

MEETING MINUTES
NORTHWEST PORT CHARLOTTE WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 19, 2009
2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Renee Larson, Jack Fawsett, Richard Hopkins, William Mango, and Stanley Bliss
County - Dawn Harrison and Chuck Mopps
Coastal Engineering - Jamie Cohlmeier

Absent: Richard Cochran

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes: The Committee unanimously approved the July 16,, 2009, minutes as submitted. The field minutes from August 19, 2009, were approved with the following changes:

- The relocation of three marine markers in the Venus Waterway.
- One marine marker was checked in the Apollo Waterway.

Public Input:

- Mr. & Mrs. McVety, residents, expressed their concerns with the waterway markers in Cheshire Waterway, and requested some of the markers to be removed.
- Mr. Pilikian stated that he is not happy with the meeting minutes as written. Mr. Pilikian inquired if other Committees have adopted similar rules in their meetings, and if any other Committees follow the same procedure of allowing only three minutes for citizens to speak and at the beginning of the meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Fawsett reviewed the inspection that was done with Chuck Mopps and Jamie Cohlmeier with the Committee members on the depths of the waterways. The methodology that was used for the review process, the constancy of the depths that were dredged, is to three feet. The tide table is not an accurate method to use on the depths.

- Mr. Fawcett made a comparison, with photos, of the waterways from 2001 where there was only a 1-1/2 of water in the canals.
- The contractor performing the work has returned to the waterways in the northwest. Dredging will be done this week. The contractor will be in the Ingelsol, Bayshore, and back to the Markham and the interior of the Cheshire.
- The contractor will have two months before they are finished and a month to clean up.
- Approximately an additional 1,500 cubic yards of material was found from the last survey. Mr. Mopps will set up dates on the contractor progress.
- There was discussion on how the channels snake around and the narrowing of the channel to 20-feet wide them marine markers were set 35 feet apart.

- The statement was made of a large sand bar that has formed and the cause may be from the County project on Chancellor.
- The scope of service will be done for the connecting of the canals. The question was raised on what is the best approach to receive the permit. Additional work will consist of the widening and dredging deeper. The Committee members agreed on moving forward with the project. Some issues of Natural Resources were discussed; mitigation may come into play for the protection of habitat.
- The Myakka is known to have shellfish harvest areas - public interest will start again. Small fish and starfish were mentioned as being protected today. In the past dredge, oyster beds were relocated. There may be more creatures that are protected now and in the future.
- The WCID Project Regional Impact Study will cover some groundwork for any work to be done in the rivers. Extending the waterways will clear the ground for others that are interested in performing similar work in the future.
- A motion was made by Mr. Fawsett to move forward on the extending of the waterways project; seconded by Mr. Bliss. Motion carried with all in favor.
- The DEP does not want larger vessels in the area; a new permit will be required for the new project. The state may agree to go 30 feet wide. A change order will be required and approved by the BCC in order for Coastal to work on the project.

Channel Markers

- If the markers were not present, some boats would run a ground, making an impact on the natural resources. The location plan for the marine markers has been in place since 2006, at the request of the Committee and input from the community. The speed limit is a No Wake Zone. In August 2008, the contract was put out for bid for the placement of the markers. That is when the boaters should have come forward on any issues on the locations of the marine markers.
- The statement was made that Robert's Rules of Order will be followed during the meetings.

The next meeting for North West Port Charlotte Waterway is scheduled for January 12, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative

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