



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 12th, 2023

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.
6. Regular Business
None and approved.
 - A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from **December 1, 2022**
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.
 - B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from **December 8, 2022**.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

Commissioner Deutsch said for Mr. Meckenberg to speak before CCSO.

Mr. Meckenberg speaks on behalf of Diane Clim's retirement and presents her with an appreciation award.

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

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said not too much in the last month, had a little increase in traffic with people out on the water. Also seeing more liveaboard boats starting to come back in area, especially in the Lemon Bay area. We have added a few more derelict vessels to the list towards the end in the last couple of weeks. Added a couple of boats started working as at risk to try and get them out of the area or to fix them up before they become derelict. Had a couple calls that are kind of tied into the storm, had a capsized vessel this past week that we were sent out for a search and rescue mission. It was 8-9 miles offshore which we had to response to and seeing little odds and ends of that. Most of the marinas are becoming functional with fuel and this has been helpful. Asks if anyone has any questions of them.

Commissioner Deutsch asks if they had any major incidents because of the debris in the canals.

Lieutenant Williams answers thankfully we have had no major boating collisions reported and everybody worked pretty hard after the storm, law enforcement and Roger was out documenting his stuff, had contractors out cleaning up debris. Even boaters are out cleaning up debris.

Commissioner Deutsch states that someone drowned in the Manchester waterway that was out in their kayak cleaning up after the storm. Discusses was there some eligibility for reimbursement on the canal cleaning if it is quote navigable water and one of the definitions that it has to go out to a body of water and not self-contained. There is two definitions one is it has to go out to a body of water in our case the gulf. The other is it has to be navigable and one of the problems I know we had years after Charley was reapoka water way. We had a couple of kayakers and there was some problems up there from like 7,8,9 or 10 years after Charley that we were still pulling stuff out of there. There is a little ambiguity and we are trying to work our way thru that in terms of the definition. If you can get thru with a kayak theoretically it's a navigable waterway. It is a huge task, the people we have contracted with are only going down 3 feet they are not going to the bottom of the canals. This will be an issue at some point, because if you have 6 feet of water and an outhouse is on its side you are going to find it sooner or later. So please at least for the next couple of years share with your friends to take it a little slow, take it a little easy and you can get there 5 minutes later the fish will wait for you.

Mr. Hickey speaks of last December the boaters had their December meeting and one of the fellow Commissioners Chris Constance came and he asked them why on the county's website dashboard for debris removal they showed all of the different county waterways on the north side of the county. Nothing was mentioned about the whole section of waterways off of Alligator creek commonly known as Charlotte Park not even on the dashboard. He hopes they are going to clean the canals because there is a lot of debris in them.

Commissioner Deutsch says he knows and hopefully things are going to work out in the next few weeks with the yacht club, the marina down there that we are going to be moving into.

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

Corporal Trufan said they are mirrored a lot of what has been said with the sheriff's office as far as post storm assessment. Most of our efforts are focused on locating and surveying all the hazards and debris in the canal systems and waterways in the city. All of our visible debris has been surveyed and located and the city has been trying to organize how they are going to mobilize a contractor to get contracted out to clean that up. The boater's alliance has got a group of volunteers who have sonar capabilities and stuff to

try and survey some of the unseen stuff below the water lines, so that is in the process right now. Most of this is complete. We just have a couple of areas in the Burnt Store Isles section to finish up. We had the Christmas Boat parade which everybody was still excited about. No major incidents, no crashes based on debris. Most of the stuff we have found so far has been pretty well visible. We have one sailboat completely submerged at the entrance to Pompano inlet, it's probably the biggest hazard out there right now. All you got is the mast coming out of that so we went through and put some buoys and some reflective tape and do what we could to make it as visible as possible. The owner of that vessel has gone through the vessel turn in program with FWC. This is where we are at and if anyone has questions.

Mr. McIntosh speaks of a couple of boats sunk out at Gilcrest and both discuss, Trufan states there are quite a few there. Those are also vessel turn in boats, FWC has a pretty extensive list, talks of the waiver. They had over 4,000 statewide from the storm to deal with, so it is going to be a while before you start contractors. Work is getting done there just is so much of it.

Chair Ireland says one thing to keep in mind, this is not yet the dry season and the canals like South Gulf Cove and areas that don't have tide, they may have six feet of water now but won't in a couple of months. The debris may get a lot closer to the surface, so we will be chasing this stuff for quite a while.

D. FY23/24 MAC Grant Application Review – Jim Darden

Chair Ireland asks Darden have we got any applications yet?

Jim Darden said we have 1 or 2 and they both discuss. Darden states based on his preliminary assessment of anticipated revenue is coming in the existing grants that we have for 2023 plus the carry overs from 2022. The local fund is going to be pretty low, this round. When they started doing the beach renourishment, they started pulling 4 million dollars a year out of the local to support the dredging of Stump Pass. That has taken its toll on the balance that we had. As that balance continues to widdle, with giving grants and giving a quarter million-dollar beach renourishment, we have gotten down to almost what we're making. He states about less than a hundred thousand dollars.

Chair Ireland but we touched on this already, but that million-dollar emergency fund is fund is still available right?

Mr. Darden answers yes, we also have the BIF-State but that is pretty much reserved for county activities and about \$100,000-\$150,000 left in it. WCIND about a half of a million dollars. The issue that we run into though traditionally is when you use WCIND money for safety or recreation 50% match pay that out of BIF-Local so that the organization that was giving the grant didn't have any out-of-pocket expenses. We are just not going to be able to do that this year or in 2024. Talks about BIF-Local funding and nothing to match it with. We will have to make some tuff decisions this year. He has got calls from several people about wanting to submit water fest, the president called me and asked what the maximum amount - is no max. We make about \$300,000-350,000 a year if local revenue and with taking \$250,000 to start with. Gone basically the last five years on existing balances. Both discuss and he told the president there is no max.

Mr. Bigness asks about the \$250,000 how long does that go into the future is that indefinite now?

Mr. Darden says it's not going to be for five years, but it's a 8-year commitment and then he said its his understanding after 8 years it will start over. They will continue to pull it.

Chair Ireland states I don't see Matt or Zach, do we have a representative for Matt or Zach.

E. MSBU Update – Matt Logan/Zach Patchell

Zach Patchell/Matt Logan - both are absent.

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

Alligator Creek: A request for letters of interest went out to qualified firms for the design, permitting and construction oversight of a maintenance dredge project for a large portion of the Alligator Creek channel. A firm was selected and negotiations for scope and fees failed to reach an agreement. The award was rescinded, and the design project was offered to second place. Negotiations for scope and fees are underway and will be finalized soon.

Buena Vista Area Waterways

- FDEP and ACOE permits have been received
- Design deliverables have been received
- Bidding of project is on hold until the next MSBU Advisory meeting when the board will decide on whether to proceed with the project. The AB is considering halting the project due to dredging prices.

Edgewater North: No active project at this time.

Gulf Cove Waterways:

- The county is currently working to find a planned upland spoil site for the project and is in talks with the Gulf Cove POA.
- Hurricane Ian contributed to added sediment into the canal system by washing out roadside swales. The county is setting up a post-storm bathymetric survey and results will be compared to the current project quantities. Cost related to storm impacts will be applied to FEMA for reimbursement.

Harbour Heights:

- No active project at this time.

Hayward Canals:

- Sea and Shoreline had dredged close to half the project before hurricane Ian. The project has been on hold since. The county had to initiate the emergency debris removal contract and clear the waterway before the project could resume. Currently we await a post dredge bathymetric survey to determine dredge results.

Manchester Waterway:

- Atkins has begun the engineering design work for this project. Their team has made the first site visit to collect samples and record ATONs. Atkins is reviewing all data received from the county and is working towards 30 percent plans.
- Recently Atkins had a survey crew out to survey and collect data for the Manchester at Indianapolis WW, as part of the requested addition.

Northwest Port Charlotte:

- This project (Interior Canal Dredge) was successfully bid to Arbor Tree and Land Inc. ATL was unable to mobilize in on the original notice to proceed date of 8-1-22 due to covid delays on other projects and then hurricane Ian impacts to the area. The County agreed to give additional contract time to move the project start into the new year. A new start date will be negotiated on Jan. 16th.

Peace River Shores: No active project at this time.

Pirate Harbor:

- Coastal Engineering has started the design phase of this project, submitting permit application to FDEP and USACE
- We recently received a permit from FDEP and still await USACE.

Southbridge Waterway: No active project at this time.

South Gulf Cove: No active project at this time.

South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock:

- The design project is at 60 percent design and the Tender House design change order was just approved on the Sep. 13th
- The Tender House Design and Parallel Lock design components will be advanced together.
- US Fish and Wildlife has finally issued a response to ACOE after reviewing this project, and they cannot recommend it. They believe it will further threaten the West Indian Manatee. This has stalled receiving the USACE permit. Staff is still working on getting a meeting set up with Army to find out how to get this authorization.

Suncoast Waterway: No active project at this time.

Dr. Roger Strube yes sir, I am also an advisor for the youth program Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing. One of the problems you get into with grants is you have to come up with the money first. Pay for it then get reimbursed by the grant and a lag in their 30-45 days. So, you lost a couple of boats are you going to come up with the membership or supporters to purchase the stuff before the grant comes in. So, when you lose 30, 40 or 50 thousand dollars' worth of stuff, are you going to be able to get support to get the stuff to get back into the program. Then be able to get reimbursed, so part of the problem is the situation you have after a hurricane is you got some major damage to small organizations that generally get grants. The past couple of years with education, materials and a few minor things or grants that were pretty well supported. We lost about 3 boats and trying to figure out if we are putting a grant in and how are we going to get covered first before the grant kicks in, the administrative things.

Chair Ireland says he understands.

Mr. Darden talks about this happening because with a lot of organizations and the loss of things. Not being able to cover and talks about 50 %. Talks about the WCIND aspect of requiring the 50 % for recreation and pay up front.

Chair Ireland mentions he doesn't see Matt or Zach anybody speaking for them? We will wait they may pass by later. How about Roger you have a few things to look at.

F. Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

Roger DeBruler I got a few things yes I do. Sorry about getting this to you Kim late, this has been changed and it's being changed daily now. I am still trying to get in contact with FDEM, this is the Florida Department Emergency Management they have actually taken over from FWC. The FWC is not pulling boats, DEM is pulling all the boats that were Hurricane damaged so all the ones that are listed on here as Hurricane Ian if the owner hasn't pulled it it's gonna be pulled by FDEM and they are slower than a box of rocks. Contractor for FDEM just pulled the sailboat out from in front of the Justice Center. That should be at the ramp today. The next boat is going to be pulled according to the contractor its going to be the bass inlet sailboat. The next boat is going to pulled is going to be the Pompano sailboat. Then they are going to pull the contractor out of the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor. Then send them over to Lemon Bay. It's a racket don't ask me why but that's what is happening. So just so you know it is a slow process and it's gonna take a long time. For these boats to get removed. They are also pulling the boats that have been signed over from the owners to the state. Some boats are floating and some boats are not. It's still DEM is going to be pulling all of them the reason being that I have been told by WCIND is that DEM has a direct link contact with FEMA. They are going to pay DEM directly for the removal of the boats. That is just for your own knowledge this is gonna take a long, long time. The one thing that this should give you an idea is that boats are being removed again it's going to be slow, and boats that are ready to be removed. I am trying to get in contact with DEM directly so that I can get their list and when things are going to be removed and how they are going to be removed. But at this point in time nobody is talking to the county. I have talked to my counter parts in Sarasota, Lee County and Manatee County and they are just as frustrated as I am. I talked with WCIND is going to try and get a contact with DEM on the boat removal side and hopefully that will happen sometime this week or next week. That's my report and that's what I got. Just to kind of back up with you commissioner. Charley came thru and did major damage, there is still debris in the water in Charlotte. One of the big shoals in the Peace River is actually caused by a roof that came off one of the houses along the Peace River that was never removed. So, we still have debris and will still have Ian, Eta and all the other hurricanes debris in the water, come ten years from now.

Mr. Bigness asks Mr. Chairman, yes sir, to ask Roger you before the storm had some people like Sea tow with Craig Marco and people like that were assisting removing boats, are they totally out of the picture now and just put to the side. Are we still using them as a supplement or how is that working?

Mr. DeBruler I can use them, they can't directly attack these boats from the Hurricane that were signed over by FWC and all that kind of stuff. Those are tied to DEM.

Mr. Bigness what about the boats that aren't signed over?

Mr. DeBruler we can pull those boats. So, if Joe finds a new boat or Richard finds a new boat. Which they are working on new boats now as you can see at the bottom of the list. We can actually have our contractor's remove and get them out of the water and that kind of stuff. Within the 21 day wait period. That whole same code and cost still applies.

Mr. Bigness so are we actively doing that now?

Mr. DeBruler I have actually removed several boats personally from county properties because people have decided that they want to abandon them at the county properties. We also have another guy that is actually utilizing our county property as their personal docks. Those boats I am going to start pulling. I

have warned him several times. We have some other boats that eventually are going to get removed because we got work going on at these docks and places. Those boats need to be removed.

Mr. Bigness you have quite a bit here are you getting any additional resources from the county, do you have a helper or anybody. You have a huge workload and no help.

Mr. DeBruler It's me and these guys and others as well as every once in a while, I will see a FDC, but other than that it's just me.

Mr. Killion asks Roger how many of these boats were on each side of the bridge.

Mr. DeBruler that I don't know that would be a question for Joe cause a lot of them all ended up in Joe's jurisdiction. I know that at least three of the boats that were, and of course one of them got pulled out before the Hurricane. Which was the Sea Lion this came out of the Riveria. Those two sail boats were moored up not within the Laishley mooring area, but near it. They ended up breaking loose and one ended up sinking and the other one is still out on the bank in the mangroves. He talks about quite a few of them, some outside of Fisherman's Village that are now on the rocks. He doesn't know where the Bass boat came from. He has been contacted by several groups asking to help remove material.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell went over her monthly report.

Ainger Creek –

- 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: Consultants are working on reviewing as-built documentation and conducting fieldwork to develop the stormwater design.

Allapatachee Park –

- The erosion project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department. Facilities provided the following: The final report has been submitted and the assessment phase of this project is complete.

Anger Fishing Pier –

- Community Services is managing repairs to the sidewalk undermining and rock revetment; the design team is working on the permitting package to submit to the regulatory agencies.

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 project is under review by the regulatory agencies; pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions.

Boca Grande Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Butterford Waterway Park –

- Community Services is managing a repair project that includes repairs to the boarding piers, along with additional repairs at the El Jobean boat ramp and fishing pier; project has started and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month.

Cedar Point Environmental Park –

- Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July. The design team has started data collection for the redesign and expansion.

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 team is working on options for permitting with the regulatory agencies.
- HURRICANE DAMAGE may affect the status of this project moving forward.

El Jobean Boat Ramp –

- Community Services is managing a repair project that includes repairs to the boarding pier, (along with additional repairs at Butterford and the El Jobean fishing pier); project has started and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month.
- Community Services is managing a ramp scour protection project; the design team is working on options for permitting with the regulatory agencies.

El Jobean Fishing Pier –

- Community Services is managing minor repairs to the fishing pier, (along with additional repairs at Butterford and the El Jobean boat ramp); project has started and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month.

Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier –

- Community Services is managing a repair project that includes repairs to the fishing pier at Chadwick, as well as to the boardwalk pavilions on the Englewood Beach portion of the park; the project is anticipated to work to start early April.

Harbour Heights Park –

- Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permitting package has been submitted to the regulatory agencies.

Hathaway Park – No projects at this time.

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

Live Oak Point –

- Facilities Construction & Maintenance is managing the sunken pavers and erosion issues (also at Allapatachee) Facilities provided the following for the paver/erosion project: Facilities provided the following: The final report has been submitted and

the assessment phase of this project is complete.

- Facilities Construction & Maintenance is managing the boardwalk that was damaged during the big windstorm in December 2021. This project was completed in December and has been re-opened.

Placida Fishing Pier – No projects at this time.

Placida Park –

- 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 project is in permitting with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and with the Army Corp of Engineers. The County is in the process of contract agreements for the purchase of the forested saltwater credits for mangrove mitigation impacts.

Port Charlotte Beach Park –

- 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: Sweet Sparkman is in the process of finalizing Schematic Design comments made by Community Services and Facilities are being reviewed. Staff will meet in January to review Schematic plans.
- Community Services is managing the T-dock replacement project; design team is in process of 60% design plans.

Riverside Park –

- 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: Weiler Engineering is working with Arm Corps of Engineers and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to receive approval for their permit application for the addition of a Dock to the plans.

South Gulf Cove Park – No projects at this time.

Spring Lake Park –

- Community Services is managing the project that includes minor repairs to the boardwalk and boarding pier; work on boardwalk to start early February. HURRICANE DAMAGE may affect the status of the c/k launch boarding pier project.
- Community Services is also managing a ramp scour protection project; the design team is working on options for permitting with the regulatory agencies.

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 approved by SWFWMD and under

review by ACOE as well as the County DRC process.

- Community Services is also managing a repair project for the fishing pier; work to start early February.
- The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: No update provided.

Commissioner Deutsch talks on this, both kayak launch and the trails have been sitting at the core of lobby engineers for a year and a half. They didn't respond to us since September with a couple questions and we got back to them and are still waiting.

Mr. Hickey the Port Charlotte Beach Complex last year we had this big presentation about underwater groins, where is that all going right now?

Ms. Powell that project is being steered by Matt Logan in public works and I believe that they are planning to take that to the board in the semi near future for direction on options. Then we will have to work on a funding package. It is still in the works, just moving slowly.

Commissioner Deutsch speaks to **Ms. Powell** on this and they discuss, this was to be a mini model to what was done at Stump Pass.

Mr. Hickey talks on this mess with the canals and the sand keeps moving from the beach to the canals. States about a library coming up and the people are angry.

Commissioner Deutsch there are several issues and they are inter woven. One of the problems that I live in the area and the homeowner's association, they don't appreciate me being this candid. They don't own the Charlotte Harbor facility it's available and it's there for the whole county. I agree with them on some things and I don't want to see the swimming pool shut down for three years! I seem to think that in redesigning and redoing that, we could build a new pool and work around it are some of the questions. They want a pretty much status quo and that facility serves the whole county not just that area. We have had dozens of meetings on talking about how we are going to renovate the park and going back about 2-3 years.

Mr. Hickey talk about this and the feed back he was getting had nothing to do about pools, it had to do with maintaining a depth to get into the canal system. Every year having to dredge and all, that still going to be maintained, correct. They both discuss this and talk about the mini groin system or will still have to dredge it, but the dredging should last more than a year to a year and a half under normal conditions it might last 3 or 4 years. That is what we found at Stump Pass and it worked and we saved millions of dollars out there. Two things we will be able to maintain boater safety by keeping it open and ultimately it will cost us less money to do it. They talk about the project and it has to go out for permitting and that could take longer than it does than to build it. They are going to continue to dredge the entrance to the canal systems in the meantime correct? Rumors are getting back

7. New Business -
None

8. Old Business –
None

9. Other Business –
None
10. Citizen Comments –
None
11. Good of the Order –
Darden to introduce Mark Snow.

Roger Strube – made comment about Jim and he has been very helpful over the years.
Ireland and Strube discuss his leaving.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held **Thursday, February 2, 2023** 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, February 9, 2023** 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 10:12 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair