Mentions about the elections of officers and you could get nominated as one of the executives at the table. Discusses about the passing of Gerry and the sudden and unexpected resignation of Tom. Also talks of wanting to run for chairman of the committee, explains his history and hopes that the members would nominate me for that position and currently the vice-chairman now. So, that position will now become vacant. We will be accepting nominations for chair and vice-chair until next month. Then next month we will vote on those positions. Please submit your nominations to Kim.

Henry Killion motions to nominate Jim Darden for Chair, seconded by Ralph Lombardo. Asks any other nominations for chair, none given.

Mr. Darden accepts a motion to close nominations.

Robert Hickey motioned to close and seconded by Richard Russell for Jim Jarden to be chair.

Mr. Darden said Harbour Heights Yacht Club is recommending Michael Walsh, he was unable to attend today's meeting and we will welcome next month.

8. Old Business –

None offered.

9. Citizens Comments –

None offered.

Mrs. Sargent said to hold on we have Jenna from South Gulf Cove Yacht Club and there were other members who were trying to submit their application. The commodore gave one deadline on the end of December. She was trying to put the rush out for all applicants from that club to put in their applications. I have only received two.

Jenna Ginsberg said she is a member of the South Gulf Cove Yacht Club and a chair of the South Gulf Cove Waterway MSBU, license captain and run a small charter business and gives her history and experience.

Mr. Darden speaks with Jenna on this position which Tom Ireland was representing this organization until he recently retired from it. We haven't voted yet. Mrs. Sargent said we haven't voted yet because we do not have them all. A discussion took place regarding the procedure and a miscommunication that transpired. It was discussed that we will take care of this next month.

Mr. Wolley said if we could just back up for a second, don't we need to approve Michael Walsh is the Harbour Heights name put forward so they can send that application to the County Commissioners for review. Mrs. Sargent said I sent the paperwork out to everybody and discusses this, and we didn't have a vote, so can we vote on that now or do we wait until next month.

Mr. Russell said I have a question, if he is not here during the summertime what does that mean? A discussion takes place regarding summertime, do we push this onto the January meeting.

10. Member Discussion –
None offered.

Mr. Hyde said I keep hearing that for major projects, repairs from the hurricane. There is either a reluctance or an inability for municipalities to use local money until FEMA has been adjudicated their claims. Is that correct, in other words are we not able to fix things ourselves if we have application in for FEMA funds.

Mr. Darden said so you are saying in the event, someone applies for funds to fix something, we would not be allowed to fix it. A long discussion takes place with many people on the process and FEMA regarding the money, timelines, and repairs due to the hurricanes.

Mr. Gloer said I am trying to update our members like with the yacht clubs and a lot of them are closed and that doesn't pertain to everybody. One of the other things I am trying to keep track of is like as a boating community. Where are the docks, like is there any docks that we can go to now. If I leave the yacht club or leave my house and drive my boat somewhere. Pretty much Laishley's floating dock was the only dock that I knew of that people could hop on a boat and go out to eat. That was just damaged this weekend, so that is not available anymore. Are there any other docks that you know of that we could go to.

Mr. Darden said the Charlotte County website should show you all the docks that are available and open. On the website there is also a status report of what docks are open and they update that weekly.

Mr. Hickey said on Thursday our boat club took a run up to the Navigator, that's about it. The riviera is adding new docks and the members have a discussion on all of this.

Mr. Hyde said the last time I checked the pump out station in Laishley is up and running, which is amazing.

Citizen name unknown said you could go down to Bokeelia, Tarpon Point is open and little place here and there and trying to find your way in.

Mr. McIntosh said I did see the White Elephant in Englewood just put in new docks.

Jenna Ginsberg said some are open and discusses which ones.

Mr. Darden said just want to thank everyone for your comments on that matter. I have one more piece to say, we want to thank Kim for her dedication to the committee over the last year and overseeing everything we do.

11. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, January 2, 2025 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 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106 in Murdock Building B.**

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.
Minutes Approved



Jim Darden, Vice-Chair