

**MINUTES
PIRATE HARBOR WATERWAY
MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT (MSBU)**

**ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025**

**2:08 p.m. – 3:17 p.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event Center
75 Taylor St, Punta Gorda, Florida**

Members Present: Chuck Falesch, Chair
Robert DiMuzio, Vice Chair
Phillip Smallwood
John Schwind
Members Absent: George Herl
County Staff: Erica Hayes, Community Liaison
DeWayne Nodine, Projects Manager
Guests: None

Call to Order / Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Changes to the Agenda / Motion to Approve Changes:

None

Citizen Input on Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit):

None

Approval of the Minutes:

The February 5, 2025, minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Interior Dredge Project: Mr. Nodine updated the group that Coastal Engineering completed fieldwork for a resurvey in May and we are awaiting the draft survey. Staff will aim to share the survey ahead of the August 13 meeting. Discussion included FEMA claim processes. An estimate of dredge volume due to Hurricane Milton is being developed. Potential cost estimates based on previous bids (~\$161/cubic yard) were reviewed. Additional discussion regarding shallow conditions at Marker 7 and difficulties navigating certain areas was had. Survey coverage and priorities were also reviewed.
- b. Sea Grass Mitigation Monitoring: An update was provided that Coastal Engineering's five-year mitigation monitoring was deemed unsatisfactory by regulatory agencies. These agencies require additional mitigation despite evidence of regrowth in certain areas. Discussion focused on the unfairness of shifting mitigation standards, and possible avenues to appeal the decision or present statistical arguments. Members expressed interest in pursuing advocacy with state officials and working with consultants and staff to resolve this reasonably without additional cost.

- c. Marine Markers: The group reiterated the desire to move markers between 4a and 8. - Awaiting updated survey results to finalize justification for relocation. The group stated that Marker 5 has been temporarily replaced after being lost during Hurricane Milton.

New Business

- a. Financial Reports: - FY25 Q2 financials were reviewed. Some survey costs will eventually be reassigned to the dredging project budget. Discussion on confusing fiscal restrictions regarding line-item transfers. Discussion ensued regarding FEMA reimbursements and permit extensions related to Hurricane Milton.

Citizen Input on MSTU items (3 Minute Limit):

None

Advisory Board Open Discussion:

Discussion ensued regarding collaborating with Alligator Creek for potential cost savings via combined dredging efforts.

Schedule Meetings / Items for Next Agenda:

Future meetings are tentatively scheduled at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library as follows:

- Wednesday, August 13, 2025
- Wednesday, October 22, 2025
- Thursday, December 4, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Submitted by Erica Hayes
Public Works Department


Chair Signature
Date

**Pirate Harbor Entrance Channel Dredging
Seagrass Monitoring
Meeting Minutes
CEC File No. 24.132
March 17, 2025**

INTRODUCTIONS

County: Matt, DeWayne

MSBU: Bob

DEP/AP: Gabriella, Elizabeth, Mary, Arielle, Tori, David

USACE: Mathew, Bobby

NMFS: Mark

CEC: Michael, Grady

I. Introduction

AP disclosed that staff met with CEC on March 3, 2025 to review an unrelated project. The Pirate Harbor project was discussed, specifically the lack of success of the mitigation sites.

CEC summarized the Project history and presented the seagrass mitigation monitoring results for the five-year monitoring period. During the monitoring period Charlotte Harbor experienced significant widespread ecological challenges (algae blooms) and numerous storm events. Impacts to seagrass throughout the harbor have been observed during the monitoring period. While the seagrass mitigation sites have not met the success criteria as required by the DEP and USACE permits, the seagrass within the buffer zone has remained stable and demonstrated a positive growth trend. CEC shared thoughts as to the importance of the increased seagrass coverage noting the mitigations sites, control sites and much of the harbor has seen a decline in seagrass coverage during the same time period. CEC requested the increased seagrass growth within the buffer zone be considered for mitigation.

DEP shared the increased seagrass coverage within the buffer zone cannot be used to satisfy the mitigation requirements as the buffer zone was not a mitigation site per the permit.

DEP/AP shared they are open to developing a new mitigation plan which may include monitoring a new site and/or additional monitoring of existing sites. Staff suggested using FWC Derelict Vessel sites, FWC Seagrass Map, and the upcoming SWFWMD Seagrass Map update to identify potential sites noting the mitigation had to remain within Charlotte County. AP recommended Turtle Bay.

CEC asked if the open areas within the buffer zone could be utilized. DEP will review internally as to the acceptability of this option.

CEC shared that the southern mitigation site is void of seagrass and asked what benefits would be gained from further monitoring. DEP shared they are open to further monitoring or abandonment of the existing sites.

NMFS shared they could not accept the increased seagrass coverage within the buffer zone as mitigation as the increased coverage is likely due to boater behavior reducing secondary impacts. Concern was expressed that providing additional plantings within the buffer zone may not be viable long-term and consideration should be given to annual/seasonal changes experienced by seagrass.

CEC expressed the level of effort undertaken to provide the existing mitigation sites with the best chance of success noting the mitigation sites included plantings and sediment bags. Additionally, two sites were utilized to increase odds of success. CEC reiterated the consistent growth and stability of the seagrass documented within the buffer zone and suggested it be considered as potential mitigation site.

USACE highlighted Special Condition 19 within the permit and shared they will proceed based on DEP and NMFS recommendations.

County noted that the upcoming SWFWMD Seagrass Map only includes 2024 data. AP confirmed the data was current up to January 2024 and new aerials (post Helene/Milton) could be used to supplement.

Discussion ensued on the recommended path forward. DEP shared that they were open to considering sediment placement (bagged or not bagged) and/or plantings based on what is best suited for the proposed site.

USACE inquired if a time lag adjustment would have to be applied to the mitigation requirement. DEP shared that no time lag adjustment/permit modification would be required.

NMFS cautioned that placement of loose sediment may present a risk to adjacent seagrass if displaced during a storm event. Recommendation was made to use the FWC Seagrass Map to identify depressional areas (holes) or high areas (spoil mounds) that could be regraded to create suitable seagrass habitat.

A consensus was established which includes reviewing the updated SWFWMD Seagrass Map, and other mapping tools, to identify potential new mitigation site(s). Once all organizations have time to review the maps a follow-up call shall be convened to discuss findings.

Pirate Harbor Waterway MSBU

Fund Financial Report

Oct. 1, 2024 - Mar. 31, 2025

	Actual FY2024	Adopted Budget FY2025	YTD Actual FY2025	Encumbered FY2025	Balance FY2025
Beginning Balance	\$324,772	\$357,939	\$413,668		
Revenues					
Assessments & Earnings	127,369	104,939	100,868		
Grant & Subsidy Revenue	-	-	-		
Loans & Borrowing	-	391,000	-		
Total Revenue	\$127,369	\$495,939	\$100,868		
Expenditures					
Contract Services	-	-	-	19,507	(19,507)
Survey	11,613	25,000	7,306	-	17,695
Navigational Trimming	-	-	-	-	-
Public Works Services	6,678	7,305	3,013	-	4,292
Internal Charges	1,984	1,389	1,389	-	-
Purchased Services	14,801	17,185	10,894	11,056	(4,766)
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Services	-	15,610	-	-	15,610
Project Costs					
Pirate Harbor Dredging FY23	3,396	450,520	302	84,330	365,888
Total Expenditures	\$38,472	\$517,009	\$22,904	\$114,893	\$379,211
Reserves (Ending Fund Balance)	\$413,668	\$336,869	\$491,632		
Reserve %	91.5%	39.5%	95.5%		

Date Prepared: 5/2/2025

Monthly Funding Report

START
DATE:

01/01/2025

END DATE:

03/31/2025

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Pirate Harbor Waterway Unit

Project	WO Number	WO Description	Location	Date Worked	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Materials Cost	Equip. Cost	Contractor Cost	Work Accomp	Total Cost
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		01/06/2025	1.75	151.22	0.00	0.00	0.00		151.22
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		01/29/2025	1.00	86.41	0.00	0.00	0.00		86.41
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/04/2025	0.50	43.21	0.00	0.00	0.00		43.21
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/05/2025	3.25	280.83	0.00	0.00	0.00		280.83
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/10/2025	0.50	43.21	0.00	0.00	0.00		43.21
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/19/2025	0.25	21.60	0.00	0.00	0.00		21.60
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/21/2025	0.50	43.21	0.00	0.00	0.00		43.21
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		01/14/2025	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		01/16/2025	0.75	55.43	0.00	0.00	0.00		55.43
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		01/30/2025	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		01/31/2025	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/03/2025	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/05/2025	3.00	221.70	0.00	0.00	0.00		221.70
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/13/2025	0.75	55.43	0.00	0.00	0.00		55.43
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/25/2025	1.25	92.38	0.00	0.00	0.00		92.38
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/26/2025	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		03/03/2025	1.00	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00		73.90
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		03/05/2025	0.75	55.43	0.00	0.00	0.00		55.43
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		03/10/2025	0.50	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00		36.95
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		03/13/2025	1.00	73.90	0.00	0.00	0.00		73.90
Administrative Time Total					11.50	849.85	0.00	0.00	0.00		849.87
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/05/2025	2.50	184.75	0.00	0.00	0.00		184.75
MSBU Meeting Total					2.50	184.75	0.00	0.00	0.00		184.75

Monthly Funding Report

START
DATE:

01/01/2025

END DATE:

03/31/2025

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Pirate Harbor Waterway Unit

Project	WO Number	WO Description	Location	Date Worked	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Materials Cost	Equip. Cost	Contractor Cost	Work Accomp	Total Cost
	72682	MSBU Administrative Work		02/10/2025	2.00	147.80	0.00	0.00	0.00		147.80
					2.00	147.80	0.00	0.00	0.00		147.80
					23.75	1,852.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,852.11
					23.75	1,852.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,852.11
	2862	Project Management		02/18/2025	1.25	108.01	0.00	0.00	0.00		108.01
	2862	Project Management		03/03/2025	0.25	21.60	0.00	0.00	0.00		21.60
	2862	Project Management		03/14/2025	0.50	43.21	0.00	0.00	0.00		43.21
	2862	Project Management		03/17/2025	1.00	86.41	0.00	0.00	0.00		86.41
	2862	Project Management		03/21/2025	0.50	43.21	0.00	0.00	0.00		43.21
					3.50	302.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	302.44
					3.50	302.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	302.44
					27.25	2,154.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,154.55

MSBU Minutes Total

Work Order 72682 Total

MSBU Administrative Work Total

Work Order 2862 Total Pirate Harbor WW Dredge

cmd2202 - Pirate Harbor Dredging FY23

Project Management Total

Pirate Harbor Waterway Unit Total

Monthly Funding Report

START DATE:

01/01/2025

END DATE:

03/31/2025

Project	WO Number	WO Description	Location	Date Worked	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Materials Cost	Equip. Cost	Contractor Cost	Work Accomp	Total Cost
Grand totals for all MSBUs reported											
					27.25	2,154.51	0.00	0.00	0.00		2,154.55

[illegible]