



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 13th, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Charlotte County Administration Center

18500 Murdock Circle Room B-106

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:30 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.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from **May 2, 2024**.

Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from **May 9, 2024**.

Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Liz Eastes said we have six open cases, four are ready to be removed, two were relocated. Two of these open cases are still on administrative hold with FWC since I created this at the first of this month. We have had an update on "the game" the one that hit the 41 bridge that since this process has been sold and

removed out of state. So that will be listed as relocated. We have all of the ones ready for removal out to bid and they're currently going through the FWC grant process at the moment.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said do you want to mention the WCIND proposal for the next year are you familiar with that.

Liz Eastes said I am familiar with it; I haven't had the time to dig into.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said there's a proposal to enhance funding through WCIND to local community to become even more aggressive with the way we handle derelict boats and over the years I've been here we've had major improvement with Fish and Wildlife, and you know getting support for us. I think it's still included in the budget that we should be getting even more support in the future, just want to bring us up to date.

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

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said not too many updates I know Liz touched on the derelicts. The only real derelict headache we've had lately is a vessel called "The Game" which I am sure everybody saw on the news. It broke lose a few times, we've sited for at risk, it ran into the 41 bridges, only once that I know of that it actually ran into the bridges FWC handled that. They were sent to handle the rapid relocation and then after that it got into VTIP and one of the conditions of VTIP which is the turn in program. Is that you have to keep your vessel of out the derelict state. So, after he enrolled in that VTIP program and was approved, it broke loose yet again and grounded hard. So, we went through the entire derelict process, that was one of four vessels we sent out to bid for removal. One of the unusual circumstances with that boat was it's a federally documented vessel that has absolutely no ties to Florida whatsoever. Because of that we couldn't put a title hold on it. So, the title hold is done through Florida DMV and because of that if you have a federally documented vessel in the State of Florida. You're still required to pay a registration fee.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said we're one of the few states that does that by the way.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said you don't have to display FLs at that point, but you do have to pay the registration. That gives us some leverage if it becomes derelict to put that title hold on. In this case we couldn't do that so, right after we sent it out to bid for removal the owner sold it to somebody else for a dollar. They ungrounded it took it out, they were trying to get it up to Tampa Bay area, couldn't get the engines running and had some issues and had to leave. So, they anchored it with a chair, the chair held for a day or so. We went back out with FWC wrote that new owner citation's for at risk and there still working on trying to get the motors running and trying to get it out of here to get it to Tampa. When it had been anchored with a chair it drifted in front of Sunseeker. We were getting calls on it yet again because that boat has made the news and everything else. They've relocated it over towards Grassy Point and showed us they brought new anchors, and it broke loose yet again. So, it's up against the mangroves so, we're again working it, but it's new owners, it's been brought out of derelict. So, it just restarts the entire process, that's the only real headache. But it kinda does illustrate the problems you encounter with derelict vessels. It's nice streamline you got this cut down timewise and then we run into all these unexpected circumstances. Other than that, we made it through the first holiday of the summer, Memorial Day and by far that is the busiest holiday we have ever seen on the water. Big Boys Toys expo put on a concert out on the water at the sandbar.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said how many people?

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said Big Boys Toys estimated between 64-70 thousand people. FWC's estimate was closer to 50 thousand so, I don't know the math formulas each group uses. It's based off aerial photos and measurements and that sort of thing. Either way even if there was only 50 thousand, that's a lot of people at one sandbar. We didn't have any major incidents; you know as far as loss of life or severe injury. There were a lot of injuries, it's the most arrests we've ever made on a weekend. At one point we had I think five people in hand cuffs from different incidents at the sandbar at the same time. That was towards the end of the day and almost everything is alcohol related issues. So, we went through, we were successfully through that. We have been working, we partnered heavily with FWC and had a joint command center at one of the marinas to work out of. So, that we could coordinate work together because just the resources you need. This year FWC brought up a mobile Intoxilyzer unit to be used specifically for BUI's. I think there was 3 or 4 BUI arrests made that weekend, it's not good but it is good because we're out there enforcing that.

Chair Ireland said and people see it.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said correct.

Mr. Snow said similar patrol on based aerial photos from there and estimated close to five thousand boats out there around the area.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said this can't be the biggest crowd we've ever had out there, with that being said how many, what I heard you had an awesome job and did a great job. How many boats between our department, fish and wildlife, and volunteers, how many vessels did we have out there working with you and assisting you. Because you know 50,000 that's a lot of people and a lot of boats.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said so we had one more boat than normal from Charlotte County, so we had a total of seven boats out from Charlotte County. We just happen to have one extra vessel based on the way, replacement boats that we were selling, it was still here so, we were like here let's use it this year. FWC probably had 4 or 5 boats out, we saw Lee County up there with one of the Sheriff's Office boats, Coast Guard we were able to get them involved this year, their engine 29 out in the area, and then we had Charlotte Fire, Englewood Fire and saw Cape Fire over there as well.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said we had 12-15 vessels out there that's great.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said definitely good visibility. We've been in contact with DEP and everyone else we can. Obviously, there is seagrass impact, one of the most frequent questions we see about that is how can they hold this, why are they able to hold it. As far as holding an event out on the water, yes that area does come under state jurisdiction a little bit for the submerged lands and the Little Dog Island and Dog Island by it. But there is no permitting that is required to do that out on the water.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said really.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said correct, because we've looked into it and it's a strain on resources.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said if it's a sailing event or regatta they would have needed a permit with the Coast Guard.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said correct but this one, Coast Guard doesn't issue any permits and as long as it's not blocking the marked navigational channel and their able to so, we have been in contact with the DEP to try and see what they can do from the sea grass end. They're working on it, but it's a slow process they have to do surveys and that sort of thing with the sea grass and the fact that, that is a popular recreational spot that's used almost every weekend. It's hard to say the damage is specifically related to this event.

Mr. Russell said that brings up a point, Sunrise waterway the channel literally is right there at the beach. Now people are putting their boats in there.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said you missed the comments because you left early.

Mr. Russell said I always leave early. Bottom line is I can leave early you can't. That's my question now that you got people doing that, then they have to have a permit to do that right. A discussion takes place.

E. MSBU Update – Matt Logan

Matt Logan said I am filling in for Dewayne today so, he goes over the report.

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

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

Buena Vista Area Waterways

- Dredging project awarded to Kelly Brothers, Inc. Estimated starting date is mid-July.

Edgewater North: No active projects at this time.

Gulf Cove Waterways:

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

Harbour Heights:

- Line-of-Sight Vegetation Trimming project is being advertised for quotes.

Hayward Canals:

- No active projects at this time.

Manchester Waterway: No active projects at this time.

Northwest Port Charlotte Interior Waterways:

- ATL began dredging on December 11th.
- Recently completed dredging of the Cheshire Waterway, the last of 6 to be dredged.
- We are awaiting the results of the post-dredge survey.

Peace River Shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor:

- The dredge design projects are in final design stages.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock:

- 30 percent Tender House plans were 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.

Mr. Russell said Spring Lake and West Spring Lake they feed into Sunrise Waterway at the point and at least Edgewater north does contribute some monies to the Buena Vista which is Elkcam Waterway and Sunrise Waterway dredging. I don't understand why Spring Lake and West Spring Lake boaters up there have a free ride, not to contribute something to the dredging that they placed down at the point of Sunrise Waterway. Because their boats come down here, they access the harbor right through that area. So, I think it's only fair they kick in a little bit for their use of the canals.

Chair Ireland said have they got an MSBU?

Mr. Russell said no they don't.

Chair Ireland said I didn't think so.

Mr. Russell said that's what I am saying. Edgewater north has an MSBU, but they contribute a small percentage into the dredging for Buena Vista. But at least there contributing something, because they're gonna use Elkcam, they use Spring Lake, I mean Sunrise Waterway. So why is it some people get a freebee and the rest of us have to pay. That's my question and why don't they have an MSBU to kick into that.

Mr. Logan said I'm not the one to answer that question.

Mr. Russell said I know; I am putting it out there for the record.

Chair Ireland calls for Tina and she is not present.

F. FY24/25 Financials – Mark Snow/Michael Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham said he is ready to go over the fiscal year for 24/25 and begins to give the presentation. Mr. Snow speaks on the items on the screen and discusses this with the members along with the procedures. Explains how the funding goes and whatever is left over goes back into the fund. This will be at the end of the fiscal year. Talks about the boats, motors and can carry over.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said this year we're not expecting to have anything have to carry over since we got the boats done, we should be closed out at the end of year.

Mr. Cunningham and **Mr. Snow** continues with the presentation, discusses what was sent out to the members previously, so when we meet in November it will help with Waterfest and if they got money or not.

Chair Ireland said the Commissioners told us about the Waterfest and that's good.

Mr. Cunningham and **Mr. Snow** continue with the presentation and discusses the process. Mr. Snow stated about Waterfest was denied and the board accepted that, your recommendations and then Commissioner Deutsch put a motion forward that Waterfest would not come back to the MAC. in the future they'll work their requests or plans ahead with tourism. So, we won't see Waterfest in the future, so we put the motion forward and it was seconded and it's a done deal. If we get an application for Waterfest in the future, we can just throw it away.

Commissioner Stephen R Deutsch said you won't get it.

Mr. Snow said I just wanted to point that out to you for those that weren't there at the board meeting or may have not seen that. The point of this was to go on record as presenting it to the MAC as well as sending it out to all of the members as well. To say here is what was approved by the board for FY25.

Mr. Russell said team Punta Gorda they're receiving funds from us through the grant program. They are also publicizing the fact that mosaic helps team gardens grow and they promote them publicly. It's kind of like you know, here is somebody that is threatening our waters and yet we're issuing grant money to them. For them to advertise how great the polluter is, the issue is we've got two strings that work with us. Peace River and the Myakka, it's small tributaries and it expands. Then explains it's pollution and when it streams down settles in Charlotte Harbor. We may not get the results right now because nobody is testing the sediment, because that's where the stuff goes when it falls to the bottom. But we have people that live here, grew up here and can tell you from the 1960's and 70's what they saw was going on and created issues with Charlotte Harbor. That's still there and there is more coming and if they get approved for their project in DeSoto County it will be even more coming at us. The problem is they say we're not going to discharge anything, and we're set up so we can withstand a hurricane of 127 miles an hour. We've had a few lately that was a lot more than 127 miles an hour. We can have even more of those and when that stuff breaks loose where does it end up, Charlotte Harbor. So, I am totally opposed to giving any monies to anyone that promotes something like that. I think we need to think about this, there not the only ones I am sure, but we shouldn't be supporting the funding of something like that. That goes out and advertises for a company, an entity that is doing damage to our environment here. So, that is what I got to say and will be happy to discuss it after the meeting if anybody has any questions.

Chair Ireland said we are moving on to Tina, but Tina is not here.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell is absent, and nobody was present 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 update: We are currently waiting on Army Corps of

Engineers no permit needed letter, Utilities meeting to go over infrastructure of the current site, and Southwest Florida Water Management District comments are being responded too.

- **Allapatchee Park:**
 - Parking lot improvement project is being managed by Community Services; the design firm has been selected and we are in contract negotiations.
- **Anger Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Bayshore Live Oak Park:**
 - 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:**
 - Seawall replacement design project is being managed by Community Services; the design team is working on 30% design plans for staff review and coordinating with the City of Punta Gorda for Harbor Walk fencing design standards.
- **Cedar Point Environmental Park:**
 - Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July 2023. Staff is expecting updated plans to review in mid-June.
- **Centennial Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Darst Park:**
 - 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.
 - HURRICANE DAMAGE may affect the status of this project moving forward.
- **El Jobean Boat Ramp:** No projects at this time.
- **El Jobean Fishing Pier:**
 - The Fishing Pier repair project being managed by Community Services; the pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions from the recent fire. Staff is working on bid specifications for the design and permitting of the necessary repairs to be submitted to purchasing ASAP.
- **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 bid was awarded and we are working on a construction schedule with the contractor.
- **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:** No projects at this time.
- **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 update: We are currently waiting on Army Corps of Engineers no permit needed letter, Utilities meeting to go over infrastructure of the current site, and Southwest Florida Water Management District comments are being responded too.
 - o The ramp approach repairs are being managed by Community Services; staff has issued purchase orders for the repairs that are tentatively scheduled for mid-July.
- **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 update: We are currently waiting on Army Corps of Engineers no permit needed letter, Utilities meeting to go over infrastructure of the current site, and Southwest Florida Water Management District comments are being responded too.
 - 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 update: We are currently waiting on Army Corps of Engineers no permit needed letter, Utilities meeting to go over infrastructure of the current site, and Southwest Florida Water Management District comments are being responded too.
- **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 update: We are currently waiting on Army Corps of Engineers no permit needed letter, Utilities meeting to go over infrastructure of the current site, and Southwest Florida Water Management District comments are being responded too.

- **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 nearing competition.
 - o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following update: County permitting is expected to begin in June with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in early July.
 - 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 June update provided.

7. New Business –

Mrs. Sargent turns on the Sunshine Law video for the members to watch along with the Roberts Rules.

8. Old Business – None.

9. Other Business – None.

10. Citizen Comments – None.

11. Good of the Order – None.

12. Next Meetings

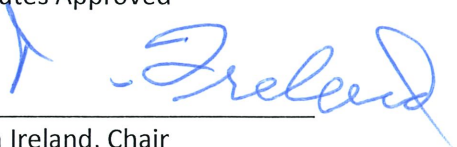
- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held **Thursday, September 5, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m. in the **E. Jay Carlson Large Conference Room. (f/k/a Building Construction Services)**
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held **Thursday, September 12, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m. at **18500 Murdock Circle 2 Story Building Room B-106, Port Charlotte.**

13. Adjournment –

Mr. Russell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Mr. Mayes**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair