

MEETING MINUTES
PIRATE HARBOR WATERWAY UNIT ADVISORY BOARD
May 24, 2016 – Regular Meeting
9:00 A.M. - Public Works Conference Room

Attendees: Dennis McCulloch, Charles Gertner, Kenneth Ice, Van Stockwell, 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 March 8, 2016 were unanimously approved as written.

Citizen input on Agenda Items Only (3 Minute Limit)

- None

Old Business:

Dredging- Mr. Logan and Kris Thoemke met with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection yesterday. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the sea grass in the area and visit possible mitigation sites. Mr. Poff, from Coastal Engineering Consultants, addressed the requirements to obtain the dredging permit. These requirements are dredge depth, sea grass mitigation, and the public interest criteria. Mr. Poff discussed the sea grass mitigation portion of the permit process. Coastal Engineering has researched possible mitigation sites within the Pirate Harbor as well as other areas further away from Pirate Harbor. Mr. Poff stated minutes from yesterdays meeting will be produced and forwarded to Ms. Harrison. Mr. Thoemke stated the goal of the meeting was to gain the consensus of all agencies for the location of mitigation site. Cormorant Key may be the appropriate site for mitigation due to prop scar damage and fragmented sea grass areas. Mr. Thoemke said depressions exist in a fragmented pattern at Cormorant Key and the goal of the sea grass mitigation would be to bring the fragmented areas back together. In order for this area to be used in the mitigation, Coastal Engineering will first determine the impacts to the revised channel alignment and 0.4 acres of mitigation. Mr. Thoemke said they will select a starting point and define a polygon that encompasses sea grass in open areas and measure the square footage to come up with the 0.4 acres of mitigation that meets the criteria. The mitigation would be the installation of biodegradable bags filled with sediment to bring the elevation of depressed areas to the elevation of the adjacent sea grass areas. Monitoring will take place once a year for five years and the goal is to have sea grass grow in the fragmented areas. Mr. Stockwell questioned timeframe of the process. Mr. Poff stated the field work will need to be performed and in thirty days the application would be submitted. Mr. Thoemke advised that the Army Corp of Engineers was not present at the meeting and may require a ratio of two to one for mitigation. Buoys would have to be installed and public outreach would have to be performed to inform boaters to avoid the area. Mr. Poff will forward the estimated costs for the project to Ms. Harrison. Mr. Poff discussed the public interest criteria for the permit. Mr. Poff said an option to satisfy the public interest criteria would be to partner with the Fisheries Forum to install buoys to keep boaters off the East wall from Alligator Creek to Pirate Harbor. The cost will be approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 thousand dollars to install the buoys. Discussion continued by the Advisory Board regarding possible partial funding of the buoys from the Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU. Mr. Poff stated the boat count survey supports a -4 ft. MLLW dredge depth. Mr. Gertner said the channels are not wide enough for big boats to turn around which causes a safety issue. Discussion continued regarding dredge depth in other locations. Mr. Gertner motioned to authorize Coastal Engineering Consultants to proceed with the permitting process for locating the mitigation sites at Cormorant Key, dredge to a -4 ft. MLLW dredge depth and to fund up to \$50,000 dollars for installation of the buoys to satisfy the public interest criteria portion of the permit application. The motion passed with a 3 to 2 vote with Mr. Ice and Mr. Stockwell being the dissenting vote. Mr. Thoemke will prepare a budget

for the outside dredging, public interest, and mitigation costs within a week and forward the information to Ms. Harrison. Ms. Harrison will forward any supporting documentation to the Advisory Board and any large files pertaining to the project will be available on the project status update website.

New Business:

Financials: Ms. Harrison distributed the financial reports for the Advisory Board review and discussion. Mr. Ice suggested to zero the rate out. Ms. Harrison provided the rate history within the MSBU.

Citizen Input:

- Mr. Blackwell commended the board for passing the plan to obtain the dredging permit and asked if hotspots could be dredged. Mr. Thoenke confirmed.

Advisory Committee members open discussion:

- None

Items for next agenda:

- Dredging

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

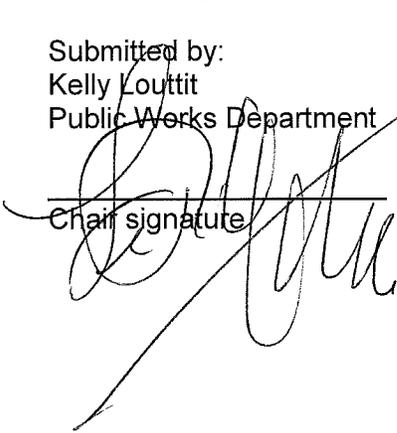
The next regular meeting is scheduled on August 23, 2016 at 9:00 am in the Public Works Conference Room.

Submitted by:

Kelly Louttit

Public Works Department

Chair signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kelly Louttit', is written over a horizontal line. A diagonal line is drawn across the signature from the top right to the bottom left.

