



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 14, 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

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 February 1, 2024
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from February 8, 2024.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

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

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said just a brief history for a few updates this week. Had an increase in some slow speed minimum wake violations complaints in some of the canal systems, such as South Gulf Cove and

up towards the beach complex. We have been working on getting more patrols up there as time and manpower permits. We have added to the marine unit a little bit size wise; I introduce our new dedicated marine patrol Sergeant during the pre-agenda meeting last week. We are only one spot short now. He discusses the derelict vessels over the last weeks or so. They have a 30-foot sailboat that we're working on in Chadwick Cove and it looks like it's towards the 21-day period for removal. In Chadwick Cove we started a new case on a 32-foot Bay liner in the area of Peterson Island and we also started monitoring more closely another vessel off of Lemon Bay. It had ben derelict the owner brought it into compliance, but the same time did something else that brought the vessel at risk. So, we cited for at risk, we waited another 30 days and some other things we cited for at risk again. Because in the derelict removal process three convictions over an 18-month period automatically gets presumption of the derelict vessel is derelict. So, we're working on trying to get that part of the derelict program running smoothly. So, it gives up another tool for these vessels that are not well kept but not quite derelict immediately. We also working on a sailboat that has been floating around, we've gotten complaints on over time near El Jobean bridge. It wasn't derelict for a long time and now it has gone derelict. So, we are working on getting that process going. We're also working on a 57-foot Hilburn houseboat that's up in the Peace River that is derelict. There have been several additions over the last week or so we're trying to make sure we keep up on all that.

Chair Ireland said is the number of derelict boats increasing? We blamed it all on the Hurricane.

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said it's kind of a cycle, so I wouldn't say we have a greater number of derelict boats. We had an increase obviously after the Hurricane and the storms and there is still some out there. It kind of goes in a cycle we'll get a bunch or address, we work on removing them, there gone for a while. People see boats are getting pulled so you'll have a little lapse of time or people are taking better care. Staying up on it because they don't want to get their vessel removed and destroyed. Then in time people start to forget that so you see more comments, it kind of runs as a cycle.

Commissioner Deutsch said I want to make a point, some of you guys have been around here for a while. There were days when we had two-page reports on derelict vessels. We had this many vessels in Chadwick Cove because Bigness used to call me every other day. You guys are to be complimented we've done an amazing job. There's a little bit of history I just want to throw out, so you understand them. Because back with WCIND as our liaison, about 11-12 years ago, we finally got the state to step up and get more involved. I will say I want to give some credit to Fish and Wildlife too, because they are doing more than ever. This is as good as this list is ever gonna get. When you consider the size of our waterfront, how big the county is, how many miles we have of waterway and the number of boats that come in and out. This is absolutely amazing and it's a big help congratulations, you guys for what you've done it's been a big increased level of cooperation with the state as well. I think Fish and Wildlife have stepped up with support from the state.

Mrs. Sargent said I want to do a roll call, so everybody knows that Paul Bigness is now present.

Mr. Bigness said the two boats behind Landy's they were red tagged, those two sailboats, are they?

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said so if it's red tag it's going to be an FWC case on that. So, I don't have specific information on those two particular boats. But I can look into it and find out. Any of the red tags are going to be FWC, an orange tag or a yellow tag will be Charlotte County and explains both colored tags.

Commissioner Deutsch said there is specific procedure we have to follow, unless a boat is a clearly defined restriction, navigational point we just can't go in we got to get ownership, we got to go through a whole

lengthy procedure before we can touch a boat. There is a lot of red tape, it's very bureaucratic, but that's part of the reason that boats hang around for a while and know we're doing a really good job with that as well.

Mr. Russell said there has been a sailboat between the 41 bridges, I think it was near one of the signs there is it still there?

Lieutenant Aaron Williams said yes, it was almost over towards the Punta Gorda side towards Tiki. Yes, I believe that's still there, I believe that is a Hurricane vessel still and it sunk. You can see a couple of feet of it. Eventually it will be removed, it's just a matter of time and discusses with the members.

Russ Tryder with Boaters Alliance and Punta Gorda Sailing Club said in Gilcrest Park on the fishing pier there is a sunken boat there.

Officer Russell PGPD said so just to address that, that is being worked that was a previous FWC case that boat was going towards the sailing club. They were working it as a derelict, and it ended up breaking free and drifting over toward the pier in one of those random windy storms. That is where it sunk to the bottom, but it is in the process and will go up for removal. Has received a couple of calls, one was a houseboat and discusses with the members.

D. MSBU Update – Matt Logan

Mr. Logan gives a brief history of the primary items on his MSBU project update list and give you the update on the beaches as well.

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

- The Bid documents have been submitted to purchasing.

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:

- ATL mobilized to the site on December 4th and began the dredging of the interiors on December 11th. They are currently dredging the Jupiter 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 has been completed.

Suncoast Waterway: No active projects at this time.

E. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Ms. Eastes said we have six open cases, eleven ready to be removed, and talk about the boats to be relocated, talks about the two vessels that are in the waterway and at risk and should be removed before they become derelict.

F. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell is not present.

• **Ainger Creek Park:**

o Park Redevelopment project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County’s Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: 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. Grant applications are being prepared for FWC's Florida Boating Improvement Program grant.

• **Allapatchee Park:** No projects at this time.

• **Anger Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.

• **Bayshore Live Oak Park:**

o Fishing Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; additional project

information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. The pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions; regulatory agencies are requiring the project to be fully re-permitted; the FDEP permit was issued; we are still waiting on ACOE.

- **Boca Grande Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Butterford Waterway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center:**
 - o Seawall replacement design project is being managed by Community Services; the design team is has started the initial design.
- **Cedar Point Environmental Park:**
 - o Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July. Staff is reviewing the 30% design plans.
- **Centennial Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Darst Park:**
 - o 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.
 - o 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:**
 - o Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permits have been approved; constriction specs have been submitted to purchasing.
- **Hathaway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Live Oak Point:**
 - o The erosion assessment project has been completed. The project design has been awarded; however more damage was sustained as part of Hurricane Idalia.
- **Placida Fishing Pier:**
 - o Community Services is managing the parking lot and solar lighting of the pier. The project is in permitting.
- **Placida Park:**
 - o 2014 Sales Tax project for the boat ramp expansion is being managed by Facilities

Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: The County and engineering consultants are still working with FDEP and USACE to garner approvals and obtain permits for the project.

- **Port Charlotte Beach Park:**

- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Recreation Center is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: Charlotte County Facilities has submitted Design Development plans for Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center to the following departments for review: Community Development, Public Works, Facilities, Utilities, and Community Services, with a deadline of March 15, 2024, for comments.
- o 2020 Sales Tax Tier 2 project for the Pool is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: We are still researching with the floodplain manager the type/amount of fill we can place at the pool and pool house.

- **Riverside Park:**

- o Ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels due to safety issues cannot be address via repairs. The project is being managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: 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:**

- o HURRICANE DAMAGE of the c/k launch boarding pier project; repairs waiting on determination from FEMA.
- o Community Services is also managing a ramp scour protection project the design is at 90% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.

- **William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park:**

- o The trails, boardwalk, fitness equipment and signage project is being managed by Community Services; additional project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Project is in progress and staff is surveying the project area for gopher tortoises.
- o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: No March update provided.
- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Phase 3 is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: No March update provided.

7. New Business –
None offered.

Chair Ireland said we should talk about the grants, as you know we've postponed until next month and asks does anyone have any questions on any of them.

Mr. Hickey said last year we were trying to rustle around what we would consider eligible and what we wouldn't. I think a year ago somebody was asking for a truck, and we determined that trucks aren't. We were going to get together, or somebody was going to get together. Let some of the new members what criteria is and what do we allow. Trucks aren't we know that. We have a grant right now asking for a shelter for a building and a fence. Is that something that's allowed or not? Is that an actual voting thing, like the truck was not an actual voting.

Chair Ireland in my opinion that was not.

Mr. Hickey said I know it's too late now we got today and next month. But I think we need to work on putting together something for next year. Put on the pre-agenda and they discuss this.

Mr. Russell said we don't do boats, or do we?

Chair Ireland oh yes, we do.

Mr. Russell we do boats ok, but we don't do trucks, what about trailers, boat trailers? Where does that fall?

Commissioner Deutsch said we'll find out someday.

Mr. Russell all this is coming back from a year ago and were asked for all kinds of crazy things. We need to set some parameters not only for us to make these decisions. But for those who are asking for grants.

Commissioner Deutsch said we turned down the water, the commission approved it, it's one of the few things that the commission hasn't pretty much, against your recommendations. But it's the Waterfest and a small discussion takes place.

Mr. Welsh said somebody sent out the financials for Waterfest from a couple of years ago who was that.

Mr. Beiter said me.

Mr. Welsh said I just wanted to thank you because looking at it and I don't have it in front of me. But it appears they got \$50,000 in grants, and at the end of the day with profits and income and expenses. They wound up making about \$150,000 so, I think right there the commissioners need to know that. This is not a money losing or even close to losing money operation. If you can walk away from the end of the day after expenses with \$150,000.

Chair Ireland said right and then there's a question raised. As to the fact that they were giving grants themselves from those profits.

Mr. Welsh said well I'm assuming and again because there wasn't a lot of detail because the federal government doesn't require it. That would have been listed under expenses. But I don't know so, they have income and expenses and then the bottom-line excess revenue around \$150,000. So, I would think that they would have to list those grants as expenses, but I could be wrong.

Commissioner Deutsch said I can't speak for them, however on what they do. They rely heavily on volunteer and volunteer organizations. What happens is what they do, is those groups that step up and provide some kind of dozens of people to assist in the event. If there's money leftover that gets distributed back to those non-profits. Now that's a rough example, but what I think we can do, and I could help make this happen if you choose to do it at some point is we could invite, maybe not this time of the year. We could invite some of the people in from Waterfest, I think they would be happy to share.

Chair Ireland said we've done that.

Mr. Welsh said we've asked and asked and asked and they never shared anything.

Commissioner Deutsch said it's all public, all their stuff has to be public.

Mr. Beiter said he got it from the IRS website and it's I think three years old and a great lack of specificity of what's going on and has a discussion with many members.

Mr. Darden said over last several meetings we've been discussing Waterfest and water quality and we're \$119,000 over the application. Cuts have to be made somewhere, last year we did not recommend Waterfest to be funded and it was not. Talks about tents and chairs on beach not boater related. I can justify some of their stuff.

Mr. Welsh said I apologize, I brought it up because of the financials that were sent out and I agree, let's go back to our process.

Mr. Wolley said one thing that is noticeably missing here, is any revenue they earned. I don't think the event is free. This seems to be a profit-making organization right now.

Mr. Darden said we need \$119,000 cut off of this opportunity and when cut all of Waterfest, and we gain \$36,000 right. Ok so that clears the \$119,000 plus then retain an extra \$10,000. So we consider water quality which the objection with a little less argumentative. The main issue with the water quality is the precedent that is sets that you're putting water quality testing in canals. Then there are a million canals here so what kind of precedent are we setting by funding that. Then talks about Team Punta Gorda that they are running an operation with grant annuity with the county and it's not like MSBU, talks about grant funding, and if extra money then we can put it towards water quality.

Mr. Hickey ask for stuff that's all-building material, concrete slab, to build a shed it's under the Coast Guard 87 and that is \$6,425 if you took that out. Because we don't do buildings and slabs and sheds. Talks about bringing the numbers down. It's all building materials, a 13x30 aluminum structure, chain link fence, poured concrete pad, and a connection pad. Now we are down only a deficit of \$3578 according to my calculator, we are getting pretty close to being able to fund it. I'm downloading every single one of the applications and scrutinizing and that's what I am getting at, what we allow and what we don't allow. That might be one of the things that we don't allow.

Mr. Darden can you tell us what the purpose is of the items is, a small discussion takes place with Mr. Hickey.

Chair Ireland said somebody brought it up that the fact that the water quality situation is different. But there are places where we have a MSBU that collects money and covers it. Why should not other people do the same thing and discusses about this.

Tom Cavanaugh with Team Punta Gorda and have Nancy Johnson chief executive officer of Team Punta Gorda. We have been working with the county over the past year or two getting involved with water quality and to understand what the issues are. Talks about one of the meetings they were at with Brandon Moody, and he showed us all of the monitoring points throughout the county. Then it came to none in the city, and the city's canals deemed by DEP regards to bacteria. We thought it was appropriate we start a campaign to identify what the issues might be within the canal system. To find out what the impairments, what they are. Are they coming from the canal into the harbor, are they coming from the harbor into the canal system. We enlisted a bunch of volunteers, and they recently completed a training course. Explains to the member about the clean water project and what they do.

Mr. Darden talks about the biggest controversy we have here is the form that the money that this body is for and boater access to the water. I just want to know there are orientations that specifically provide funds for water quality. And asks Tom if he applied for funds to that organization.

Nancy Johnson with Team Punta Gorda talks about the application and wrote a rotary foundation grant and got some start-up funds from the Punta Gorda rotary. Received some donated funds and says anything that we can offer to this project, none of us are asking for funds. We just think it's really important and had a great meeting with Brandon and the city yesterday. Where we identified our goals and objectives and timeline. Got our assignments and I typed them up last night after the meeting, we really want to know what is going on in our canal system.

David Shultz with Heal Our Harbor we provide the scientific expertise, I am the scientist, which is assigned. Talks about the funds they have about \$30,000 what we could do as advisory time into this project. Talks about what they bring to the table and to make it much more effective and hoping to roll this out into the Pilot program.

Commissioner Deutsch said we ran into this with the Manchester Waterway when they came in for additional testing and I sat in on a lot of meetings with Brandon and the people doing it. Generally, I would assume or expect it's the same thing with these guys. When we have them test, they do a lot more and it costs a lot less. For example, the type of testing in the Manchester when we do our testing, we do it off the shore. When the group goes out and do it, they do it out in the canal in the water and the equipment and they're trained to do that. I am trying to remember; I think that there is one extra test they do and maybe one test they don't do. It was pretty close in terms of the things, and we would get this from Brandon, and he would go over it. I don't recall the specific test, but if you look at taxpayer dollars it's a good value. Because the test results we get are essentially more accurate and better than we get on the coast. If they're out 20-30 feet to the middle of the canal. I think it made sense if we have the money to do it it's a great idea.

Chair Ireland said the point of the whole thing is that there are many communities that have funded the water quality testing and they just go do it. They pay \$20.00 to \$25.00 per year per lot and why should somebody else not do that.

Mr. Welsh said I thought about this at the pre meeting. Clean water is critical and essential to all of us especially to boaters. So, I don't see this outside the bounds of what were here for. I don't think we should

rule out ever giving money to do water quality. In fact, maybe we ought to step back and revisit it for other communities in the future. I think this is a worthy project because quite frankly because I am concerned personally about water quality, and I think most boaters are concerned as well. If we can step up and do something to assist in improving our water quality, I think we should do that.

Mr. Killion said I am the member of the West County Stormwater MSBU and our MSBU runs over \$100,000 a year for water quality projects. Like with everybody here we work with Brandon through the county. But these MSBU's there is one of all areas in the county whether it be mid-county, south-county and mine is west-county. If you add the three of them together were funding over \$300,000 a year. My opinion is that's the avenue where these funds should come from. Some of what I paid for is actually sampled within the harbor itself off of a boat. Some of them are actually out in the gulf, some of them are throughout the county. Also, within Mr. Ireland's South Gulf Cove. But that's the revenue source that should be used. We just raised part of our taxes last year to cover some of the water quality projects in West County. I don't see why Punta Gorda can't do the same for their canals.

Tom Cavanaugh said the fact that hoping to get grant funding from this committee to fund our water research on water quality testing. Does not preclude at some point in time the city of Punta Gorda may initiate some type of funding to accelerate the process or the information from it. At the beginning of it to identify the problems at the source. The city may step up to the plate and assume responsibilities down the road and in a different format or contribute funding, we don't know yet. But we need to work with the county and continue to work with the county and see where this takes us.

Mr. Russell said there is one common dominator of this whole thing. Water in Florida most of it anyhow flows from north to south in other words. Peace River, Myakka what feeds those two rivers ends up in your canals, ends up in our harbor, ends up going out to the gulf. We need to be looking also up at the sources of this stuff, that enters from outside of our county. There is one name that stands out, everybody I hope knows it. There is a lot of people in this county don't have a clue when I mention that name, then go what's that. That is a common denominator that we all should be monitoring and keeping an eye on. Because that is the source of some of the worst stuff that could possibly destroy our waters. I don't want to mention the name I think you know the name; can I say it.

Chair Ireland said are you talking about Lake O?

Mr. Russell said who? Starts with an M.

Mr. Bigness said my thought is a little further down the road, were talking about looking at the symptoms which are what ya know testing, the next step is what are you going to do about. When you find out things that are in there and quite frankly a lot of its common-sense stuff. There are projects, I have a project I am working on and there is an 18-inch outfall pipe it's not in Charlotte County. But it goes from the road down two-three hundred feet out into the bay. It's just a pipe and when it rains its collecting water off the roads, people here we probably fertilize our yards, things like that, all those things are getting there. Those are the things I think quite frankly, we know there's issues with what's coming off and going into the water. But a lot of it's here locally, so everybody here wants clean water, that no doubt about it. Everybody here is in agreement with that, I think the question is how are you funding it, I think there is already vehicles that are in place. I agree with your sediment on it, and the thing is ok we grant a testing. Now what's the next step ok we want money for implementation.

Mr. Hickey said who funded the Manchester project, this all kind of came up same kind of thing around two years ago was it?

Commissioner Deutsch said last year.

Mr. Hickey does anybody know where that funding finally ended up.

Commissioner Deutsch said I don't recall.

Chair Ireland said I don't either.

Mr. Welsh said I heard that Brandon Moody funded this but maybe not.

Commissioner Deutsch said I remember now, hold on, there was some one group had some funding that could legitimately do it and there was a question, and they were going to decide if they wanted to go ahead and do the testing.

Mr. Hickey said but we did not.

Commissioner Deutsch said Moody had some money in his budget that could cover it, but not the whole thing.

Mr. Hickey said the MAC did not fund it. I just want to make sure it wasn't a precedence.

Nancy Johnson said it's always been our intent that we are not asking for any funding for it. It's always been our intent to do Public Education campaign perhaps next year. Once we know what were talking about and the test come back and say fertilizer run off is a big issue or human waste or whatever it comes back and discusses whatever the result.

David Shultz said 20 percent of testing sites are outside of the city if you're in the county, it's not entirely the city project and I maybe speaking a little bit out of school, but we had plans to bring attention to this with and talk of universities with this water event project and interested in with following it forward. So, we get local attention and university attention then we move onto the federal government where the real money is. So that they can come in and help mitigate the problem. That really is our goal long term.

Chair Ireland said OK that issue will be with us for some time, now moving onto old business.

8. Old Business –

Chair Ireland said Mr. Bigness do you plan to be with us? In the foreseeable future.

Mr. Bigness said if permitted, Chair Ireland said there is a county rule and missing two meetings in a row, that you're no longer part of it, and we were gonna address you today and I figured that's why you're hear. Do you intend to be with us. Mr. Bigness said it is my plan, and he discusses his business and one of the problems he has is his career, his job what I do is construction and they both have a discussion on this and tells the Chair he is also on the P&Z board and the discussion continues.

Mr. Russell asks is this if you miss the main meeting or this include the pre-agenda?

Chair Ireland said main meeting.

Mr. Russell asks as long as you give notice that you're not going to be able to attend is that considered excused?

Chair Ireland said yes, and they both discuss.

Mr. Hickey said for some of the new people might go over what's are when we are on recess. I want to get clarification on that. When do we go on recess, which months don't we meet?

Chair Ireland said July and August.

Mr. Darden said where is the rule.

Chair Ireland said county legal, and both discuss.

Mr. Bigness said by the time we find out it's too late and people aren't at their desks, and you call, I've done that before and it just happens.

Chair Ireland said stuff happens and just so you are aware we're watching ya and we're concerned. If we didn't miss you, we didn't care, we wouldn't even bring it up.

9. Other Business –

Ms. Campanella said I have something that's not related to the committee here, so do you want to wait until you adjourn and then I can bring it up.

Chair Ireland said yes.

Mr. Russell said couple things I want to thank Corporal Aaron Williams for responding to a call a couple of weekends ago. I live down by the beach near Buena Vista and the beach complex Port Charlotte and I was on a boat with a few friends. We're going by the point down there and like always there were a few boaters that like to beach their boat and there are two signs on either side that says keep your boats out of here. This is where we actually cut the dredge, it's right up against the sand that is where they cut it. I mean these people beached their boat right there. They are swimming the kids are swimming and of course this is all moving out. Then from the other side you've got silt that comes in. But Corporal Williams responded an hour and a half later I went by there he cleaned them out. I want to make a request to the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol on the weekends I hear from all of my neighbors, and they say every weekend there is people beaching their boat right there. Now you can beach your boat before there or beyond the other side. You don't have to beach it right there; you can beach it away from there and not be causing an issue with our access into Sunrise Waterway. It's between the hours of 12 and 3 pm on Saturdays and Sundays whoever is on patrol in Charlotte Harbor please go by there. Just go by there and getting them in the habit of norm that they are going to be called out. I would appreciate if you all would do that, and my neighbors would appreciate that. We are having to spend money on our MSBU to dredge over there and it's not fair. Because we have a boat launch over there that services a lot of people. Spring Lake also has a boat launch they don't have an MSBU, but yet their boats come down there and where they come in and tee into the Sunrise Waterway is right where we have the issues that we need to be dredging all the time. We have to do it through Buena Vista, and I think it's somewhat unfair and I know that MAC has given a \$45,000 grant towards the issue there at Sunrise Waterway and I appreciate that. But that's a drop in the bucket when these guys screw it up really good. We really need the Sheriff's Marine Patrol there and if

people are there tell them to get out. Unfortunately, the sign they have there is too small, and people say we didn't see the sign. I don't who handles the signs, but we need a bigger sign, so they can't miss it.

Mr. McIntosh said can we put some kind of rope out there and rope off that area and make swim areas. Then it would be obvious if they go across the rope that there in the wrong.

Mr. Russell said then these guys would come in and arrest us.

Mr. Gloer said I just wanted to know perhaps into the Isles Yacht Club, I live over there and marker 2 maybe it's already been reported but it's damaged and the lights not working on that marker. Is it a city or is that who's in charge.

Mr. Hickey and Mr. Wolley speak on the marker.

Mr. Welsh said the phone number on the marker that actually goes to the city canal maintenance person or just call Cathy.

Lt. Aaron Williams said just in response to the beach complex we absolutely ask as manpower is permitting, we will have people over there. As I stated earlier today, we have had a little increase of numbers of our marine unit. We are not fully staffed yet, but we have increased numbers and that is giving us a little bit more flexibility to start addressing some of these complaints. So, we will continue and try and increase patrols in that area as manpower permits. Talks of some of those issues can be handled by a patrol deputy so call into that non-emergency number and discusses all of this with the members.

Chair Ireland said we don't want to add to your load.

Lt. Aaron Williams said it's our job.

10. Good of the Order
None offered.

11. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, April 4, 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, April 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106 in Murdock Building B.**

13. Adjournment

Chair Ireland said the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.
Minutes Approved


Tom Ireland, Chair

Jim Darden for Tom Ireland