



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 11th, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street – Hall B
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Darden called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Upon the roll being called it was determined a quorum was present.

3. Chairman's Comments

A. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes.

C. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS TO PLEASE SILENCE THEIR CELL PHONES.

4. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

County Attorney Janette Knowlton speaks to the members that we have had a couple of resignations on MAC to remind the board members about the rules on absences. So, if you are absent from three consecutive meetings without a satisfactory excuse to the committee chairman. The chairman is required to discuss that at that meeting and forward that information to the Board of County Commission for their consideration. So, there is some wiggle room there, where there is not any wiggle room is if you miss more than one third of the meetings in a given fiscal year you've tendered your resignation. The board has the Board of County Commissioners typed up the rules on procedural rules on all the advisory committees and explains if you have any questions on that and the Sunshine issues, please call my office and I will talk to you directly about it. The other thing I wanted to mention is annually you're required to do the Sunshine Law training it's a video, I think it's a video about 15-20 minutes max. The BCC requires all advisory boards to watch, they also go through Sunshine Law training but it's much more rigorous I think it's a half day. But I am considering making a proposal to the board, this is not a given yet but to ease that requirement on our advisory boards because there is many of you that serve on several different advisory boards. I know you all get tired of seeing the same video over and over again. So, I am considering asking the board if we could do one at the beginning of your term you watch the video and after that we give you the Sunshine Brochure and you sign and acknowledge that you've received it and read it, that will satisfy that requirement.

Mr. Russell asks is this pre-agenda and agenda or just the regular meeting for this board.

County Attorney Janette Knowlton said for absenteeism?

Mr. Russell said right.

County Attorney Janette Knowlton said I think it's just for the MAC meeting.

Mrs. Sargent and County Attorney Janette Knowlton said regular yes, the regular meeting.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

Tim Ritchie said I am a resident of Charlotte County, today I am here because I've done a lot of work for the last six years. I have boots on the ground I am personally responsible for getting the commissioners of Charlotte County to ban the phosphate mining two years ago. Talks about mosaic discharging 2.6 million gallons of blended acidic wastewater every day from the Mosaic. Talks about the seagrass and lost a negative 25% of our seagrass in our Charlotte Harbor. That's 5,000 acres and currently as I speak right now, we are higher than a loss of 25%. It's very important, I was up in front of the commissioners for five years, I've asked \$25,000 dollars to be put into a trust. I wanted to go out there and do sediment testing of the Peace River up to the DeSoto County, Charlotte County line in all of Charlotte Harbor and the Myakka. Every year I've come back after the third year they finally decided they were going to hire Brandon Moody. I've been out there doing sediment testing and paying for this with my own money. Let me tell you something there is a very difference in my test results compared to the test results that are made publicly. I am working on building a data base so that when I'm done my testing you will have all my parameters. Then we will publish the real truthful results. When I go to a meeting and there is Mosaic executives there you know how they address me, good morning, Tim. When I am at these meetings, they know who I am. I am going to get down to it right now. The first time I ever met Heal our Harbor was at a DeSoto County Phosphate mining workshop, I ran out screaming about FDEP's and NPD's. That's called National Pollution Discharge elimination system. Talks about the Mosaic discharging acidic wastewater into our rivers all the way from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor. Talks about the 2.6 million gallons being discharged into the river, every five years for renewal and modification. I am telling everybody how bad it is and right after the meeting a gentleman by the name Dr. Richard Whitman gets up and says everybody don't worry about the MPDS permit that's not the problem, you're wrong. I don't appreciate seeing them coming, and seeing Team Punta Gorda who accepts Mosaic donations. Talks about both of their grant money is \$6,000 to the seagrass monitoring.

Vice Chair Darden said thank you sir, your time is expired.

Mr. Ritchie said thank you I'll be back again, I appreciate this, do not give them the grant money.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from **March 7, 2024**.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from **March 14, 2024**.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

Mr. Kumm motioned for approval and seconded by Mr. Hickey without objection. All in favor.

C. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and City of Punta Gorda Police Dept. – Marine update

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said a few updates, yesterday hosted Florida Marine Intelligence Units spring meeting here at the convention center. It's a training and intelligence sharing group for marine units statewide. So, we had Law Enforcement and different marine industry partners from all the way up in Tallahassee and down south and a whole lot of agencies come. One of the things I've asked from the committee we've started hearing a lot on issues with some of the charters that are going on. The increase of boat traffic so if you guys out in the community start hearing about certainly with illegal charters, airboat charters and just a rental of the boat. Talks about the rental of boats with no supervision and some of the violations of the chartering stuff and not licensed correctly. If you guys start to hear about that or talk to people, some specific information about that would help us out greatly. That is one of the bigger topics of that meeting yesterday. A few derelicts, we have a 30' sailboat that is derelict in Chadwick Cove, we have completed the process for that, removal authorization letter has been forwarded to the county for removal. So, that's now on the list to be bided out and proceed with getting it removed. We had some complaints South Gulf Cove waterways and a 63' cabin cruiser that was reported to us as derelict, we've checked that out it's actually not derelict yet. It is at risk, so we started working the process for the at risk. It is not derelict so we will have to continue monitoring that, if it does go derelict, we will go ahead and work it from that end. One of the other areas up in the Myakka River we've had a lot of complaints, and most of the people that go over that bridge have seen that blue sailboat that is sitting out there. We have had a lot of questions about it, it was not derelict it finally, the owner has passed away and it is derelict now. So, we went ahead and working on the process for that, to get that moved. So that's going to take some time still. Over in the Peace River we're working on a 57' houseboat that is derelict, so we served them the packet and we've a 21-day waiting period. We have another 30' sailboat that is submerged in Live Oak Point and we identified and serve him and that's a 21-day process as well before we can do anything further. The only other major event this past week it a cabin cruiser that hit the 41 bridges, that is being worked by FWC and is now being worked as derelict and we also have one other sailboat that beached itself over towards Live Oak Park and we've started the derelict process on that.

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

MPO AJ Russell said since the last meeting, I am sure we just touched on the only issue we had in the city was the 53 Pateros that was up against the bridge. That was the same boat that was also in December that drifter and beached itself right there by Hurricane Charlies and the bridge. So, we have the contact info for that guy and FWC is working their investigation. I spoke to the Lt. the other day and he is; the last update was that guy is willing to do the VTIP program. So, instead of running a full derelict investigation it sounds like that boat will be put in the Voluntary Turn In Program so it should move a lot faster. It's a good program. Other than that, just standard moving into the summertime boat traffic, a lot more people out on the water. Just trying to get all hands-on deck as far as our side. Getting the newest boat, we have the Carolina Skiff we purchased last year for the volunteers, that's waiting on graphics and lights and all that stuff. But as far as that it's squared away ready to go so it can be operational, if need be. So other than that, questions.

Mr. Wolley said I live of Tarpon Canal and noticed recently a large increase in small children and not wearing life jackets on boats.

Commissioner Deutsch said could you repeat the question.

MPO AJ Russell said with all the boat traffic this time of year he's noticed more young adults or juveniles, kids who don't seem to be wearing life jackets.

D. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Liz Eastes said we have the first seven open cases, six are ready to be removed, eight were removed, and one was relocated. I am working with Charlotte County Sheriff's Office to get it thru the process for removal and I had a question for the board. Trying to make this spread sheet a little bit more legible, does anyone have an objection for me removing the lat longs and just keeping a general location. Just so this is a little bit more legible for everybody, is everybody ok with that?

Mr. Weish said I would like to thank the County, the Sheriff's Department, the Police Department for getting this list of derelict boats down to almost nothing. This is the best I've ever seen it.

Commissioner Deutsch said it's just the beginning of Hurricane season.

Vice Chair Darden said Liz we talked about resorting these by status, can we do that.

Ms. Eastes said yes.

E. FY25 MAC Grant Application Review – Mark Snow/Carol Colicchio

Mark Snow said we will go thru the application process on the spreadsheet. You all have a copy of it and has it up on the big screen. First order of business we are going to be taking a vote on each individual grant. If you have questions about the application, I can pull that up as well. We will go into that discussion and then move onto the next grant. If any questions, then obviously we'll discuss that.

1. Charlotte County Parks - Ainger Creek Boat Ramp Redevelop (\$250,000)

Mr. Snow said right now that qualifies for BIF State total money.

Henry Killian made a motion to approve and seconded by **Betty Campanella**; unanimously approved.
14 Aye/ 0 Nay

2. Heal Our Harbor – Ambassador Program (\$10,450)

Mr. Snow said they are continuing to request to continue the program next year.

Mr. Russell asks not only for this one but all the other MGO's is there a requirement for them to provide an audit specifying that they spent the funds appropriately. Just to clarify to make sure it's not an income spree, in other words the monies are spent for the things that there supposed to be spent for because it is tax money, our money and we're giving them out money. That's my question, is there a requirement that they provide an accounting.

Mr. Snow said yes so for clarification on all grants, that you approve, and we fund they have to do quarterly reporting and they also submit a reimbursement request that's requiring what they spent money for. Proof of payment, they can't just come in and say we spent \$10 dollars, we need \$10 dollars back. They have to show proof of payment that they spent it on the things they are claiming. I go through that invoice and track those costs associated with the items that they requested in the grant, and we will make reimbursement to those things.

Mr. Russell said so they make a statement in the affirmative so if they misrepresent something then there liable.

John Welsh made a motion to approve and seconded by **Robert Hickey**; approved.
13 Aye / 0 Nay / 1 Abstain

3. Charlotte County Parks – Living Shorelines (\$24,000)

Mr. Snow said the Parks department and Ms. Liz and Jamie Scudera asked that they requested it be withdrawn for this year and they we will readdress the committee at a later date if funding is needed. Either in a subsequent fiscal year or with CINF through WCIND so we would like to remove that.

4. Civil Air Patrol – Sundown Flights (\$26,250)

Mr. Snow said this is for their Sundown Flights they are requesting \$26,250.

Bob Mayes made a motion to approve and seconded by **Betty Campanella**; unanimously approved.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

5. Charlotte County Public Works – New Marine Markers (\$5,000)

Mr. Snow said replacement in Public Works they are asking for \$5,000 this year.

John Welsh made a motion to approve and seconded by **Richard Russell**; unanimously approved.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

6. Punta Gorda Police Department – Boats, DV Removal, Holiday OT (\$347,414)

Mr. Snow said that is broken out to some categories of items.

Mr. Killion said question how many boats have we purchased for Punta Gorda in the last couple of years?

Mr. Snow said I believe we bought one last year in 2023 and this one is for a shallow water vessel and for another new vessel.

Mr. Killion said I see purchase a new boat, but I don't see a motor on here do they have a motor for the boat?

MPO AJ Russell said the one boat last year was a volunteer vessel the Carolina Skiff, the last boat that we purchased through the MAC was going to be going on 4 or 5 years ago for our 24' angler which is the police patrol vessel so this funding would be to replace that boat now that it's coming on 4-5 years old. It is a total package boat motor, trailer everything would be replaced.

Commissioner Deutsch said could you take a minute to explain the \$160,000 funding.

Mr. Snow said I will do that in a minute.

Chief Pam Davis said first of all, thank you very much for all the time you guys put in we really appreciate that. This is what else we're asking for in this year with the budget through the City of Punta Gorda is a possible second marine officer. So, there is two options here a replacement or it could be the second boat for the second marine officer. I just want to clarify that, and he is finding that he can't get into those low-

lying areas. Which is dangerous if we have to go rescue somebody or get into a situation if we have to get into that shallow water.

Vice Chair Darden said Mark could you explain the total application requested and the breakdown of the areas of funding sources.

Mr. Snow said BIF Local, we will start with WCIND, WCIND they will cover law enforcement activities with the limitation, that limitation is the law enforcement activity funding that we approve in totality of all the grants can not exceed 35% of our annual allocation from WCIND. As well as they also boater safety and there is some thing in here for boater safety and I will go over those. The total cost the shallow water boat is \$263,000, the dive equipment for the marine unit was requested for \$23 and some change, they also provide activities on the water during peak holiday events and that falls under WCIND, with that said the amount of grants that qualify for support from WCIND if the total boat is in there we exceed our budget from WCIND by \$116 thousand dollars and some change. So, the request will come forward with if so approved, few of the board to make a resolution to adopt the recommendation, then we request WCIND also use the balance of our CNIF funding and their books to cover the supplement basically our allocation for next year because we don't have the funding to fully support the boat.

Commissioner Deutsch said what is in CNIF right now.

Mr. Snow said just north of \$2 million dollars. The caveat with CNIF is for navigation improvement is the main prescription but we can ask for a waiver from WCIND to use that for this instance. They do not cover any kind of training, so if there is a training in the package it always goes to BIF Local. In the case of the police department, they also have a \$40,000-dollar derelict vessel request and is covered by BIF State. So that makes up their \$347 thousand dollar request.

Vice Chair Darden said just to clarify everyone the sources of the funding from these grants are indicated on your sheet, you have the boater improvement fund, the local and state, the local is the tax we charge to the boater registrations and the state has their share. So those are our funding sources, and then there is an external funding source WCIND which is the West Coast Inland Navigation District and once we approve the recommendation on these funds then we will apply to that organization for external grants. That organization has an escrow account, where if the money is earned from property taxes that's where that grant money goes. When the money is earned from the property taxes and amount from the grants, and we don't use that money or if they hand them out for grants and then they don't do the work then there is money left over for that year. That money goes over into this thing called CNIF which is the navigation, that escrow account has steadily declining, and they have about \$2 million dollars in it. It's good to use the CNIF whenever we can to reduce that balance.

Ms. Gassett-Shoemaker said the CNIF for \$116k is that already approved?

Vice Chair Darden said no it will be requested when they put in the applications for these things. The totality of available funds and the WCIND will be provided anything that was submitted over that amount will come from the CNIF.

Commissioner Deutsch said that comes last, that's at the very end after everything else is in place you go to that, and they have the reserve account with about \$2 million in it. It's building up every year and it's legitimately used with law enforcement.

Mr. Killion said technically all we are approving right now is all but the \$116k correct?

Mr. Snow said no, you are approving the entire amount of that grant \$347k, then send it to the board for approval if so approved by you or recommended by you then as part of that packet will be the resolution requesting a waiver to the 35% from WCIND for law enforcement activities and the transfer of that balance into our annual allocation for FY25 from WCIND to cover the entirety of that grant.

Robert Hickey made a motion to approve and seconded by **Bob Mayes**; with a unanimous vote.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

7. Peace River Sail & Power Squadron – Boater Safety Materials

Mr. Snow said they have requested \$4,000 for boater safety materials, classes on boater safety they usually do it quarterly. It is a couple of classes a year, but a lot in the summer and a few in the fall.

Hank Killion made a motion to approve, seconded by **Laura Gassett-Shoemaker**; with a unanimous vote.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

8. Charlotte County Sheriff – Vessel, Motors, LE Equip, OT, Training (\$184,846)

Mr. Snow said the request of \$184,846 dollars a lot of that is broken out into aviation unit, helicopter is \$46k in aviation equipment, a hoist and software for search and rescue. Aviation training, we don't pay for training through any other means but BIF Local, in the end the dive training for the marine unit. For a total of \$76k dollars coming out of BIF Local. Then they had a two boat lifts for the vessels that you all approved in fire fiscal years one at Laishley Park and the other one is Burnt Store Marina. That total is about \$52k dollars for those lifts and then there is some marine equipment, there is night vision goggles and some other things as well as dive equipment. They too also provide holiday event coverage and extended hours so overtime request of \$25k dollars and then the aviation team had some rescue swim gear as part of the package of that I talked with WCIND and that is acceptable to place in that request. Mark speaks with Jim Darden on this, and they have a discussion.

William Kumm made a motion to approve and seconded by **Bob Mayes**

Mr. Killion asks a question, I see from last year they still have a \$156k not spent, it shows in process and then I still have a problem with us paying for overtime. Why doesn't the Sheriff put that in his normal budget?

Commissioner Deutsch said that's definitely the overtime and that's very acceptable we've been doing that for years.

Mr. Killion said would it be cleaner to put it in as standard budget?

Vice Chair Darden said we don't know the answer to that question, why Charlotte County Sheriff's Office doesn't budget for overtime on the holidays and weekends. Maybe because they don't have it but oh, we do have a Sheriff's Office.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said I am still here so historically yes; we have always requested a certain amount of money for specific holiday and overtime. The Sheriff's Office does pay overtime and budgets overtime for certain things, and we are to report other events and work overtime and longer call out, longer days, longer incidents. This overtime is specifically geared to adding more boots on the ground for

the holiday events. So, at that point with the holiday overtime we cancel that it stays off, I adjust schedules and we bring typically use single operator boats during the normal patrol times. On holidays we bring out a second deputy that is not a marine patrol deputy and add that man to it. So, at the end of the day it's a potential that the Sheriff's Office could budget to do more overtime on a yearly basis for that absolutely that's a command level decision. At the end of the day though it still comes from tax money no matter where it comes from if it comes out of the Sheriff's Office general budget. It's still coming from tax money if it comes out of the different funding through the MAC grant application process it's all still tax money. It is just a matter of the Sheriff's Office and how they structure where they are requesting money to try and operate reasonably and keep costs down, bring costs from different places and different tax funding sources.

Mr. Killion said is some of this overtime used for Waterfest?

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said absolutely not, that is one thing since I've come into the unit, I made sure to kinda look at and evaluate. Obviously, I have heard some of the thoughts and comments community wise on Waterfest. Waterfest is an event that when we work that it is specifically held to maintain and raise course line and keep spectators out. As such we work that as a detail and discusses the contract that they have with them. This overtime will go into Memorial Day I use probably about 50% of that \$25k dollars and that is the busiest holiday, they do that concert that is out on the sand bar and discusses the other sand bars as well. Also use some of the funding for 4th of July which also coincides with operation dry water which is a nationwide campaign for DUI enforcement. So, we try to staff more out there to make more of an impact on both, the freedom swim, the fireworks but also DUI enforcement. What's left typically goes into the Labor Day holiday.

Mr. Russell said budgets are made the beginning of the year based upon what we spent I am talking about in business, I'm talking about in the military on what you spent last year. It's amazing I saw it numerous times where people would come in, department heads would come in and tell their people look if you don't spend this money, we can't ask for more money next year. So, what I'm saying is at the end of the year are you guys zero budgeting these things out, in other words you're spending it every penny of it or it there going to be money left over that could be left to go into the budget next year, it's surplus from the year before. Because every year you don't have some of these things that are emergency types so that's my concern where is the surplus that gets to carry over or isn't there any or is the department saying look you guys spend the money because we gotta show that we gotta ask for more money.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said so are you talking the budget overall for the Sheriff's Office or specifically Marine Advisory Committee.

Mr. Russell said the whole kit and caboodle because it goes down to the department heads. Sheriff comes down and says to the department heads you need to spend the money if you want to ask for more money next year. Because if you have surplus left over it means like well gee maybe we should hold our budget where it is or move it back a little bit. They both discuss.

Mr. Welsh said one item I have I guess a little bit of concern about is the radar altimeter and I think at the last meeting your pilot said or you said that it was used, would be used, or had been used three or four times a year to do water rescues. I think possibly we should fund it but shouldn't whoever funds the rest of the county aviation project fund the majority of this since it's only used sparingly over water.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said could you repeat that one more time.

Mr. Welsh said OK bottom line is the radar altimeter would most likely be used three or four times in a year. Where over water where it would be used mostly over land and so my question is why aren't we funding a small percentage of the radar altimeter cost and the Sheriff's Dept. through it's budgeting process fund the remainder of it. Since the vast majority of usage would be over land.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said that is a question I do not know the answer to. Because that again is another one, I don't have part in submitting the aviation budget. When it is submitted it goes from the Sheriff down and through the chain of commands, so I don't know the decision-making process.

Mr. Welsh said mark how much is the radar altimeter?

Mr. Snow said almost \$16 thousand.

Vice Chair Darden said clarification for Mr. Killion the \$156 thousand that is currently being used is from this fiscal year so there still spending that money this fiscal year that's why it says in progress.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said and the in-progress money I just finished repowering all of our boats so that hasn't all been billed out yet and they think there is some marine gear as well that we're purchasing which is the in-progress items.

Vice Chair Darden said I think we have a motion and second already, with a unanimous vote.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

9. Charlotte County Public Works – Marine Debris Removal (\$80,000)

Mr. Snow said this is for the marine debris removal.

Richard Russell made a motion for approval and seconded by **Henry Killion**; with a unanimous vote.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

10. Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center – 4th Grade Environmental Education (\$48,000)

Mr. Snow said they're a 4th grade environmental education program. This is a recurring grant.

Laura Gassett-Shoemaker made a motion to approve and seconded by **Betty Campanella**; with a unanimous vote.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

11. US Coast Guard Auxillary Flotilla 87 – Patrol Boat Security (\$6,425) revised to (\$12,850)

Mr. Snow said this is for a pad, a structure to cover the boat and a security fence to put around the boat.

Mr. Hickey said Mark did we affirm I know not everybody was there but the pre-agenda we were looking up the fact that this possibly going to be constructed outside of the county in Sarasota County. Is that confirmed is that the fact.

Mr. Snow said I believe that is correct. I talked with Sarasota County as well Flotilla 87 has requested funding from them as well as from us. For the different things each year and Sarasota has funded items for that facility as far as repairing, redoing their parking lot, putting a fence around their parking lot. So, they have done that, they stripped the items that they submitted in their application, was pictures of Sarasota County Appraisal of the Appraiser's Office with pictures of the property and where the structure would go,

or the fence and boat cover would go. It appears the address is in fact in Sarasota, their actual facility is located in Sarasota. He then said to Vice Chair Darden that I got the clarification it's actually for \$12,850 it was double and got the clarification from Dana at the Flotilla.

Richard Russell made a motion to turn this down because it is outside of out county and seconded by **Laura Gassett-Shoemaker**.

Commissioner Deutsch said is there anybody here from the Flotilla because I have a feeling they maybe located in Sarasota but they provide the service to Charlotte County and I think that donation maybe important and relevant for you to consider.

Vice Chair Darden said it seems they maybe double dipping and asks about the motion, let's stick with the positives and if it doesn't carry.

Mr. Russell said I have an additional comment and that is Sarasota might be funding things for the group, but those things are not affixed to the ground in Charlotte County. In other words, this cannot be picked up and moved Ok it's not like a trailer it's not like a boat. But this is a piece of real estate and it's an improvement for the real estate and we're wanting to fund improvements in Sarasota County I don't think so.

Mr. Wolley said just a point of order there is no motion and second, then the item failed for lack of a motion and second as opposed to.

Commissioner Deutsch said we did a motion and second not to approve right now and you're discussing it.

Mr. Wolley said what I am saying Commissioner is that that's unnecessary because right now it's gonna die for lack of motion.

Commissioner Deutsch said did the chair accept it, it's being discussed now.

Vice Chair Darden said point of order I asked if there was a motion to approve and no one answered and then someone made a motion to not approve. If we could just get the motion first and if there is no motion it will die on the table. If we get two motion's it can die for lack of votes, so let's stick to the positives. We are gonna vote it and get a motion and then we'll see if it carries. He then said there is a motion on the floor to not fund this project and it's been seconded, all in favor; approved. Discussion on abstaining with **Commissioner Duetsch** and **William Kumm**.

Richard Russell made the motion earlier to turn this down because it is outside of out county and seconded by **Laura Gassett-Shoemaker**.

13 Aye / 0 Nay / 1 Abstain

12. City of Punta Gorda – Pump Out Boat (\$5,000)

Mr. Snow said this is another recurring grant yearly they are requesting \$5,000 to support that program.

Richard Russell made the motion to approve and seconded by **Hank Killion**; with a unanimous vote.

14 Aye / 0 Nay

13. Learn to Sail – Replacement Sailboats (\$27,000)

Mr. Snow said they are requesting replacement of three sailboats.

John Welsh made the motion to approve and seconded by Bob Mayes; with a unanimous vote.

14 Aye / 0 Nay

14. Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing – Class Materials and Equipment (\$3,614)

Mr. Snow said it's for class materials and Equipment for a total of \$3,614.

Laura Gasset-Shoemaker made a motion to approve and seconded by Hank Killion; with a unanimous vote.

14 Aye / 0 Nay

15. Englewood Beach Waterfest – Waterfest Event Support (\$136,500)

Mr. Snow said Englewood Waterfest for support of the Waterfest 2024 it's \$136,500.

Vice Chair Darden said it is tabled, fails to lack of a motion.

16. University of Florida Sea Grant – Seagrass Monitoring (\$6,050)

Mr. Snow said this program came in this year, she is gonna come in for FY25 for \$6,050.

John Welsh made a motion to approve and seconded by Bob Mayes; with a unanimous vote.

14 Aye / 0 Nay

17. Charlotte County Public Works - Stump Pass Monitoring (\$50,000)

18. Charlotte County Public Works – North Manasota Key Beach Nourishment (\$200,000)

Mr. Snow said these next two items are just for reference talks on s392530 and s392531 these are Stump Pass Monitoring and Manasota Key Beach Renourishment. This is the \$250,000 that we fund annually and support those programs. There listed here, they're not voted on because the funding is transferred yearly so but it takes that \$250,000 funding out of the \$400k.

Commissioner Deutsch said I just want to make a comment on Stump Pass there is a few around here that were here 14-15 years ago we started at Stump Pass. The reality is the work that we did with the dredging there has worked and we literally over the years. Since the Stump Pass was dredged and the system that was put in there. It has worked and we probably saved somewhere over an excess of two million dollars since we did that.

19. Team Punta Gorda – Water Quality Assessment Program – (\$26,000)

Mr. Snow said this is for Team Punta Gorda's request for Water Quality Assessment Program funding and the amount is \$26,000.

John Welsh made a motion to approve, seconded by Angus McKinnon.

Vice Chair Darden said how much money do we have left.

Mr. Snow said \$7 we still need to trim about \$3,600 dollars off the budget. I did talk with Team Punta Gorda on this program, it's not a all or none situation so that funding as well before the aviation. The

aviation unit funding is a little harder because they're asking for big ticket items. You either cut the whole big-ticket item or you fund it, it's not like that and discusses this with Vice Chair Darden.

Mr. Welsh said you're talking \$22,000 dollars then would be approved.

Vice Chair Darden speaks to Mr. Snow on this and Mr. Snow said we need a motion to reduce it.

John Welsh made a motion for \$22,000 and seconded by **Robert Hickey** to be approved.

Mr. Killion said I stated before I think this is the wrong funding avenue for doing this throughout the county we fund this and thru MSBU and this is the funding avenue that should be done, I am going to vote against it.

Mr. Welsh said from my understanding there is no MSBU this is part of Charlotte Park Alligator Creek which is tremendous we believe pollution into the water to septic tanks and some of the canals in PGI. Either way there is no MSBU my concern is water quality and I think we need to focus on water quality.

Mr. Killion said commissioner doesn't that fall under like South County stormwater that area.

Commissioner Deutsch said I don't believe so I'm not sure but it's interesting I ran into the Mayor yesterday or the day before at an event and she had mentioned they have somebody doing that and we could get an update and explains this to the members.

Vice Chair Darden said any further discussion, all in favor, let's count them up.
7 Aye / 7 Nay tie vote

20. Charlotte County Public Works – Maintenance to Navigation Aids (\$90,000)

Mr. Snow said last item is Maintenance to Navigation Aids this is another recurring request this is for \$90,000.

Laura Gassett-Shoemaker made a motion to approve and seconded by **Richard Russell**.

Mr. Killion said I noticed that they still have \$71,000 they haven't spent for the current budget year. They're asking \$90,000 which is the greatest or one of the larger amounts they have asked for. So my question is why do they need \$90,000 when they got \$70,000 they haven't spent.

Mr. Snow said they anticipate using the \$71k over the next six months and they need the \$90k for next year. Their activities will pick up and now that they got thru a lot of lan and stuff that was drawing their staff away.

Vice Chair Darden said if you look at the trend analysis, they've done pretty good, in previous years of spending the money.

Mr. Welsh said if this money is not spent, does it come back or does it stay in their budget?

Mr. Snow said if they don't spend it and close the project it will come back into, and they both discuss.

Vice Chair Darden said any discussion on this item, all in favor. Passed with a unanimous vote.
14 Aye / 0 Nay

Mr. Snow said as a recap all grants were approved with the exception of Flotilla 87, 2516 was Denied and recommending denied. 2525 the Waterfest was recommended denial as was a water quality test program for Team Punta Gorda.

Mr. Welsh said it's not denied if it's tied.

Commissioner Deutsch said not approved.

Mr. Snow said tied which means it does not pass.

Commissioner Deutsch said it's not recommended.

Mr. Welsh said it's not unrecommended either.

Mr. Snow said it doesn't go forward to the board.

Commissioner Deutsch said I just want to thank everyone for your involvement, for your support, for your comments and for your recommendations and the past number of years that I've been here now. Very few exceptions the board appreciates your recommendations and discusses with the members.

Vice Chair Darden said I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their homework, and crunching these discussions we've had over the last couple of meetings and discusses with the members.

Mr. Snow said the whole list that goes to the board a few items will be identified no recommendation on two items as being discussed with Commissioner Deutsch.

Vice Chair Darden said also want to thank Mark Snow and fiscal staff for their hard work and putting this together.

F. MSBU Update – Matt Logan

Matt Logan had to leave the meeting, not present to go over report.

Ackerman Waterway: No active project at this time. Refer to Manchester Waterway.

Alligator Creek: This dredge design project is currently awaiting permitting by ACOE.

Buena Vista Area Waterways

- The Bid documents are currently being advertised. The bid opening is April 24th.

Edgewater North: No active project at this time.

Gulf Cove Waterways:

- Draft deliverables for the interior dredge design project have been reviewed and are being finalized.

Harbour Heights:

- No active project at this time.

Hayward Canals:

- No active project at this time.

Manchester Waterway: No active Project at this time.

Northwest Port Charlotte:

- ATL mobilized to the site on December 4th and began the dredging of the interiors on December 11th. They are currently dredging the Bayshore Waterway.

Peace River Shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor:

- The dredge design project is in final design stages.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: No active project at this time.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock:

- 30 percent Tender House plans were just received and reviewed and returned with comments. The consultant will be advancing towards 60 percent submittal and matching the level of completion with the parallel lock plans.
- The Geotech work for the tender house has been completed.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell is also absent and unable to go over her monthly report.

• **Ainger Creek Park:**

o Park Redevelopment project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: Permit plans were submitted to the Florida Dept of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) in August. A permit was issued by the FDEP and we are still awaiting review by the USACE. Grant applications were submitted for FWC's Florida Boating Improvement Program grant.

• **Allapatchee Park:** No projects at this time.

• **Anger Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.

• **Bayshore Live Oak Park:**

o Fishing Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; additional project

information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. The pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions; regulatory agencies are requiring the project to be fully re-permitted; the FDEP permit was issued; we are still waiting on ACOE.

- **Boca Grande Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Butterford Waterway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center:**
 - o Seawall replacement design project is being managed by Community Services; the design team is working on the design.
- **Cedar Point Environmental Park:**
 - o Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July. Staff is reviewing the 30% design plans.
- **Centennial Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Darst Park:**
 - o Community Services is managing the boarding pier replacement and seawall replacement along with ramp scour protection; the design is at 90% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.
 - o HURRICANE DAMAGE may affect the status of this project moving forward.
- **El Jobean Boat Ramp:** No projects at this time.
- **El Jobean Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Harbour Heights Park:**
 - o Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permits have been approved; the construction is out for bid.
- **Hathaway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Live Oak Point:**
 - o The erosion assessment project has been completed. The project design has been awarded; however more damage was sustained as part of Hurricane Idalia.
- **Placida Fishing Pier:**
 - o Community Services is managing the parking lot and solar lighting of the pier. The project is in process.
- **Placida Park:**
 - o 2014 Sales Tax project for the boat ramp expansion is being managed by Facilities

Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: The County and engineering consultants are still working with FDEP and USACE.

- **Port Charlotte Beach Park:**

- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Recreation Center is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: Charlotte County Facilities received comments/concerns from the different departments and has submitted to design team for review. A pre-app meeting has been set with ACOE for April 17th 2024. We received notification that DRC application has been received by Charlotte County.
- o 2020 Sales Tax Tier 2 project for the Pool is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: We are looking into our options for the pool and pool house to see what will best accommodate the needs of the public.

- **Riverside Park:**

- o Ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels due to safety issues cannot be address via repairs. The project is being managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: ACOE has responded we are requesting for a second time Letter of Permission which usually moves through faster, for Riverside Boat Ramp project.

- **South Gulf Cove Park:** No projects at this time.

- **Spring Lake Park:**

- o HURRICANE DAMAGE of the c/k launch boarding pier project; repairs waiting on determination from FEMA.
- o Community Services is also managing a ramp scour protection project the design is at 90% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.

- **William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park:**

- o The trails, boardwalk, fitness equipment and signage project is being managed by Community Services; additional project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Project is in progress and staff is surveying the project area for gopher tortoises.
- o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: The contractor is working on construction schedule and with Gaines foundation on Kayak Launch delivery and staging prior to construction.
- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Phase 3 is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: No April update provided.

7. New Business –
None offered.

8. Old Business –
None Offered.

9. Other Business –
None offered.

10. Citizen Comments –

Tim Ritchie said two weeks ago I was attending the DeSoto County BOCC meeting at 3 o'clock. Prior to that I was in Charlotte County BOCC meeting. We have 18,000 acres and discusses this along with rezoning, and mosaic and asks for letters to be written by all of the Charlotte County Commissioners, every city council member of Punta Gorda, and I ask the commissioners of DeSoto to write the Senator. I would like to ask each one of you as well to write them letters and say we absolutely agree with Mr. Ritchie. The founder and president of March Against Mosaic. He talks about the 18,000 acres to be purchased by the State of Florida. That land is a buffer zone to everyone of your families and your property. Also talks about the water and hurricane test and the water was acidic.

11. Good of the Order –
None offered.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held **Thursday, May 2, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m. in the **E. Jay Carlson Large Conference Room, 18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948**.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held **Thursday, May 9, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m. at **18500 Murdock Circle 2 Story Building Room B-106, Port Charlotte, FL 33948**.

Mr. Snow said Public Service Announcement for the members, the plan is to get all the documentation into legal to prepare for the agenda for May 14th meeting on Tuesday at 9am. In the past with the exception of Mr. Killion I don't believe we've had a lot of turn out from the MAC for that particular board meeting. We did last year have a significant amount of discussion about the recommendations is all.

Vice Chair Darden said I will second that, you guys do a lot of work for them and recommendations being there at the meeting. It seems like a good idea certainly for us all to be there, I plan on being there and if they have any questions for us about the recommendation. I think it's important that one of us be there.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Hickey made a motion to adjourn, second by **Mr. McKinnon**, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM
Minutes Approved


Tom Ireland, Chair