

MEETING MINUTES
NORTHWEST PORT CHARLOTTE WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 12, 2008
2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Jack Fawsett, Richard Cochran, Stanley Bliss, William Mango, Richard Hopkins, Renee Larson
County – Dawn Harrison, Matt Logan, Jamie Cohlmeier (Coastal Engineering), Kim Raymond

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

Minutes: In reviewing the January 24, 2008, minutes, the following revisions were noted:

- The third bullet was revised to state that Mr. Fawsett was told the application for the grant needs to be submitted by February 1, 2008.
- The last bullet was revised to reflect that the Committee's reports included October, November, and December 2007.

The Committee approved the January 24, 2008, minutes as amended.

Business:

- Mr. Fawsett presented the Committee's operating procedure, which includes using Roberts Rules of Order as a guide and reporting to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) periodically. The Committee wants to meet the second Tuesday of every month prior to the dredging project. Ms. Harrison stated that a member will need to take minutes if the County is not represented. The meeting dates need to be submitted two weeks prior, so it can be advertised. The Committee unanimously agreed to adopt this procedure.
- Mr. Fawsett met with Public Works to discuss funding for dredging and markers. The \$50,000 for the markers will come from the Hurricane Recovery Fund, if the project can be started right away. If the project starts after October 1, 2008, the funds will come from the Marine Advisory Committee (MAC). Mr. Fawsett noted that, according to calculations, they will need \$134,000 for 2009. To cover the shortage, each resident would need to be assessed \$100 per ERU (equivalent residential unit).
- Mr. Fawsett discussed assessing the Street & Drainage MSBU residents in the future.
- Mr. Hubert Daniely said they were told the entire project would cost \$300,000, which included dredging the mouths, markers, and the up-canal area. The \$250,000 the MSBU already had in the budget included the MAC funding but did not include the permit and designing.

- It was suggested that the channel markers should be done after the mouths are dredged, so they will not be in the way.
- Mr. Cohlmeier stated that the condition of the Apollo, Cheshire, and Venus Waterways was not as severe, so they were permitted for only what can be dredged. The original Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) dredge depth is 2.5 to 3 feet. The contractor can only dredge what is permitted by DEP.
- Mr. Cochran inquired about dredging under the bridges. Mr. Cohlmeier said the bid process will specify items to be done and, if money is available, the bridges can be included as an additional bid item.
- Mr. Cohlmeier suggested leaving the bid open to hydraulic dredging and mechanical dredging, although mechanical dredging is not as efficient. Coastal Engineering will prepare the bid. Another way to bid is to give a number of cubic yards to be removed and get a cost per cubic yard. Mr. Cohlmeier advised that the more spoil sites available, the lower the cost will be.
- Ms. Harrison will submit PDF copies of the dredging maps to the members.
- The Committee requested that the permit include dredging under the Eisenhower Bridge. Mr. Cohlmeier said that a survey will need to be done. They will research prior survey data to see if anything has changed.
- A bid cannot be submitted without funding having been established but can be submitted subject to the availability of funds.
- Mr. Cohlmeier stated that the project will be done in stages, with the exterior channels being the first stage. Ms. Larson expressed her concern about explaining the tax assessment to residents, in the event that the first stage is completed and future bids come back higher, preventing the project from moving forward. Residents who live on canals that could not be dredged would not want to pay.
- Ms. Harrison said a public hearing will be held in July regarding the tax assessment, and a final hearing will be in September.
- Mr. Cochran stated that two areas that are not included in the district can utilize the canals. He was advised that this will be investigated in the future, in order to include them in the district.
- A motion was made to accept Coastal Engineering's plan to complete the exterior channels first and then to proceed as permitted by the available funding, including the grant from MAC for the markers. The Committee agreed unanimously in favor of the motion.

- The permanent spoil sites will be the Parks & Recreation property and the School Board property. The temporary sites will be located on private property. Ms. Nancy Razvoza suggested using property owned by realtors. Mr. Cohlmeier stated that is not a good idea, because it is not a good seller for surrounding property. He suggested using the site at the Cheshire Waterway.
- The Committee discussed the process of getting permission to use property as a spoil site.
- The Committee discussed a proposed tax assessment. A motion was made to start out with a tax assessment of \$100 per ERU and, once the project is completed, then decrease the assessment to \$50 per ERU. The Committee agreed unanimously to move forward with the \$100 rate.
- The Committee received the January 2008 Activity Report and the Financial History Report.

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. at the Murdock Administration Building, Room B106.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative

DH:srb

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