



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 08, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Charlotte County Administration Center

E. Jay Carlson Building

18400 Murdock Circle, Large Conference Room

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 January 04, 2024
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from January 11, 2024.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

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

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said just a few updates, added our six positions back in and half staffed. We have seven positions slotted for a while we were down to five of us.

Chair Ireland do you know what he's doing.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said he is going to know what he's doing shortly. He is eager and has limited boating experience, but he's got a long law enforcement career. He retired from another agency and came down, so he is going to be a good fit. It's just teaching him the boating. We did some training with the aviation unit in the past week or so regarding hoist training and picking up out of the water. So were continuing that program those are the two big internal ones. As far as derelict vessels we don't have too many updates. We did have a vessel removed that was derelict back in El Jobean area off Nettle Road, that kind of goes with the trend. We are seeing a lot of our derelicts start to bigger boats that are getting moved in randomly tied up to people's docks. We started one more in Chadwick Cove up Lemon Bay Area this kind of highlights some of the difficulties we see with it. We dealt with that vessel as an at-risk vessel the owner she's eighty-two terminally ill with Cancer. So, we expect to help out with some of the stuff as far as at risk and there is some things that she needed to do that she wasn't capable of and didn't reach out for assistance with us. Especially in a situation like that we will try and assist and try to prevent that from going derelict. It took on water, sank and was derelict. We had to serve her with that, and we are still working to try and at least help her to get what she needs to bring that vessel back to at risk. So, then we can put it into the vessel turn in program with FWC and discusses about the derelict process and the qualifications of the turn in program with the added costs for removal.

Commissioner Deutsch said I haven't had any more complaints. What happened to the boats up in the lagoon, in South Gulf Cove.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said as of yesterday they were removed. I think a lot of people just moved them out. That's one of those areas we get in and handle work, at risk and derelict end of it. As far as the actually anchoring there and a discussion takes place.

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

AJ Russell said not a whole lot from me in terms of marine, as of yesterday finally staffing has gotten to the point where I am back in marine patrol which is good. From here I am going out to the boat first time in a while finally. We have new guys coming on being released from the training program, new training officers which takes stress away from me because I was having to hold off from marine patrol to train new guys. Finishing up normal stuff and finished budgets for the new fiscal year, we've been pretty lucky with derelicts in our small area. A lot of the phone calls we have been getting, we have been able to solve that day or over the weekend with snowbirds coming to town dropping in boats. People across the harbor thinking oh there is somebody tied up, turns out it's just a new homeowner or renter something like that.

Commissioner Deutsch said any change in activity or operation of the cruise ship coming in.

AJ Russell said it sits quite large when you get up to it that's for sure.

Commissioner Deutsch it's about three hundred feet.

AJ Russell yeah, it's a big boat and you see it from a long way away and a discussion takes place about this boat. Then he informs the members about the boat lifts not working yet, still in that City of Punta Gorda permitting. It's going through the checks, I don't know when they are going to start sinking poles or anything like that. It is approved and it's in permit, that is the last answer I got and the last answer they gave.

D. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Ms. Eastes said I have eight open cases, fourteen ready to be removed, zero were removed last month, zero relocated, as you are all aware I am limited anything to do with derelict vessels not being caught by law enforcement. We do have an ordinance that does not allow for overnight mourning on boat ramps and does not allow for storage of personal property on any of our public parks. We have been able to remove the paddle boat from one of our public grants with this new ordinance.

E. FY24/25 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Mark Snow

Mr. Snow said this meeting kicks off the application process. We've received applications got a little bit out and Ms. Heather worked very hard to get it out there for you all to have access so you can view the applications. It is on the public page under government, and he explains how to get to it and talks about the hyperlinks to get to each application.

Chair Ireland asks are you going to be able to prioritize these in any order you see fit and discusses with Mr. Snow.

Mr. Snow talks about the issue with BIF Local because it's about \$75,000 over what we are projecting to be available and need to look at some of these in here obviously the \$250,000 is already gone for the beach stuff. The sheriff's department the main majority of this funding here is ask for the aviation units request. You can't put that into WCIND just because there is not a fixed deviation between marine and land.

Chair Ireland said I noticed that the Englewood Waterfest has almost tripled their request for funds.

Mr. Snow said yes most of that there are things in it that qualify technically under WCIND but most of it they are asking for tents, tables, security fence and security contract to provide around the main unit itself and then a contract for an emergency helicopter.

Chair Ireland said didn't they have that prior?

Mr. Snow I don't believe that the emergency helicopter was on there last year and both have a discussion.

Mr. Welsh asks we have a helicopter for the sheriff's department why would we need an emergency helicopter?

CCSO deputy name unknown speaks on this with Lieutenant Aaron Williams and discusses, Mr. Welsh, Commissioner Deutsch and Mr. Darden.

Chair Ireland said is the total requested over what we have?

Mr. Snow for BIF Local yes.

Mr. Darden said BIF State not over funded.

Mr. Snow goes over the applications.

Chair Ireland which would drop ours down to \$70?

Mr. Snow yeah, it's about \$70k which \$6k for the training, WCIND won't cover training. The rest is the dive equipment, and any overtime is what is in the WCIND request. I put all the new boat and the boat equipment is like the decals, the lights, the radios and all that have to be installed on the boat. I put all into the CINF request and then they have some derelict vessel ops as well and that goes in BIF State. He then continues with the applications.

Commissioner Deutsch said where are the boats to be?

Mr. Snow said one is in Laishley Park and I think the other one is down by Burnt Store if I remember correctly.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said Burnt Store had previously been approved under prior MAC grant request and that was at the time frame we also were replacing boats. Then the whole Covid and boat pricing increase occurred. So, in those years we requested to transfer the money that had been approved for the boat lifts into the new boat purchase. So, we didn't end up coming back requesting more money. That is why we are back asking for it again. He discusses with Commissioner Deutsch and Chair Ireland.

Mr. Snow continues and talks about the annual debris removal starting on Sunday. Last year they spent about \$75,000 they have about \$85,000-\$90,000 this year and anticipate being more as they are cleaning up they are finding more.

Commissioner Deutsch asks is that debris removal what that for freshwater canals?

Mr. Snow said yes. Then he continues with the applications.

Chair Ireland asks what property is that go on?

Mr. Snow continues explaining the applications.

Chair Ireland said that's happened each time since we understand that and still voicing our opinion on Waterfest.

Mr. Darden said did they come back with that financial statement?

Mr. Snow said no they have not answered my request.

Mr. Welsh said we have requested it before, and we have never gotten it. So, this is not a surprise.

Mr. Snow continues with the applications.

Chair Ireland said I would think that Punta Gorda had a MSBU.

Mr. Welsh said they do not.

Mr. Hickey said it's really the Charlotte Park area, the water from all the Charlotte Park canals dumps into Alligator Creek. They have tested and found a point human thru human DNA or something, human fecal

matter that is coming out of the Charlotte Park area. Part of the reason they are working on this is there is a big septic to sewer situation they are trying to resolve and get grants. To put this sewer system in because all of those people are on septic. A lot of the old houses the septic and field is in the back yard on the canal. They are failing and it's going into the water and at this point without any help, just to get the sewer pipes in the street they're looking somewhere between \$30-\$40 thousand and that's not the hookup from the house to the pipes. They need to show evidence and try to get money from the state.

Mr. Welsh said this is not a City of Punta Gorda canals, so this is outside of city limits.

Mr. Hickey said that everybody knows the city has to supply water and sewer, so it's pretty much everything south of the Peace River. It's just the way it's been forever.

Mr. Snow said the final one is yearly asked for maintenance for navigation aids, about \$90,000 we done that thru WCIND.

Chair Ireland speaks to Mr. Snow on this and asks did we burn our funds, they discuss along with BIF Local which has about \$175,000 available above the \$250k, so were about \$75k over there. CINF we have about \$2 million in balance we have only certain things we can use it for. The only thing that qualified for this year was the new boat for Punta Gorda Police Department. WCIND we have about \$600k is what is budgeted, and then State we have about \$300k so we are ok there.

Mr. Darden said everything with WCIND we can on a local right?

Mr. Snow said yes that I can think of.

Chair Ireland said next month is the time if you have questions on any of this, see if you can come up with them today or in pre-agenda next month. We aren't going to ask everybody to send in representatives to that next month's meeting.

Mr. Darden speaks to Chair Ireland regarding getting this online and look up applications, budget they have a discussion.

Mr. Wolley said some of these people ask for money every year right so it's clear to me they actually spend it. I think last year we did maybe a side by side of what people have been asking for and what they actually have been spending. Because if we don't have enough money to go around, it seems crazy to keep giving grants to people that are just getting place holders.

Mr. Snow discusses on a document that can give the history of all the different grants and who it is and then there is some that have been going since 2017 and others that are new. If it says no history, it's because they have a grant this year.

Mr. Welsh said are the expenses up to date through?

Mr. Snow said yes, I updated them yesterday.

Mr. Russell said could we get any kind of feed back from them to verify they are really spending this money on what they are supposed to be spending it on.

Mr. Snow said in order to get the funding spent, most of the entities that are exterior to the county have to submit a reimbursement request to myself and I have to go through everything to make sure before we cut them a check.

Mr. Welsh said is that true with Waterfest?

Mr. Snow said for Waterfest they do submit an invoice and it says here is the breakdown of how we spent the money.

Mr. Welsh said but you don't get actual invoices of what they paid.

Mr. Snow said yes we do and they discuss.

Mr. Darden said next month are we going to have like a ballot?

Mr. Snow said yes and they discuss.

Mr. Darden said we got to trim \$75,000 from BIF Local, how am I going to approach that and discusses with Mr. Snow and Chair Ireland.

Mr. Welsh said if we eliminate Waterfest that would take care of the \$75,000 wouldn't it and discusses this.

Commissioner Deutsch said in the past I've supported it, and I am not so sure this year and discusses with the members.

Mr. McIntosh said maybe next month we can save the Waterfest for last approval.

Chair Ireland said it is and a discussion takes place.

Mr. Hickey said I have one last question, bottom line balance overage if you're looking in each of the individual categories like I see 436 and the bottom BIF Local. What is the total pop, what is the total amount that was in there?

Mr. Snow said I will put that in for next time and they discuss.

F. MSBU Update – Matt Logan

Mr. Logan is absent and below are the items on his MSBU project update list.

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

- Final plans and specifications have been approved and bid phase is commencing.

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:

- Navigational Trimming has been completed and final inspection will be held on December 18th. ATL mobilized to the site on December 4th and began the dredging of the interiors on December 11th. They are currently dredging the Apollo Waterway.

Peace River Shores: No active projects at this time.

Pirate Harbor:

- Coastal Engineering has completed the post Ian Bathymetric survey of Pirate Harbor channels and found that there were only insignificant impacts because of that storm.
- The dredge design project is in final design stages and construction bid document are expected in the coming month.

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 was just completed.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell is absent and below are the items on her report for the projects.

- **Ainger Creek Park:**
 - 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.
- **Allapatachee Park:** No projects at this time.
- **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; permits submitted to FDEP and 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 conducting data collection and updating site conditions.
- **Cedar Point Environmental Park:**
 - Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July. 30% design plans have been submitted to staff for review.
- **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:** No projects at this time.
- **Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Harbour Heights Park:**
 - Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permits have been approved; bid specs for construction are being prepared.
- **Hathaway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Live Oak Point:**
 - 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:**
 - Community Services is managing the parking lot and solar lighting of the pier. Quotes have been received and are currently under review.

- **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: A joint meeting was held with FDEP and USACE. Additional plan options were provided back to the agencies based on their requests for additional reductions in environmental impacts. The County is still awaiting permits from these agencies.

- **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: Community Services hosted a public input meeting on January 17th that included a presentation on the approved design of the new recreation center and amenity options for master space planning of outdoor amenities.
 - 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: There was a meeting held on January 25th with the floodplain manager to discuss the type/amount of fill we can place at the pool and pool house.

- **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: 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:**
 - HURRICANE DAMAGE of the c/k launch boarding pier project; repairs waiting on determination from FEMA.
 - 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:**
 - 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 was kicked off the last week of January.
 - The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: The contractor is working with the manufacturer on the details of the launch spec as their offerings have changed since project inception.
 - 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: the design and CM RFP's have been submitted to purchasing.

7. New Business –

Chair Ireland talks about Angus McKinnon's reapplication to be reappointed.

Jim Darden motioned to reinstate Angus McKinnon with U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla 98 and seconded by **John Welsh**. All in favor with a unanimous vote.

Chair Ireland said I was raising a question before this meeting started as to how many member-at-large positions that we have in the committee. We count five four of which are active and we have three other people listed here David Johnston, Robert Magliozzi and Fred Granger. At this time there is only one member-at-large position available.

Mr. Welsh asks who held that position.

Chair Ireland said Susan and they discuss.

Mr. Darden asked the three applicants to give a brief history about themselves for the members.

Mr. Magliozzi speaks to the members about his life, work history, experience, interest in the MAC and has attended every meeting for pre-agenda and agenda for the past seven years.

Mr. Johnston speaks to the members about his life, active sailor, power boater, love MAC, work history, experience, helped with the MAC committee, resigned as officer.

Mr. Granger speaks to the member about his life, work history, experience, interest to help the community.

The members did a vote to choose the applicant they wanted, and the votes were counted.

Chair Ireland said Bob Magliozzi won the vote.

8. Old Business –

Mr. Hickey said he has old business news that's to me is disturbing. If you remember a couple years back John and I brought in pictures of the nastiness of Riviera Marina. I think everybody knows how wonderful that's all turned out. The disturbing thing I found out about this is all the fines for all the pollution have been put on him, not the previous owner or the owner's estate. I find it just totally mind boggling that somebody that had no responsibility for this pollution is being punished in fines and clean up.

Commissioner Deutsch said I think I know the answer and I'm not directly involved with this, virtually everyone in this room knows the legal procedure took years and my guess is and it's a guess. That part of the final settlement was if he took it over, he would take some responsibility for it. I've seen that happen in the past and that's a guess.

Mr. Hickey not knowing all the facts, what did the estate get out of it? Shouldn't the person who caused the damage to the environment. If they gotten one penny out of it, as many of the proceeds through the fund should have come out of them, not the guy that's gonna try to what he could, good job and has done a remarkable. They have a discussion on this.

9. Other Business –

Mr. Snow requests that the meeting for March be bumped up to the 13th and not the 14th. A discussion begins regarding this.

Chair Ireland said to make a motion to move the budget meeting to the agenda for the request of funds to the month of April.

Jim Darden made a motion to reschedule the annual grant recommendation meeting to April. **Betty Campanella** seconded the motion. All in favor and no discussion.

10. Citizens Comments –
None offered.

11. Good of the Order –
None offered.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, March 7, 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, March 14, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the **E. Jay Carlson Large Conference Room. (f/k/a Building Construction Services)**

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair