

MEETING MINUTES
PIRATE HARBOR WATERWAY UNIT ADVISORY BOARD
March 8, 2016 – Regular Meeting
9:00 A.M. - Public Works Conference Room

Attendees: Charles Gertner, Dennis McCulloch, Kenneth Ice, and LeRoi Yaffey

County: Dawn Harrison, Matt Logan, Mike Dallenbach, and Kelly Louttit

Guests: Sign-in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken that determined a quorum was present. Membership status was reviewed.

Changes to the Agenda:

- None

The draft minutes from December 8, 2015 were unanimously approved as written.

Citizen input on Agenda Items Only (3 Minute Limit)

- Mr. Blackwell questioned how expenditures in the County are authorized. Ms. Harrison advised all MSBU's operate on a budget. Budget transfers were discussed.

Old Business:

- **Dredging**- Mr. Logan introduced Mr. Poff from Coastal Engineering. Mr. Poff advised Coastal Engineering met with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Aquatic Preserve staff to discuss mitigation strategies due to several permit rejections. Mr. Poff discussed a possible sea grass habitat but said FWC and the Aquatic Preserve staff is very reluctant to approve permits based on sea grass restoration. Mr. Poff believes the Army Corp of Engineers will accept the permit proposal as written but the State agencies will reject it. Mr. Poff suggested an alternate mitigation strategy such as a water quality improvement project in lieu of sea grass restoration. Mr. Poff discussed possible water quality improvement projects with in the MSBU. Discussion continued regarding oyster reefs to protect flushing of the birds in the sanctuary in the area. Mr. Gertner asked about pole and troll areas. Mr. Poff stated the Advisory Board will need to fund something (Public Interest Criteria) and build something (water quality improvement) to move the permitting process forward. Sea grass mitigation is needed for Federal approval and artificial reef (shore bird protection area) or water quality improvement is needed for State approval. Mr. Poff discussed the public benefit project list from the Aquatic Preserve Agency and will provide a copy to Ms. Harrison for Advisory Board review. Mr. Poff stated DEP is ready to proceed with the project, FWC wants to find the best use of funding for sea grass restoration, and the Aquatic preserve does not want the project. Possible oyster bed locations were discussed.
- A boat count survey was performed to justify the channel depths and 2.5 feet was the average draft of the fleet of boats in the area. Mr. Poff discussed dredge depths and water quality with the Advisory Board. Mr. Ice asked about expanding the no wake zone in the channel. Mr. Ice asked the width of the dredge. Mr. Poff advised 45 feet wide. Dredge depth will need to be decided by the next meeting and Mr. Poff will meet with all agencies to discuss sea grass mitigation strategies.

New Business:

- **Election of Chair**: Mr. Ice nominated Mr. Yaffey for Chair; seconded by Mr. McCulloch with a 3 to 1 vote with Mr. Gertner being the dissenting vote and Mr. Yaffey accepted the position
- **Election of Vice**: Mr. McCulloch nominated Mr. Gertner for Vice Chair; seconded by Mr. Ice and Mr. Gertner accepted the position
- **Financials**: Ms. Harrison distributed the financial reports for the Advisory Board review and discussion.

Citizen Input:

- Mr. Blackwell discussed possible installation of oyster beds and would like to investigate why existing oyster beds are no longer alive. Mr. Blackwell suggested installing buoys around the bird island to keep boaters out of the area. Enforcement options and no wake zones were discussed.

- Ms. McCulloch discussed lack of enforcement in the area now and said if law enforcement does not witness the infraction then no enforcement will take place. Water quality was discussed.

Advisory Committee members open discussion:

- None

Items for next agenda:

- Dredging

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled on May 24, 2016 at 9:00 am in the Public Works Conference Room.

Submitted by:

Kelly Louttit

Public Works Department

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
PIRATE HARBOR WATERWAY UNIT ADVISORY BOARD
ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2016-REGULAR MEETING

MEETING TIME: 9:00 A.M. – Public Works Conference Room

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS FORM BECOMES
PUBLIC RECORD**

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