

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BUENA VISTA AREA WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**May 8, 2012**  
**10:00 a.m. in Public Works Conference Room**

**Attendees:** Judith Barnosky, Donna Elliott, Richard Hulet, and Charles Witzke

**Absent:** Eugene Extejt (excused), William Ryan (excused)

**County:** Dawn Harrison, Matt Logan, Sandy Wright

**Guests:** Roger DeBruler Jr., David Stefanini – CCSO, Jeff Rebon - FWC

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the March 6, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

**Old Business:**

- Representatives from CCSO & FWC were present at the meeting to discuss the anchoring of boats in the waterways. Mr. DeBruler explained the difference in a derelict vessel (SS823.11.01) and an abandoned vessel (SS705.101.03) as defined by the state statutes. All vessels have a right to use the waterways, regardless of their appearance. Anchor lights are required within Charlotte County except at Laishley Mooring Field because it is so well lit. The Committee can't stipulate what goes on in the waterways unless they get a permit from DEP. Mr. Rebon stated that it is very difficult to get a DEP permit, stating it took four years for Laishley to obtain theirs. Any vessel that is anchored and not impeding traffic has a legal right to be there. There is no limit to the amount of time a vessel can be anchored. Citations can only be issued to a person, not to a vessel. There must be a person present on board the vessel to receive a citation; otherwise, the officer can't site them. Mr. Stefanini stated that State and County government officers have been checking anchored vessels for proper waste storage and have issued citations as necessary. It was recommended that members be friendly to vessel owners and get contact information so if a vessel breaks loose owners can be contacted. Mr. DeBruler distributed business cards and advised the Committee to contact him when they have concerns.
- Mr. Logan reported he was unable to reach Coastal Engineering for an update on the Beach Renourishment Project.
- There was discussion regarding the Natural Resources Department using sand to re-nourish the beach while the Committee has to pay to have silt removed from their waterways. Although waterway dredging is scheduled for next year, the Committee does not want to wait. The funds are available now. The Committee would like to take advantage of the dredging that is being done in Punta Gorda Isles and have theirs done at the same time to save money. Mr. Logan said a bathymetric survey will be required to quantify what needs to be removed so an estimate of costs can be created. Currently the contract for bathymetric surveys is being re-negotiated so it will take longer to get an estimate. Mr. Logan explained that the process of going through the Purchasing Department takes time and assured the Committee that he would do everything he can to expedite this. The Committee would like to meet again after the survey is complete and asked that they be notified of progress.

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**New Business:**

- Ms. Elliott suggested that Committee members write to the BCC to request assistance with funding since funds have been given to Stump Pass and Punta Gorda for similar projects.
- The Committee can submit a request for funding to the Marine Advisory Committee for next year to be used for dredging. Ms. Harrison will speak to Mr. DeBruler for more information about funding for the dredge.
- Copies of the area map were distributed.
- Status on the seawalls located by the Port Charlotte Beach Complex will be reported at the next meeting
- Copies of the Marine Advisory projects were requested.
- Status of the Committee members was reviewed with discussion regarding the attendance of alternate members. Mr. Witzke thought it was unnecessary for alternates to attend all the meetings and will talk to Mr. Extejt about future attendance.

The next meeting will be scheduled after the survey is complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.