



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9, 2022

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 5, 2022
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from May 12, 2022.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office – Marine update

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said it was a busy Memorial day weekend. Overall everything went well on the water. There was a concert at Bog Island, had about 20,000 people. They do this once a year. There was one medical issue which was helicoptered out. As for boats the past month, there were 2 boat accidents.

One east side of Pirate Harbor. The boat went over sideways. Another accident was by the Toms Adams Bridge. That was a serious accident. FWC-DLE took over. They are checking if alcohol and speed was involved. They were outside the channel, going fast and it was dark out. We signed off on a few derelict vessels this week. They should be off the list next month. There was an arrest on a boat by Stump Pass that had fentanyl on that boat.

Lieutenant Williams said they reached out to Punta Gorda and the fire departments to use volunteers on major holidays for help with traffic on the water. There was plenty out on the water in Charlotte County, more by Boca Grande and Englewood Beach. They have search and rescue, everyone is trained. There is a memo of agreement for all divisions to help out. They all have the VHF channel, same frequencies and search patterns. Everyone is all trained with search and rescue.

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

Pamela R. Davis, Chief of Police introduced herself and **Corporal Joe Trufan** and they wanted to update the MAC on things the City of PG is doing regarding derelict boats. She thanked everyone for their support.

Corporal Trufan said he is with the City of Punta Gorda Police Department marine unit. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the support we have received from you. We have done marine lighting details. We go out once a month at night looking at anchored boats in the mooring areas addressing the lighting issues, some MSD issues and any thing in between. We go poking in the canal systems and look out for anything going on at night that shouldn't be. That has been successful. When we first started, we were going out every night and getting 10 to 15 citations on lighting. The last one I just did we only had 3 citations. It has been working. We also had additional enforcement for the holiday weekends. We have things scheduled for July 4th weekend and Memorial Day weekend, more resources. Our derelict vessels policies have come a long way through this support. We put together our own policy and have the backing to follow through with all of this. Mr. DeBruler has been a big help. For example, that big wind storm we had back in December resulted in 3 in the City and we had them all out within a few weeks. It went fast compared how we used to do things. Again, thank you for getting our backs and helping to promote marine operations within the City.

Chair Ireland said one of their concerns was why duplicate the effort with the vessel removal, but I think we have come to understand from Roger it is a joint effort.

Chief Davis said it is a way to bundle everything. We were waiting for enough derelict vessels to make it worth the while. We now can just have them come right away. That is important.

Corporal Trufan said the derelict vessels had been a growing problem for years and now we are finally getting in front of it. It is more a matter of not putting all the burden on one particular agency. We are spreading the word out and helping to expedite things.

Commissioner Deutsch said it was about 5 or 6 years ago, when the State WCIND, which is a big help, all got together and we have a real Team going on. He had one question on their on-site inspections. Doing your inspections, is there an on-board inspection and do you check for any pumping of waste or holding tanks?

Mr. Trufan said when we have 2 officers on board, we will board the vessel, if there is someone on it. We have a large amount of vessels out there that are simply being stored out there. There have not been

people out there for months and months. He said he started an investigation on one that has been sitting out there a year. There is trash all over it. It is in front of the Gilchrist area. Anchored right there. He tracked down the owner.

Chair Ireland asked how many marine patrol people does Punta Gorda have?

Corporal Trufan said I am the only full time. We do have some other officers that have been crossed-trained so if there is a holiday weekend, we have other guys to bring out.

Chief Davis said we do have a lot of volunteers and it is increasing.

Paul Bigness asked if it's only you, to do a boarding you said you need 2 people, I assume the other person is a volunteer?

Corporal Trufan said yes. For the lighting details or the larger weekends, we will go out with 2. We have one of our other guys work overtime or flex time, so they can come out with me.

Chief Davis said we did cross train 2 other deputies, so if Joe is out, or if he needs assistance, they can be with him. We also do have a reserve officer who is a sworn officer, who also is trained.

Chief Davis said we would love to attend these meetings every month and update you.

D. FY22-23 MAC Grant Application Review – Jim Darden

Jim Darden said Marine debris removal exhausted their grant and also new marine marker on their grant, Public Works requested an additional \$25,000. It was approved by the Administrator, out of cycle. Also, we are approaching the last quarter of the grant cycle, so if your organization has grants, I would encourage them to use them. He has the contracts available for the FY 2023 grant cycle which begins October 1, 2022. Your organization can pick them up, sign them and get them back to me.

E. MSBU Update – Zach Patchell/Matt Logan

Zach Patchell went over his monthly letter/updates.

Ackerman and Manchester Waterway – no projects at this time – refer to Manchester waterway.

Alligator Creek – Atkins has been selected as the design firm for this dredge project. Negotiations for scope and fees and underway.

Buena Vista – FDEP and ACOE permits have been received. The MSBU Advisory Board gave recommendation to reduce project scope to stay within budget. CEC has produced project limit options to stay within budget and the county has agreed. CEC is currently working on draft deliverables.

Edgewater North – No active project.

Gulf Cove Waterways – CEC has received on behalf of Charlotte County a maintenance dredge exemption from FDEP, and we are covered by the current exemption and permit from ACOE; CEC is working on planning a project that will fit into the planned budget and will likely be targeting 25,000+ cubic yards. County staff and CEC are developing the exact project limits.

Harbour Heights – Both maintenance dredge exemptions are in place and have been verified and approved by FDEP and ACOE. Project management has sent in the purchase request to bid this dredge project.

Hayward canals – This project has been bid and awarded to Sea and Shoreline LLC. Notice to proceed date is set for June 6, 2022.

Manchester Waterway – LOI's have been received from engineering firms for the design of a maintenance dredge project of Christopher, Knox and Bay harbor canals and Atkins Engineering was selected. We are awaiting negotiations of scope and fees.

Northwest Port Charlotte – This project (Interior Canal Dredge) was successfully bid to Arbor Tree and Land Inc. and was awarded by the BoCC. A notice to proceed date had been agreed upon. This project is to start August 1st.

Peace River shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor: Coastal Engineering is the design firm. CEC has prepared documents and submitted permit applications agencies.

Southbridge Waterway: No active projects at this time.

South Gulf Cove: Marine Contracting Group has completed this dredge project and we are working through the close out process.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock: Lock design working towards 90%. Awaiting ACOE response on permitting, EOR has requested updates, ACOE has provided they are waiting on US Fish and Wildlife approval. ACOE permitting may be further delayed due to a manatee death incident in early Oct. 2021 at the existing lock. US Fish and Wildlife is performing an investigation and will advise on manatee safety conditions. The County received and reviewed engineering scope for additional services to add a Tender House to the design. Comments and questions were given, and negotiations continue. Currently awaiting fees and a finalized scope. In regard to obtaining the ACOE construction permit, US Fish and Wildlife is requesting the County man the lock full time in addition to being a manatee observer. Charlotte County is reviewing this request. The consultant is looking into a manatee detection device that can be installed on the Locks. ACOE and US Fish and Wildlife has not responded to most recent requests for updates.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

Chair Ireland said he received a call from Michigan regarding what the hang up is.

Mr. Logan said they had that manatee death back in October and another one in March. He updated U.S. Fish & Wildlife but they did not respond. He had the consultant update. He reached out to Army Corp again, no response. He will continue to try and get a hold of someone over there. We want to prevent these deaths. We want them to approve a manatee detection system.

again, no response. He will continue to try and get a hold of someone over there. We want to prevent these deaths. We want them to approve a manatee detection system.

Mr. Hickey asked are the manatee deaths because they are caught in the lock chamber or is it because they are getting crushed by the doors?

Mr. Logan said they are getting crushed. They were going into the lock in South Gulf Cove.

Commissioner Deutsch asked has anything else been done with looking at the mini-groin system down at the beach complex end of Harbor?

Mr. Logan said he knew Michael Poff is working on that. I don't have any additional information at this time.

Mr. Russell said they still don't have the "no beaching boats" sign on the right hand side as you are looking at the point. The sign is up on the left side. The one on the right side has been missing for at least 3 months now. It still has not been replaced. People go in and beach their boat and out comes the silk and junk. Who needs to be addressing that? It's a little sign, we need a bigger sign.

Mr. Logan said if that is not our signing and marking department, then maybe it would be Parks. I can reach out to them.

Capt. Blago asked when you find a manatee in the lock area, what do you do? Just wait for it to leave?

Mr. Logan said it's software. So just like your safety detection system at the bottom of a garage door. You are going to have 2 transponders, one that is sending a report and the other one receiving. If something penetrates that barrier, it will shut it down.

Capt. Blago said I understand the mechanics, but when a manatee is there, is the lock not usable now until that manatee leaves that area?

Mr. Logan said we will work out the details. I know it stops the gate from closing. I'll have to find out whether or not the doors go into full open or if they stop until someone manually closes them again. But it is supposed to stop and stop the manatee from getting crushed. We will probably tender the lock.

Mr. Bigness asked when a manatee gets inside South Gulf Cove, how does it survive?

Mr. Ireland said it eats all the weeds around the outside.

Mr. Bigness said he read where manatees actually can hear high pitched sounds. Is there a deterrent or thumping low pitch, something to keep them away from the entrance?

Mr. Logan said he will ask and check into it. He said he happened to be on site a while back, when 2 manatees were coming and a boat was coming, so he jumped down the dock and asked the guy to stop until the manatees moved. It looked like they went away, but as soon as the boat was entering the lock, here they come. So we made sure they got into the lock safely. It was a mother and cub.

F. Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

Roger DeBruler said he has an addition. FWC is actually working a sail boat in Cove area out in Englewood. NW of the Tom Adams bridge. That sail boat has been there for years. That gentleman who owned it moved to Texas and was not going to do anything with it. The storm pushed it off its mooring and it is now sitting on a barge. FWC is working it as a derelict. They contacted the owner and is working with him.

Mr. Bigness said it seems like there's more boats north of Charlotte County, are they migrating to Sarasota County there on the bay?

Mr. DeBruler said yes they are. I am in communication with Mike Solum who is my counter part up in Sarasota County. He is aware of those boats and they are looking pretty bad. He says his officers are working those cases as well.

Mr. Bigness asked if there was a safe haven in that area?

Mr. DeBruler said his understanding is a document was created in 1956. Creating a safe haven and also mooring areas within Florida. Chadwick Cove is one of those areas. This was done in 1956.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina was not present. She is attending a WCIND meeting. Mr. Ireland went over Tina's report. She sent in an email to report the Blackout dates for booking space at the Port Charlotte beach recreational center – in anticipation of the replacement project, starts on April 1, 2023. The second item was the purchasing delivery for the construction of the repairs at Riverside will be through a hard bid awarded to the lowest bidder and not a CM (construction manager) at risk.

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. Facilities provided the following: Negotiations have been completed and will be scheduling a kickoff meeting.

Allapatchee – The fishing pier replacement is being managed by Community Services and is anticipated to start on June 20th. A PSA will go out prior to work starting. The erosion project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department. Facilities provided the following: Negotiations have been completed and will be scheduled a kickoff meeting.

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 website. Design team is working on 60% designs to replace in kind; pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions.

Boca Grande Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Butterford Waterway Park – No projects at this time.

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Butterford Waterway Park – No projects at this time.

Cedar Point Environmental Park – No projects at this time.

Centennial Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Darst Park – No projects at this time.

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 – No projects at this time.

Hathaway Park – Repairs to the floating dock and gangway are being managed by Community Services. Design for the Hathaway Park floating dock and gangway is complete; project is in purchasing to be awarded.

Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park – No projects at this time.

Live Oak Point – Facilities Construction and Maintenance will be managing the sunken pavers and erosion issues and the boardwalk that was damaged during the big windstorm in December. Facilities provided the following for the paver/erosion project. Facilities provided the following: Negotiations have been completed and will be scheduling a kickoff meeting. Facilities provided the following for the boardwalk project: Negotiation completed; waiting on Administration approval.

Placida Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Placida Park – 2014 Sales Tax project for the boat ramp expansion is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department. Project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updated webpage. Facilities provided the following: The engineering design team for the Placida Boat Ramp project is preparing permit applications for the ACOE and DEP based on the approved master plan presented to the Board on 4/12.

Port Charlotte Beach Park – the 2020 sales tax project for Recreation Center is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department. Project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updated webpage. Facilities provided the following: in the planning phase and discussing location of the new building, arrangement of spaces within the building and operations. The long-term shoreline stabilization and waterway dredge feasibility project is being managed by Public Works. Regulatory agency pre-application meetings are scheduled.

Riverside Park – ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels; due to safety issues, cannot be addressed via repairs. The project is being managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updated webpage. Facilities provided the

following: 30% plans were submitted for review/comment and staff met with design team; they are now working on 60% plans.

South Gulf Cove Park – No projects at this time.

Spring Lake Park – No projects at this time.

William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park – 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. The project is under review by ACOE and SWFWMD, the County responded to ACOE comments the last week of May. The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department.

7. New Business -

Mr. Russell thanked those who went to the Mosaic workshop last week. He feels it had an impact. The newspaper the next day said DeSoto leaders, residents seek more details from Mosaic. They have now added another workshop for Dec. 6, 2022. I encourage anyone to attend. We should be concerned because the phosphate industry has a history of damaging our waters. The July 27th meeting is the last one before the primary elections.

Commissioner Deutsch said regarding water quality issues, about a year and a half ago, we became aware through some testing on Como Waterway, bad stuff is coming in there, a lot worse than what was down by the Manchester Waterway. We did it quietly but when we didn't get responses, it became more public. As a direct result of what we've done, North Port has embarked on the septic/sewer program and by their little pond before coming into Charlotte County, they are now doing regular testing. The first series of results came in but there was not enough rain to get significant results. They will continue to do testing. If it keeps coming from North Port, they will have to do something.

Commissioner Deutsch said the second issue, improvements to the kayak launch at Gaines park, we are all set and there is a coast guard volunteer group that raised the money. They will be working on that. We applied for the Army Corp of Engineers 11 months ago for basically a requirement of the trails we are putting in. We finally got a response about a month ago, they are working on it and will get back to us.

Mr. Ireland reminded the members there are 5 or 6 who need to reapply for reappointment if they want to stay on the MAC board. In September, we will hand out the applications, the members fill that out, also give a resume and letter from your yacht club and we get that upstairs to go on the BCC agenda to be reappointed.

8. Old Business –

Mr. Hickey said the weather station on marker #2 is up and running. He said when they were out there installing it, people were tied to it fishing, they were not happy they had to untie and leave. Many boats going by and many people did not even know they could get the weather data. On our boater's alliance website, right on the title page, it comes up. You see two gray buttons, for marker 2 and marker 4. He said the marker has some serious problems and it was reported. The marker has huge bolts that hold 3 legs to the center piling and have sheared off. It is the Coast Guard's marker.

Mr. Killion said one of them does not record rainfall.

Mr. Hickey said that is correct and it never will.

9. Other Business –
None offered

10. Citizen Comments –
None offered

11. Good of the Order -
None offered

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, September 1, 2022 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 8, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at 18500 Murdock Circle 2 Story Building Room B-106, Port Charlotte.

13. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair