



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 14, 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. Angus McKinnon arrived at 10:02 am. Sign-in sheets are attached.
3. Chairman's Comments
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 March 12, 2026
 - b. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from April 2, 2026
 - c. Approval of the Minutes of the Agenda Meeting from April 9, 2026

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

- d. Charlotte County Sheriff's Department and City of Punta Gorda Police Department- Marine Updates.
Sgt. Kris McRae, of CCSO, spoke regarding their recent activities. **Richard Russell** asked about a potential derelict vessel in the harbor. A discussion ensued.
Officer Lee of PGPD spoke regarding his department's activities, including the launch of a new derelict vessel program with assistance from Florida Fish and Wildlife. **Jim Darden** asked who was funding the PGPD's efforts. **Officer Lee** stated that MAC/Charlotte County was their funding source. A discussion ensued. He also explained that they have volunteers who were given pamphlets regarding slow, no wake zones to give to boaters to educate them. **Richard Russell** wants to commend the towing company used by PGPD and would like information for them to bid with the county. **Jeff Devine** of West Coast Inland Navigation District asks if the police have considered using a smart cop database available from FWC. A discussion ensued.

- e. Derelict Vessel Report – **Liz Eastes** gave the derelict vessel report. **Jim Darden** asked if the date was wrong on the report and if the boats that were removed dropped off the list. **Liz** stated that the date is wrong and that the boats do drop off the list. **Richard Sluzewski** asked for clarification regarding what an “open Case” means. **Liz** responded.
 - f. FY26/27 Fiscal Reports/Grants – **Debbie Thibideau** and **Jacob Jenkins** were present. **Jacob** presented the report.
 - g. MSBU update- **Michael Benjamin** went over report. **Noel Hyde** asked when the Alligator Creek dredging will start. **Michael** responded.
 - h. **Tina Powell** gave an update on community services. **Chair Darden** asked about Ainger Creek, Boca Grande Causeway, and the Placida boat pier. Tina responded. A discussion ensued. **Richard Russell** asked about FEMA and funding options if FEMA money is unavailable. **Tina** responded. A discussion ensued. **Betty Campanella** asked how FEMA and Charlotte County determine which project goes first. **Tina** explained.
- 7. New Business - **Kristin Simeone**, Finance Director for the city of Punta Gorda and **Anne Heinan**, Procurement Manager, spoke. **Sarah Welch** is the city of Punta Gorda clerk and was not scheduled to attend this meeting. (per the agenda, **Sarah Welch** was presenting) **Anne** spoke on the city’s bidding and procurement process. See attached handouts.
 - 8. Old Business – None.
 - 9. Citizen Comments – **Stephen R Deutsch** spoke regarding the County Board’s decision regarding the Marine Advisory Committee FY 2027-2028 budget.
 - 10. Member Discussion - **Chair Darden** spoke of all the changes now that the budget will be revised. He said Fiscal services will contact all effected by the changes. He thanked **Robert Magliozzi** for attending the BCC meeting Tuesday. **CCSO** will be invited to the next meeting to go over what their department has achieved with MAC grant funding. **Richard Russell** said that his comments are not meant to attack anyone personally, he just thinks that we need to be prudent with money and apologized for being abrasive.
 - 11. Next Meetings
 - The next pre-agenda meeting will be held Thursday, June 4, 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, June 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in Room B-106 in Building B of 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.
 - 12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

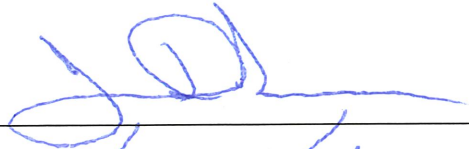
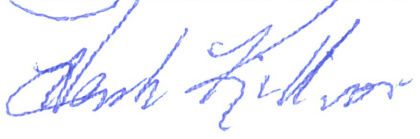
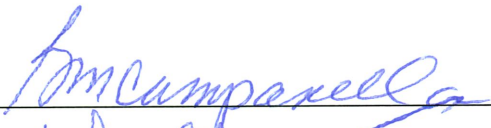
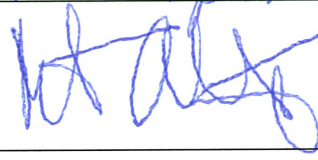
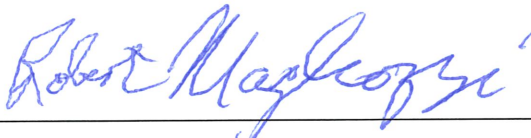
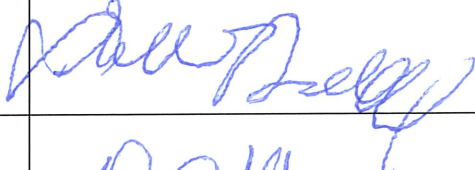
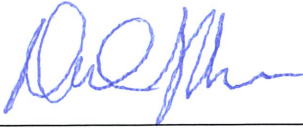
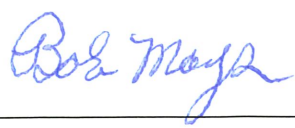
Submitted by Jane Babler, recording secretary
Community Development


Jim Darden, Chair

6/11/26
Date

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Members – Agenda - Sign-In Sheet
May 14, 2026

PLEASE SIGN NEXT TO NAME ON SHEET

Jim Darden, Chair Member-at-Large	
Hank Killion, Vice-Chair Member-at-Large	
Betty Campanella, Secretary America's Boating Club - Peace River	
Robert Eckert U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 87 Englewood	
Jenna Ginsberg South Gulf Cove Yacht Club	
Robert Magliozzi Member-at-Large	
Richard Russell Member-at-Large	
Gene Pawlowski Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance	
Dave Vigne Pirate Harbor Yacht Club	
Richard Sluzewski Punta Gorda Boat Club	
Bob Mayes Punta Gorda Isles Fishing Club	

PLEASE SIGN NEXT TO NAME ON SHEET

**Mike McIntosh
Punta Gorda Sailing Club**

**Michael Walsh
Harbor Heights Yacht Club**

**Laura Gassett-Shoemaker
U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Cape Haze**

Laura Gassett-Shoemaker

**Jim Pase
Isles Yacht Club**

**Vacant
Burnt Store Isles Boat Club**

**Angus McKinnon
U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor**

Angus McKinnon

**Zach Gloer
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club**

**Noel Hyde
City of Punta Gorda**

Noel Hyde

**Ralph Lombardo
Member-at-Large**

Ralph Lombardo

**Vacant
Port Charlotte Yacht Club**

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Staff – Agenda – Sign-In Sheet
May 14, 2026

PLEASE SIGN NEXT TO NAME ON SHEET

Michael Benjamin, Dredging Project
Manager

Debbie Thibideau, Grants Analyst
Budget & Administrative Services

Jacob Jenkins, Finance
Boater Revolving Fund

Zinnia Vargas, Financial Mgr., Fiscal Serv.,
Budget & Admin. Serv.

Liz Eastes, Marine Environmental
Specialist

Matthew Logan, Projects Manager
Engineering

Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources
Manager Liaison

Robert Campbell (Eric), Signing and
Marking Coordinator, Public Works

Sgt. Kris McRae, Marine Patrol Supervisor
/ CCSO

Michael Marsh, Lieutenant / CCSO

William Prummell, Marine Unit / CCSO

Jon Bautista, Aviation / CCSO

Richard Nelson,
DV Detective/CCSO

Teresa VanderWaag

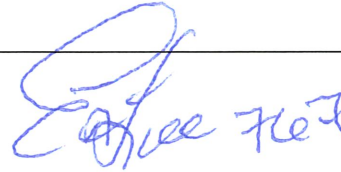
VanderWag

PLEASE SIGN NEXT TO NAME ON SHEET

Jonathan C. Smith, Marine Unit / CCSO

Corporal A.J. Russell, Marine Patrol
Punta Gorda Police Dept.

Officer Eric Lee, Marine Patrol
Punta Gorda Police Dept.



Matthew McElroy, Interim Chief
Charlotte County Fire and EMS

Chris Mott, Battalion Chief
Charlotte County Fire and EMS

Jeremy Tuttle, Battalion Chief
Charlotte County Fire and EMS



Michael Kerns, Marine OPS Lieutenant
Charlotte County Fire

Thomas M. David, County Attorney
Office of the County Attorney

Please PRINT Your Name and Affiliation

[illegible]