



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 8, 2021

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 March 4, 2021
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from March 11, 2021.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. Financials – Jim Darden

Jim Darden said one of the things that made this year easier and faster going over the grants, was getting people to talk to prior to the meeting. Everyone had a better understanding of what they were voting on.

Mr. Darden said he has not heard any feedback on the few denials you voted on. He briefly discussed the fiscal report he handed out.

16 MSBU Update – Zach Patchell

Mr. Patchell discussed the items on his MSBU project update list.

Ackerman and Manchester Waterway – no projects – refer to Manchester waterway.

Alligator Creek – there is no active project at this time.

Buena Vista – Request letter of interest for engineering design project of the exterior r access and connector channels went out. Firm selection is underway. The interior bathymetric survey project will be initiated soon.

Edgewater North – An RLI for a bathymetric survey of the entire system was sent out and a firm selection and negotiations are under way.

Gulf Cove Waterways – Atkins North America Inc. was the selected Engineering firm for the Interior canal survey and design project. Atkins has completed a survey of the canal system and they are working towards 90% plans. Survey Data reported to MSBU, waterway committee recommended a system wide interior dredge. Budget planning is under way.

Harbour Heights – An RFQ (request for quotation) has gone out to qualified firm for a limited amount of navigational trimming in the Santa Barbara and San Salvador canals. Budgeting is being worked out and RLI for the engineering of a system wide spot dredge will be initiated soon.

Hayward canals – Johnson Engineering is working towards bid ready specs and plans and has received permitting from State and Federal agencies. A dredging project of the access channel and main canal is anticipated to go out to bid early in FY22.

Manchester Waterway – No active project at this time.

Northwest Port Charlotte – Coastal Engineering Consultants is passing forward with this design work of the interior canal dredging design project, working towards bid ready plans and specs. Draft deliverables have been received and are currently in the question and comment phase. The dredging is planned for the second half of this year.

Peace River shores: No active projects

Pirate Harbor: No project at this time. The MSBU is exploring budgeting options for a future design and dredge project.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: RLI went out for survey, design and construction oversight for a maintenance dredge project of the turn basin and access channel. A firm has been selected and is working on a schedule for this work. Johnson has submitted draft plans and is working on securing permitting with State agencies.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock: DMK has submitted the permit application to the agencies for their review and are working toward the 90% plans. SWFWMD permit has been received and DMK is working toward FDEP clearance. The County has requested an estimate of cost to design a Tender House for the locks, and some plan upgrades. A ROM estimate has been received and some internal review and public outreach is under way.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time. This MSBU is looking into budgeting options for a future dredge project.

Commissioner Deutsch said at the Beaches and Shores Advisory meeting, they were talking about reevaluating how successful the dredging system has been at Stump Pass. I made a suggestion to Matt, several years ago when we looked into this at Stump Pass, we have as serious a problem at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. We continually go in and dredge that and then within months, not even a year, it fills in again. With the money the County is investing down there (redoing the facility and putting in the sailing center) I felt there might be some value in looking into a permanent fix. I'm not an engineer, but I have been told this triangular thing with holes in it works. This is to stop the sand from filling back in. I suggested Matt Logan follow through with this thing to see if it works.

17 Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

Roger DeBruler said the contractor is moving forward. He is working on the 4th boat listed, a sailboat. Epoch is the next boat listed to get pulled out.

Robert Hickey said he has a number of pictures of derelict boats at the Riviera Marina. He put these pictures on the overhead projector to show all. Many of these boats are not in the marina but out in the creek. He said this has been going on for a long time. Neighbors say oil and diesel fuel is spilling into the canal and coming down stream. He showed the pictures and talked about each one. There is a sailboat with a gasoline pump on there, pumping its contents into the creek. Around the corner, there's more racks not in the marina, but there is one underwater somewhere, but now someone brought it to this marina.

Roger DeBruler said Farmer is an individual that went around after Hurricane Irma and picked up sail boats. He is moving these boats into this marina.

Mr. Hickey said this marina is so full, boats are tied 3 and 4 together wrapped off the piers. There are people living on these boats that cannot get out because there are too many boats in the way. There is a lot of things floating out of this marina into the waterway.

Mr. DeBruler said DEP took them to court many years ago. It was tied up a long time. He said about 4 years ago, the owner was in the hospital and Mr. Carr had Barry sign a document giving all rights to Mr. Carr.

Mr. Hickey said there is an on-line telegraph about this marina and all the problems everyone is talking about with these oil slicks.

Mr. DeBruler said the oil slick problem is a DEP problem. That is who needs to be notified.

Commissioner Deutsch said he never heard of this before, but they need to get on it soon. He said he will get with Tina and they have to get proactive with the State. They cannot pollute the water like this.

John Welsh said many of the boats did not have current State stickers on the boat. Why can't the State or police ticket people for not having their boat registered?

Mr. DeBruler said if your boat is off of the dock, you are not breaking the law. Same here, they keep the boats inside the marina area and it is a different game when in the marina area.

Commissioner Deutsch said they can get the State after the marina.

Dr. Roger Strube said the father owned a restaurant next to the marina. The owner of the marina died and the nephew is trying to take it over.

18 Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell was not at the meeting, but **Roger DeBruler** discussed her memo/update on the projects.

Ainger Creek – The park redevelopment project is managed by the Facilities construction and maintenance department. The most current information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Design now continues with the initial concept including underground vault storage.

Allapatchee – The fishing pier replacement design budgeted for this fiscal year is now with Purchasing.

Hathaway Park – Scope for the repair for the Hathaway Park floating dock and gangway has been submitted to purchasing.

Live Oak Point – installation for the new sidewalk handrail project is in fabrication.

Placida Park – 2014 sales tax project for the boat ramp expansion is being managed by Facilities. The project resumed programming and master planning and concept plans in March after receiving the entry/exit points determination from Public Works.

Port Charlotte Beach Park – the 2014 sales tax project for the sailing center is managed by Facilities construction and maintenance department. The site has been leveled, sod and security fence installed. Crews are finishing installation of the roofing for the pavilion this week and the stucco work for the workshop has also been completed.

Riverside Park – the boat ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels. Due to safety issues, they cannot be addressed via repairs.

South Gulf Cove Park – Scope for the repair design for the Hathaway Park floating dock and gangway has been submitted to purchasing.

William R. Gains Jr. Veterans Memorial Park – a grant for additional trails, boardwalk, fitness equipment and interpretive signs was awarded; design phase and initial site condition assessments are in process.

Mike McIntosh said he was told regarding the Port Charlotte sailing center if you want to use the sailing center, you have to call and reserve the use on what day/time. He asked if that was true.

Mr. DeBruler said yes, that is true. It is a public building if anyone wants to use it, they need to call and reserve the day/time. This is not a private entity. It's not a private workstation. The pavilion has to be rented out and they have to reserve their day/time.

7. New Business

- Keith Gordon – Port Charlotte Yacht Club – replaces George Bobko

Mr. Gordon said they moved here 2 years ago. He likes to get involved and would like to join the Marine Advisory Committee.

Mr. Ireland said Mr. Keith Gordon will be replacing Mr. George Bobko. He has been recommended by the Port Charlotte Yacht Club. **Mr. Ireland** told him they are an advisory group to the Board of County Commissioners. They do not make rules or enforce, but they do their best to come up with the right recommendations based on all the knowledge in this room. He welcomed Keith and they look forward to him attending.

Mr. Ireland took a vote to replace Mr. Bobko with Mr. Gordon – there was a unanimous vote to approve.

- Military Memorial Reef Support Letter

Mr. Ireland said referring to the Military Memorial Reef Support Letter, this was a request to send individual letters supporting this request to the Commissioners. He read into the record the Letter they wrote to send to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee.

Mr. DeBruler said this letter will be sent to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Committee. He applied for a grant to help with the payment for the military reef.

Commissioner Deutsch said he is also the liaison for the Charlotte County Veterans Counsel, which represents all the Veterans groups. He said he would like all to come to their next meeting and present this and he is sure the Veterans Counsel would be supportive.

Mr. DeBruler said the design is in the design phase for the memorial. This will honor the 5 branches of service.

8. Old Business –

John Welsh said he sent a letter out to the members of the boater's alliance. There are 4 bills going through the State legislature right now that you need to be aware of. One is concerning mooring ballfields. If it passes, it will give municipalities greater control of their shoreline, to regulate how long boats can anchor outside of the mooring ballfield. A second bill regulates where people can sit on the boat. It's called preservation of limbs act (or something like that). People are falling on boats and getting hit with propellers because they were sitting on the gunnel or bow of the boat. Another bill relates to when a

hurricane is declared, if you are in deep water port, which we are not, it regulates which boats can and cannot stand at a marina. A fourth bill requiring an engine cut off switch.

Commissioner Deutsch said most of the things the legislature is trying to do right now is move it away from home rule. He said he would be surprised if this gets approved.

Mr. Welsh said he would like to see more control around Punta Gorda to control anchoring. We have derelict boats, one that continues to be pumped out every couple of weeks, because it starts to sink and the owner pumps it out. The control says you can anchor for a maximum for either 30 or 60 days over a 6 month period.

Mr. Ireland said and then they move.

Mr. Welsh said but then you can't anchor within the boundaries of Punta Gorda.

Mr. DeBruler said the HB639 also has in it that there is a three strikes and you are out. Vessels at risk, if they get 3 at risk citations within 18 month, then they can be deemed derelict and removed.

Mr. Welsh said one that did not make again was, they were going to charge people with racketeering if they injured a manatee. That failed to get enough votes.

9. Other Business -
None offered.

10. Citizen Comments –

Capt. Blago asked if Tara Musselman was still working with the County because she was working with the DEP regulations and after all was done, we had to fill in all the holes in the rules that no one knew about.

Commissioner Deutsch said we have been discussing that at the commission level and also at the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee meetings, and the question I raise, until recently, everything I've had is opening up the Manchester is good because you want it to flush, like we did with Lemon Bay and Stump Pass. The main issue, when we put the lock in, we were required to close off those 3 access ways of getting to the Myakka. What I did find out, in the 70's, one of them was actually dredged to 6 feet for sailboats. We didn't know that. It was an active waterway in and out of there, in the 70s dredged to 6 feet. When we came back and they said okay, you can take the lock out, and do all the environmental stuff where the lock was, but why weren't those 3 areas closed off opened up. Did the County make a mistake? Did the State make the mistake? Or, was there a strong environmental reason why they didn't open them up. My guess is someone made a mistake. At least 2 of them should have been opened.

Mr. Ireland asked, do you have a reason why the lawyers told the Manchester Homeowners that they could not use their MSBU for a feasibility study?

Commissioner Deutsch said because it is designed by Statute. I fought with the County Attorney over that. WCIND thinks it's a good idea to open up. Everyone I talk to everyone says it's a good idea.

Mr. Ireland said the feasibility study would help this out. Our question was why couldn't they use the MSBU money for it?

11. Good of the Order -
None offered.

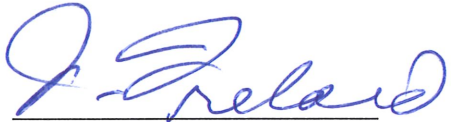
12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 6, 2021 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, May 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at 1120 Centennial Blvd. off US 41.

13. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.
Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair