

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ALLIGATOR CREEK WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**May 22, 2012**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:** Howard Brooks, George McNeill, Ed Minzer, Claire Phelen

**County:** Dawn Harrison, Sandy Wright

**Absent:** Ken Fahrbach (excused)

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Minutes:** The meeting minutes from February 29, 2012 were unanimously approved as written.

Ms. Wright discussed the membership status of the Committee, stating there is currently one opening for a regular member.

**Old Business:**

- The Committee requested that agendas be sent to them prior to the meeting. There was discussion about how to add items to the agenda.
- The budget information for 2012/2013 was distributed.
- Ms. Harrison reported that the residents of Sea Edge are part of the district and pay assessments into the MSBU. There is a dividing line down the center of the canal; half in the City of Punta Gorda and half in the County. The City of Punta Gorda would like to move the County's half into their district. Ms. Harrison will work with the City to get an inter-local agreement for dredging. Ms. Phelen expressed concern that the MSBU can only dredge to a 5 foot depth while the City of Punta Gorda canals are dredged to 6 feet. The Committee would like to dredge to 6 feet. The MSBU is dredging some canals that are not paying assessments into the MSBU. Mr. Logan explained that many of the canals have not been dedicated to the public, therefore, the County cannot maintain them. Ms. Harrison will research the dedication.
- Survey Work – Mr. Logan stated that the bathymetric survey is not complete due to a delay with the contract being re-negotiated by the Purchasing Department. The survey will be done within the next month and will identify how much material must be removed from the waterways in order to create a cost estimate. The Committee asked for two estimates, one to dredge to a 6 foot depth and one to dredge to a 5 feet depth. Mr. Logan explained that if allowed, it would be expensive to dredge to 6 feet. The hurdles preventing a 6 foot dredge will become obvious during the permitting process. The current permit is a maintenance permit which allows dredging to 5 feet. A new permit would be required to dredge to the 6 foot level. Ms. Phelen made a motion to complete the survey for the amount of material to be removed, and then address the feasibility of pursuing a 6 foot dredge instead of 5 feet. The motion was seconded by Mr. McNeill and passed unanimously.

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- There are locations in the canals that are starting to fill in around markers 12 & 13. The new survey will reveal whether the old dredge sites are filling in. The areas of the old dredge seem to be holding the water levels but the areas that were recently dredged seem to be filling in.
- Funds are not available in this year's budget for spot dredging. Ms. Harrison can move reserve funds into the working budget if the Committee agrees.
- No mangrove trimming is necessary at this time.
- The marine markers look good but the committee asked who paid for the work. Ms. Harrison will research the work but believes it was done by the Marine Advisory Committee.
- There was discussion regarding the Utility Ordinance and possible changes in MSBU methodology.
- There was discussion regarding anchoring boats in Alligator Creek.
- Ms. Phelen made a motion to place \$75,000 in the 2013/2014 budget for a future dredge. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brooks. All members were unanimously in favor.
- There was discussion about removing a large rock at Marker 40. The rock may show up in the survey.
- The Committee asked to be notified when the survey is scheduled and when it is completed.
- Ms. Phelen provided Ms. Harrison with a feasibility study that was conducted in January 2008.
- The Committee agreed to have a discussion on reducing the rate for the 2014 budget.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 9, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.