



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 12, 2026

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 Darden** called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.
2. Roll Call - Upon roll call, it was determined that a quorum was present. Sign-in sheets are attached.
3. Chairman's Comments
 - a. Reminders to all members, staff, and visitors: Please sign in on the sheets provided. State your name and organization when addressing the committee to assist with the preparation of the minutes. Silence cell phones and keep the conversations to a whisper, as the recording system captures all sounds.
4. Changes to the Agenda – None.
5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items – None.
6. Regular Business
 - a. Approval of the Minutes of the Agenda Meeting from December 11, 2025
 - b. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from January 2, 2026
 - c. Approval of the Minutes of the Agenda Meeting from January 8, 2026
 - d. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from February 5, 2026

Chair Darden stated that the committee would accept all the pre-agenda and agenda minutes from the last several months without objection. No objections were noted.

- e. FY26/27 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Debbie Thibideau / Jacob Jenkins

Mr. Russell asked if, at the end of the fiscal year, each organization provides an accounting of its expenditures, including receipts. **Chair Darden** stated that as funds are spent, reimbursement requests are submitted and explained the process involving funding sources and matching funds.

Mrs. Thibideau stated that there were a couple of items she would like to review. She noted that the items were briefly discussed at the pre-agenda meeting, but not everyone was present. She reviewed notes from the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) December meeting and explained changes regarding funding and which items will and will not be covered. A discussion ensued among **Chair Darden**, **Mr. McIntosh**, and **Mrs. Thibideau**.

Mrs. Thibideau then presented each item from the FY27 grant requests on the screen for the members of the Marine Advisory Committee, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit staff,

Punta Gorda Police Department Marine Unit staff, Charlotte County staff, and Stephen R. Deutsch to review. Discussion followed.

Ms. Campanella asked if the pre-agenda meeting next month would include a line-by-line review. Chair Darden responded regarding the items and what may be cut from the list.

Mrs. Thibideau asked Chair Darden who he would like to have present besides Brandon Moody and whether there was anyone else she should contact. Chair Darden mentioned Learn to Sail, and discussion followed.

Mr. Sluzeski asked if the organizations would be advised specifically of the questions the committee would like addressed. Chair Darden responded that members should review the applications and send any questions to Mrs. Sargent, who can provide them to Mrs. Thibideau to forward to the Grants Analyst. Alternatively, Mrs. Sargent can distribute the questions to the members.

9. Citizens Comments – None.

10. Member Discussion –

Mr. Hyde stated that the item had recently been mentioned on Wink News regarding the Florida Boating Improvement Program, a grant program from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A discussion ensued with Mrs. Thibideau regarding this.

Ms. Ginsberg requested that Mr. Hyde provide the information to Mrs. Sargent so it could be forwarded to the members. **Mr. Gloer** joined the discussion and stated that he spoke with someone in Naples who informed him that the program had very little participation and that a significant amount of funding may be available. **Mrs. Thibideau** stated that the program operates on a point system and that she was unsure how many applications had been submitted. She explained some of the requirements involved. **Chair Darden** stated he was familiar with the program and joined the discussion.

Mr. Russell requested that Mrs. Sargent forward the document from Mr. Hyde. **Mrs. Sargent** stated that once it is received, it will be forwarded to the members.

11. Next Meetings

- The next pre-agenda meeting will be held Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the Large Conference Room of the E. Jay Carlson Community Development Building (18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte).
- The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in Room B-106 in Building B of 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.

12. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Submitted by Kimberly Sargent, recording secretary
Community Development


Jim Darden, Chair

4/9/26
Date