



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 9, 2025

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 December 5, 2024
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

William Moran moved to approve the minutes from Pre-Agenda and seconded by **Betty Campanella**. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from December 12, 2024.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

William Moran moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Agenda and seconded by **Ralph Lombardo**. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

C. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Liz Eastes said we have 13 open cases, 24 are ready for removal and 3 on administrative hold.

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

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Kris McRae said we have 2 DV's in the county that are not storm related. One is over at Spring Lake Boat Ramp and the second one is a sailboat the owner is deceased. We are looking at finding the next of kin to get that boat out of there as soon as possible. We have a vessel off Beanie Road it is at risk and tied up to back of a residence and trying to get a hold of the owner, it is not in a DV state. Last week I brought up the fact that the County is doing an excellent job with their contractors out in the Englewood area. Talks about the different locations that they are bringing the debris from the waterways and explains the hyperlinks that was placed on the email to Mrs. Sargent for the members to look at.

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

Officer Russell was not present.

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

Michael Cunningham goes over his fiscal report on the projector screen and the handout.

Mr. Darden asks were all of the projects on here carried over from 2024 and now we have the 2025 project. Can you explain the Punta Gorda Police Department are they still holding for overtime and stuff or a boat part or something? **Mr. Cunningham** said yes, and a discussion takes place.

Mr. Darden asks if there are any closing arguments on the 2024 grant period.

Commissioner Deutsch speaks on why they didn't spend the \$100K and **Mr. Cunningham** said he is not sure why and will have to find out and get back on that. **Mr. Darden** joins in on the conversation and a discussion takes place.

Mr. Cunningham talks about the 2026 applications that come in and could be sent out email.

Mrs. Sargent said yes and confirmed with Janette Knowlton, and it is ok for Debbie to send all the MAC members the applications as they are coming in or how she sends them. Then goes over the old way and how it was too chaotic, this will be better and more efficient. **Mr. Darden** explains the process prior and how it will be now moving forward.

Mr. Cunningham continues with 2025, and Mr. Darden goes over it with him. Then discusses the timeline the grants will run from 12/11/2024 to 01/31/2025 and no application will be accepted after January 31st. Then explains the complete process with everything that is involved in detail.

Mr. Darden said we will have one month to take a look and January 31st will be the deadline for app's and then we'll have February to take a look and discuss at the Pre-Agenda and Agenda and discuss before the meeting in March. In March I hope to have no questions, so those things have been discussed prior to the meeting and to have all these applications to go through and that is not the time to ask questions that we have to go back to the organization.

Commissioner Deutsch said Ninety percent of those are repetitive aren't they. Mr. Darden said yes, and they both have a discussion.

Commissioner Deutsch asks are we going to do anything different to try and get the word out to the community for possibly some new groups that might be looking for assistance. Mr. Cunningham said that wasn't discussed yet and they both have a discussion. Commissioner Deutsch talks about getting in touch with Brian Gleason and we can put the announcements of CCTV. We should definitely get press releases out that we are doing it.

Mr. Darden said there is also some stock video of program about revolving program and WCIND has a video. That could be run on CCTV sometime this month.

F. MSBU Update – DeWayne Nodine

DeWayne Nodine discussed the items on his MSBU project update list. Talks about the CCSO with the debris removal and Public Works is overseeing that program. So far, they have been a little over 59,700 cubic yards of debris removed from the waterways in Charlotte County. Talks about the contractor hired by the state, they are called Ashgrit they are working right now in the Manasota Key, Lemon Bay intercoastal waterway area. No schedule for them moving to the next area, talks about the drawbridge to Manasota Key has been completed.

Mr. Russell said Sgt. mentioned and has the map that shows there is debris removal up the Peace River and if we have that one group that's doing over the intercoastal. Who's doing it over there in the Peace River, is there another company or is it just individuals, what's going on. **Mr. Nodine** said he doesn't know he will have to ask Karen. **Sgt. McRae** with CCSO talks about this and he believes it is Ashgrit that is taking care of all that removal. **Mr. Nodine** said Karen Bliss who is the project manager for Public Works on the debris removal, then goes over dredging and waterways.

Mr. Darden said someone had a question at the pre-agenda regarding permitting, some of the projects is in permitting and some said being handled under the emergency management authorization.

Mr. Nodine said the Army Core of Engineers a couple of months ago issued an announcement for an emergency permit window. Due to issues cause by Hurricane Milton and our consultant at Coastal Engineering has suggested applying under that permit window. The four projects we have funding from FEMA due to Hurricane Ian its not clear what the deadline is April 14th for turning in that permit application under this emergency permit window again due to Milton. It is not clear what the project completion deadline is. A discussion takes place on this, the projects, and the report with several people.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell goes over her report, quick run through.

•Ainger Creek Park:

oPark Redevelopment project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project StatusUpdates webpage. Facilities provided the following update: Permits in hand.Community Services is preparing a grant application to the state.

Mr. Darden asks is that the boat ramp. Ms. Powell said the entire park, moving the boat ramp, expanding the parking, adding a restroom a full rebuild.

Ms. Powell cont's

- **Allapatachee 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 from Helene/Milton; closed until further notice.

- **Bayshore Live Oak Park:**

- o Park sustained catastrophic damage from Helene/Milton; closed until further notice.

- **Boca Grande Fishing Pier:**

- o Park sustained catastrophic damage from Helene/Milton; closed until further notice.

Mr. Darden said when it says closed until further notice, people are wondering what that means. That means permanently closed or that it's on the shelf.

Ms. Powell said it is we are gonna pursue FEMA reimbursement for that project. So, until we can get through that process there is very little we can do. Particularly at some of the fishing piers to reopen them without a full redesign and reconstruction and that will have to go through FEMA, CEP and Army Core. Those are long processes.

Mr. Darden asks process for rebuild if you have to start all over with permit and they discuss.

Mr. Russell said who are they?

Ms. Powell said Army Core of Engineers.

Mr. Darden talks about Live Oak Point with Ms. Powell and she cont.'s with report.

- **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 from Helene/Milton; 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 from Helene/Milton; closed until further notice.
- **Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage from Helene/Milton; 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 from Helene/Milton; closed until further notice.
- **Live Oak Point:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage from Helene/Milton; closed until further notice.
- **Placida Fishing Pier:**
 - o Park sustained catastrophic damage from Helene/Milton; 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. Coastal Engineering is working on a revised site plan with minor changes to the stormwater management system due to input from the DEP and USACE.
- **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 Construction Manager at Risk Tandem Construction has begun demoing Port Charlotte Beach Center and Restroom by the 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 from Helene/Milton; 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: The United States Army Corps of Engineers issued the Riverside Boat Ramp project permit on December 19, 2024.

Commissioner Deutsch speaks on that to update with having boats removed there, the State is not moving ahead on that. They are doing everything they can where the courts are, the playground hopefully around February 1st and also the one ramp if possible. **Ms. Powell** said we're actively on our end and attempting to get that cleaned up and opened.

Jenna Ginsberg said can you explain, it was used for months after Milton then closed and open and discusses with Ms. Powell. Ms. Powell said it was closed initially and we replaced caution tape and signage every three days. From Milton on it was closed regardless of the fact that people tore that down and were using it. A discussion takes place.

John Osanitsch said MSBU waterways and South Gulf Cove Yacht Club member. You mentioned FEMA at least six times while I am listening to you and all the hurricane damage is part of FEMA. Has the county actually gone out of their way to assign an individual or an outside consultant to deal with FEMA.

Ms. Powell said yes, the county has two outside consultants dedicated staff in our fiscal department and I have two dedicated staff in my department. We are doing everything we can on the county side to respond to FEMA and to provide them information to expedite as much as we can. We are at the mercy of their process, their staff turnover, their decision making. A discussion takes place on this with several people joining in.

Ms. Powell continues with report.

Mr. Lombardo talks on the Placida pier ramp side dock repair looks like it's complete it that correct.

Ms. Powell said Placida boat ramp and will have to get an update on that.

Mr. McIntosh said is there any thoughts for plans when you do rebuild these docks to build sturdier and looking at the pictures all the cement pilings and braces, there still there. All the wood or composite decking and handrails, all that is gone.

Mr. Powell said a lot of those were built many years ago under different permit requirements and codes. We did see the live oak point walkway which is all cement including the surface that you walk on did not survive. They will look into more technology is available to make them sturdy as possible.

- **South Gulf Cove Park:**
 - o Boat ramp sustained damage from Helene/Milton; closed until further notice.
- **Spring Lake Park:**
 - o HURRICANE DAMAGE of the c/k launch boarding pier project; repairs waiting on determination from FEMA.
- **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 has been completed.
- o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following update: Contractor has requested a signed letter from the engineer stating that the Kayak Launch was installed, and functions as designed. Once this is received, we will determine if repairs are needed and how to move forward opening the launch for safe public use.
 - 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: Community Services approved the final concept plan and that plan was returned to Kimley-Horn on 12/16/24.

Ms. Campanella talks to Liz Eastes about a huge boat at Bayshore Road right at the street, down close to Sunseekers, is it still there.

Ms. Eastes said yes it got washed up with Helene and got pushed further in by Milton. I have been working with emergency department and trying to get boats removed. This I can not authorize anything to be removed that is not on county property. They both have a discussion.

7. New Business –
None offered.

8. Other Business – **Election of Officers**

Mr. Darden said we have no nominations yet for Vice-Chair and asks are there any other nominations for the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Darden asks are there any other nominations for the Chairman on the Committee.

Mr. Darden asks are there any other nominations for the Chairman of the Marine Advisory Committee.

William Moran made a motion to close the nominations and seconded by **Richard Russell**; motion passed unanimously.

Robert Hickey made a motion nominating **Jim Darden** for Chair, seconded by **Robert Magliozzi**; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darden asks are there any nominations for Vice-Chair of the Marine Advisory Committee.

Betty Campanella made a motion nominating **Hank Killion** for Vice Chair, seconded by **Bob Mayes**; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darden asks are there any other nominations for Vice Chair.

William Moran made a motion to close the nominations for Vice Chair of the Marine Advisory, second by **Richard Russell**; motion passed unanimously.

William Moran made a motion to nominate **Hank Killion** for Vice Chair, seconded by **Betty Campanella**; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darden said we have two representatives to appoint, one is from South Gulf Cove Yacht Club Jenna Ginsberg and asks her to stand.

Jenna Ginsberg said I will try and fill the shoes of Tom Ireland.

Robert Magliozi made a motion to accept **Jenna Ginsberg**, seconded by **Angus McKinnon**; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darden said we have Michael Walsh from Harbour Heights Yacht Club.

Mr. Walsh said he was nominated at our last meeting and happy to serve if you will have me. ____

William Moran motioned to approve **Michael Walsh**, seconded by **Robert Magliozi**; motion passed unanimously.

9. Citizens Comments –

John Osanitsch with Waterways MSBU and South Gulf Cove Yacht Club talks about the parallel Locke at any time. I just want to bring it up the project and raised it to try to get it to the BCC sometime in the future. The project is extensive and trying to put a parallel Locke for three and a half years now. A discussion takes place on the MSBU, the Locke, the tender house, homes, feasibility study, protected species, age of the Locke and to refurbish it with several people.

Mr. Hickey asks Mike did you contact the city of Punta Gorda and get their history and feed back on Buckley's Pass. It's almost the same thing without Locke's but they took twenty-five years. As Punta Gorda Isles got built out now, more and more people moved into the area called the bird section. A discussion takes place on all of this.

10. Member Discussion –
None offered.

11. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, February 6, 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, February 13, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the **E. Jay Carlson Large Conference Room. (f/k/a Building Construction Services)**

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.
Minutes Approved



Jim Darden, Vice-Chair