

MEETING MINUTES
NORTHWEST PORT CHARLOTTE WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 28, 2012
2:00 P.M. Building Construction Services Conference Room

Attendees: Stanley Bliss, Joseph Fabini, Ron Larrivee, and Renee Larson

Absent: Richard Hopkins (excused)

County: Matt Logan, Judith Nothdurft, and Sandy Wright

Guests: Jamie Cohlmeier – Coastal Engineering

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

The status of Committee members was reviewed; there is currently one vacancy for an alternate member. Ms. Wright explained a change to the Public Works web page. The meetings link is now being directed to the County Calendar located on the www.charlottefl.gov home page.

Minutes: The minutes from the May 22, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously with one change; eliminate the third sentence on page 1, bullet #2 under Old Business.

Old Business:

- Dredging Project – Mr. Logan introduced Jamie Cohlmeier from Coastal Engineering that will be the Engineering Firm on Record for the dredging project. Mr. Cohlmeier explained that the permits have been received for the construction of this project that allow dredging to the maximum allowable depth of five feet at mean low tide. The canals will be dredged to a width of 25 feet. There are two restrictions to the permit; a time constraint of six months from start to finish due to DEP and shell fish harvesting, and there must be an Environmental Compliance person on site who is familiar with all the rules and regulations for such a project. A representative from the State will be on site once a week. When the Board of County Commissioners approves the rate increase and funds are in place, Coastal Engineering will move forward with the construction phase of the project. A new survey will be done at that time. The plans and specifications will take approximately 90 days and should be ready in December for the County to put out for bid. The project will likely begin in the April 15, 2013 – May 1, 2013 time frame. In addition to the permit's six month time limit, there will be financial incentives to complete the project on time.

There is a clause in the contract for Maintenance of Traffic which requires the Contractor to make allowances for boat traffic during the project. Mr. Cohlmeier suggested having another meeting where a general schedule will be distributed to the Committee for distribution to the residents. This dredge should last beyond five years, but there may be areas that require a maintenance dredge. According to the Regional Waterway Management that was done, there is only one vessel that requires a 4.1 draft in the area. Area bridges area restrict the size of the vessels. The Committee asked about private dredging. Mr. Cohlmeier explained that citizens can contact the contractor directly about personal dredging; however, private dredging will not be allowed until after the project is complete. Mr. Cohlmeier's firm is ready to proceed as soon as approval is received and funding is available.

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- Signage – Mr. Logan stated that he has not received a response from the Sign & Marking Section regarding the legality of the sign in question but will follow up. Mr. Cohlmeier said that signs will be updated during the dredging project. There will most likely be no speed changes since they are determined by Ordinance. The lines will remain the same within the Apollo Waterway, which will be wider and two feet deeper.
- There was discussion regarding the spoil sites. Mr. Cohlmeier said it is the contractor's obligation to use a local site to put the dredged material.
- A copy of the permit will be scanned to the Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway web page. Mr. Logan will provide the document.
- Budget Workshops –The public hearing to increase assessments is scheduled for July 18, 2012 at 5:00 PM at the Murdock Administration Building in the Commission chambers, Room 119. Mr. Cohlmeier recommended that Committee members be present at the meeting as a symbol of support for the project. Ms. Larson will coordinate the members' attendance. Ms. Nothdurft will forward all information to Ms. Larson.
- Activity Report – The report was distributed for review and discussion. Ms. Larson expressed how pleased she is with the information provided by Ms. Nothdurft about the last report and stated that this helps to make the report much more clear and understandable. She also said that the answers about the draft budget make perfect sense and are very helpful in the Committee's understanding of the report. The budget is ready to go for approval.

New Business:

- Ms. Nothdurft conveyed a message from Mr. Halfhill who stated that he uses this Committee as a perfect example of what a Committee can accomplish. He compliments the Committee on a job well done.
- There was discussion regarding the advance notice required when a Committee member is unable to attend a meeting. Members should notify the Chairperson as soon as possible. This will allow time to cancel a meeting if a quorum cannot be guaranteed.
- The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date. Mr. Cohlmeier stated that if the Committee would like to review the draft bid, it should be presented to the County some time in December. Ms. Larson stated the meeting will be scheduled during that time frame so the Committee can review the draft.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.