



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 10, 2025

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

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 sign in sheet is provided on the table for your convenience.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION 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.

D. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS TO PLEASE KEEP CONVERSATIONS TO A WHISPER DUE TO THE RECORDING SYSTEM PICKS UP ALL VOICES/NOISES WHICH THEN THE AUDIO IS NOT CLEAR FOR THE RECORD.

4. Changes to the Agenda – Chair Darden said to change 6 A approval of the minutes – they are not finished yet and no other changes.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items –

Leonard Von Eaton speaks he is a resident in the Buena Vista area. Moved here about six years ago to retire and my passion is sailing. Over the past two and half years after Hurricane Ian, I have been severely restricted in using my boat. I use the Sunshine Waterway and it's so shallow at the deepest part and I can not get by unless it's at very high tide. I am not the only one that has this problem, there are thirty-five boats in my neighborhood that use that waterway, and they are restricted. Seven of those boats are severely restricted which means in the wintertime you just can't get out unless you want to leave at 2:00 in the morning and come back within an hour when the tide is still very high. It's not very high in the winter any time. So, I am paying a hefty property tax and an MSBU tax to keep those waterways safe and navigable and it doesn't seem like that's happening. Since Hurricane Ian many of the citizens have been begging to have that waterway fixed. We have been told over and over that's been done or it's being done and two and half years later it's not been done. So, the county says they are trying to be good stewards of our money, but they blew over a million dollars to have this done and it's not done. So, I don't really call

that being a good steward of our money. Talks about money from FEMA for the projects, mentioned he came to the meeting last month and was told to come back to this meeting and what has been done in a month. Wants something to be done about the waterways and change the ways this works so we can have safe and navigable waterways. The waterways need to be dredged and what would be the hold up.

Chair Darden said thank you for your comment, you had three minutes, and we need to move on. Then asks are there any other citizen comments.

Chuck Witski said I am the vice-chair of the MSBU demo who run the city and dredge over there. We kind of got tied in with the flooding and two hurricanes that caused delays of final dredge. My concern right now is pushing the current dredge, there is a lot of commotion about opening the park. I sent a set of drawings and different things to the commissioners. I am hoping the sand that we dredge out of there can be used for beach restoration. That would serve two things and open up the waterway probably before we get the bid in. DeWayne will probably talk about this later, but it's looking like our dredge is probably going to be maybe late August, October. I don't know if you all are familiar with the beach park, but there is a point on the end that fills in constantly and you guys have been gracious to send us \$125,000 for the last dredge. I have not seen the final receipts and it's looking like we spent about a million dollars, and we covered half the dredge. Again, we are waiting on FEMA money like everybody else.

Janis Denton said I am on the City of Punta Gorda City Council, and I came to talk to you about Laishley Marina. Many of you know that it's been fairly destroyed from various hurricanes. Talks about the dredging in the marina which are about three feet deep. But there is also broken docks, many issues there and boats on the seawall. I wanted to talk about money, and everybody needs money, we can't count on FEMA for money because it takes so long. The citizens of Punta Gorda don't use the marina that much since probably a good fifty percent have their own docks and lifts. It's used by the county, it's used by Charlotte Harbor, it's used by everyone, we're responsible for it, it is not just a city marina. The boat launch gets used, there is a few docks being used by Freedom Boat Club but it's not basically bringing in any income right now and still costing the city money. So, the city doesn't have the funds to restore it and so we need funds, and I don't know where to go. So, I came to you because it's part of my job. I am a lifelong mariner I've had yacht, sails, businesses, charters, been to the canal three times like fifty to sixty thousand miles. I am a mariner and that's why I care, we don't have access either in the form of dingy docks, Fisherman's Village or our Marina to be a maritime town. If you have a dingy or a boat or anything so we have been fairly wiped out, we all understand the issues. But I would like to work with anyone including you Commissioner to help figure out how to resolve some of these issues and turn us back into a harborside hometown for the whole county, the whole of Florida who comes to visit.

Scott Pro said I live in the Buena Vista area so I get out of the Elkcarn, a lot of buddies of mine go out the other side and a lot of times we can not get together because of the dredging issues. So, I asked the question of the county what is your obligation to dredge. The answer was we have no obligation to dredge. I asked the question two times, does anybody agree with that. Well two times the county engineer of wrote I think we have no obligation to dredge. Which just is astounding one because we are just like Janis mentioned we are a maritime community and two why are you collecting my money then because you have no obligation to dredge. So, I proposed the question a bunch of different ways and I went everybody's read ordinance 8842 right Noel. You know exactly what that says and it basically says section four, it says we have an obligation under the ordinance. Which is effectively a county or municipal law to provide maintenance of the waterways. So, again the law says you provide dredging, you collect my funds my tax money to do it and nothing happens in three years which is absolutely ridiculous. It is absolutely astounding to me that there is not a spot dredge contract. Why do we wait until we have a big problem

and then we go and then we go through this methodical design bid, build process and execute as proposed to have a spot bid dredge contract in place. Where if you have a section that is no more than a hundred feet long, two hundred feet long you send somebody out there with a barge, an excavator and a tank. Then you excavate it out and make a passage. But again, three years later we can't even figure that part out. So, somebody is truly falling down on their responsibilities in their job and why we can't do that I don't know. Talks about what Janis said that we have the boat ramps that we need to have access to the water. We have a broken boat ramp that goes all the way back to Hurricane Ian. Everybody knows what the DDD document is that goes into FEMA anybody anyway. Then explains about this process.

Mr. Russell said I am also a citizen, so I am going to be leaving early so I won't be able to talk at the appropriate time. DeWayne is our point person he fairly new, but he is learning fast. Here is the thing, every time we go to DeWayne, to the county, to Scott's point we get push back, push back it's not DeWayne's fault. It's somebodies' fault it's a groups fault, but the bottom line is we aren't getting what we need to get. The only solution I know of is we MSBU members committee vote to raise the dues to the community so we can cover it out of pocket. That is the quick solution and if you figure out how much we need instead of paying \$100 dollars a year, we pay about \$1,200 dollars a year per house waterfront. That would cover it, that would cover because it's gone up. Three times what it was three years ago, we could have done it for \$400k and change. Now it's a million and something. Where's the money coming from, the only solution is immediately is we raise our MSBU, and I think we would have an uprising. DeWayne is going to be helping up solve this problem, we don't have another meeting until July 23rd, we have four meetings a year for the MSBU. The last one was in February it's the way the schedule plays out. That's what we are up against, we don't even know if we will be able to meet on the thing until July 23rd ok. I don't know if I can for an emergency meeting or not, I'm the chairman I need to find out if that would be a solution. Are we going to have any information before July 23rd the last time I was there with you. We looked at all this information on July 23rd but not before that because with all the things that have to be done. So, that's where we are at, I would have wished it had been done two years ago but it hadn't.

Commissioner Deustch said as you guys know I live down there and familiar with the area. We have talked about in here and Beaches and Shores repeatedly. There is a real challenge down on the waterway because of the conversions and canals without a hurricane. It probably should be dredged at least every two years because it fills in so quickly. Which we can't control and several years ago, we got a hold of Michael Poff who is with Coastal Engineering. Some of you are familiar and I know some people here are and I am going back years ago when we did Stump Pass. That worked it was on a large scale, but it worked. So, I recommended that we have Coastal Engineering look into the possibility of some kind of mooring system. I am not an engineer on it but if it will deal with the waters at Stump Pass, it ought to be able to help and do something here. That when we do the dredging forget about the hurricane, it should happen a little quicker. I understand there has been a study done I don't know how realistic it is or if it will help. I did have someone come into my office a couple of years ago. You may remember seeing those big triangular concrete things that they used as a system and again when we dredge and if we can do that it might slow down the filling in with the harbor. I will check back with my people on this to see the status of that. Talks about the overriding thing and very few in this room know of the full extent of the damage that we had in the county. I said the other day if FEMA walked in and gave us \$200 million dollars today because of engineering, permitting, what we must go through they tell me if we had the money, it would take seven years to get the county back to where it should have been. Which is mind boggling to me. Because you need staff, engineering, planning, design and it's not that we are overwhelmed with this. I am only one of five from my point of view I'm trying to get us to move as quickly as we possibly can all of this stuff to get it opened. Tells all what is to do and the steps with this being government.

Chair Darden said we are going to discuss this further in agenda items let's try to move on.

Mr. Russell the problem we've got at the point is I sent a movie to the commissioners of boats there trying to get out. They are destroying the fifty-foot-wide cut, and law enforcement has told me they can't do anything about it because it's against the law to stop them. It's not against the law for them to tie their boats up there. Something has to be done; something has got to give and that's where the groin system or something that would preclude people from tying their boats up and then swimming there. The kids are swimming there with boats and boats are coming in and out of there. Because you're coming from East Spring Lake, you're coming down and up Sunrise Waterway, you're coming off the boat launches. You have a four-way intersection there, right there at the point and it's supposed to be fifty-feet and it's like ten or fifteen-feet wide now. The rest of it goes down to nothing.

Chair Darden said thank you Mr. Russell and other comments, citizens comments, none. I would like to introduce a couple of people to Commissioner Deutsch, Jim Pase is our new Isles Yacht Club Representative, and he is replacing Mr. Wolley, Charles Wolley are you here. **Mr. Wolley** said I am here, and Chair Darden said thank you and presents a card from the members and appreciate everything you have done for us. **Mr. Wolley** said it's been a pleasure serving on this committee for four years, Commissioner Deutsch and his unwavering support of this committee is really something that I am very impressed with. I think this committee has the best interest to help the harbor for years to come.

Chair Darden said to Commissioner Deutsch that Jenna Ginsberg joined the team with South Gulf Cove Yacht Club, Ralph Lombardo is with Placida, these are the new representatives.

Commissioner Deutsch said I know these guys.

Chair Darden said then we would move on to Regular Agenda, I'll hear from Liz Eastes with the Derelict Vessel Report

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from March 13, 2025.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Liz Eastes said we have another update since I printed this off, we have five open cases. One from 2023 that has been on administrative hold and is ready for removal and one was removed. We have eighteen ready for removal.

Commissioner Deutsch asks Liz Eastes on getting the support of Fish and Wildlife on removal or is that ended.

Liz Eastes said we are catching a few hang ups, which is why the ready for removal is sitting and they both have a discussion along with **Ms. Ginsberg**, **Mr. Russell**, and **Mr. Pase**.

Mr. Lombardo said he commends Liz Eastes for the work she is doing, and my question is can we have a representative from FWC to come to the next meeting and explain the processes. Obviously, it's not her job to do that.

Chair Darden said yeah actually I just wrote that down about FWC briefing since a majority of our list is FWC. If you could just clarify for me though if it's FWC then it's also FEMA.

Ms. Eastes said no, and a discussion ensues.

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

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Crpl. Williams is absent.

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

Officer Russell said our process is basically we are working with FWC for removals, due to our capacity of IT and their system is better than ours. So, when we get a case, we'll compile information. We work hand and hand with FWC, they'll start the derelict process. **Liz Eastes** said so if that case is on here, it will be an FWC case and **Officer Russell** said correct.

Mr. Lombardo said can I make a motion that we request FWC by a representative at the next meeting to discuss this.

Mr. Lombardo made a motion to include FWC in one of the meetings at their earliest convenience and we will put that on the New Business.

Mr. Hyde says five vessels that I am curious about.

Chair Darden said we are doing the motion.

Ms. Ginsberg said I will second it.

Chair Darden said all in favor of getting FWC to do a briefing.

Mr. Hyde continues with five vessels, and I don't know if they are on this list or not. Four of them are in the Laishley Marina right now, the one that Janis talked about is the one that is sticking up in the air. You can see it driving across the bridge. Are those on this list?

Liz Eastes said no, those should not be on this list. A discussion ensues with Ms. Ginsberg, Officer Russell, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Russell and others.

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Kris McGrae said speaking on this derelict issue here and goes over the boats they have been dealing with and discusses about citations written for lights at night. Talks about a boat with the person being homeless and trying to locate owner and goes on with the list. Speaks with Liz about the updates from Detective Nelson on those for your derelict vessel's spreadsheet. We have been working with the county as far as the public fishing piers that are all closed. The sheriff's office enforced the trespassers who are wanting to go out on these properties. We don't want them to get hurt, harmed and furthermore sue the county for any wrongdoing on their part. With being on these properties that are very publicly posted as trespassing and closed. We recently met with the Big Boy Toys concert promoter regarding the H2O music fest that is going to be occurring at the end of next month for Memorial Day. Last year they expected a

projected turn out was 70,000 they are projecting the same amount this year. We are working with Charlotte County Fire EMS, Englewood Fire, FWC, Punta Gorda, Lee County and Coast Guard for the event for coverage there. It went over last year with very minimal incidents, other than a few DUI's, a few domestic related events, had a baker act. So, we're working with all those agencies to hopefully continue that process with going over any major concerns. We are aware Mr. Russell of your recent video with your large boat coming out of the Alligator Bay area. Near the Port Charlotte Beach Complex, we understand as you guys have spoke very in depth on that. The boaters are going there, and they are boating at the end of the peninsula there. Where the shoal banking has occurred, it's unfortunate for your guys that live there, to try to get out of there with any deep draft boat, large beam boat. Sheriff's Office is aware of that, my team is understanding that there are also issues with boaters, banking their boat in that small navigable channel there. That has even lessened now because of all the sand that has filled in at the end of the peninsula. We are working with county signage there to try and figure out the best options on if an ordinance can be enacted for us to get signage placed for swimmers to not be in the navigable channel in that area. We do hear your concerns, we do see your videos, we do see the emails. If I could have a twenty-man team I would put them all over the county, a forty-man team, I would love to have that many guys out here. Just in the last week we've been on four rescues with our team alone. Yes, it's feeling more like summer out there, the weather is nice but it's windy. We rescued three paddle boarders yesterday, two kayakers the day before that, and we're also part of the marine emergency response team. Talks about all the other agencies and with them helping and assisting the different counties, we all work well together as a team. Also talks about them doing everything they can to get the people to pay the right authorities back for this money. This ultimately comes out of everyone's pockets here to take care of these and explains about all the authorities that assist from across the state and they come from the north, south, east and west to deal with all the hurricane related vessels.

Ms. Ginsberg said I just want to thank you for the patrols you're doing with the vessels in our lagoon and helpful. The work you are doing it is appreciated and helpful by our community. My concern is when FWC works the case you are not working it, I know that you guys follow up, cite them and go through this and fall in the cracks and both discuss.

Mr. Hyde said how much emphasis is law enforcement able to put on the vessels as Jenna and I have both mentioned that aren't registered, don't have lights on at night. I don't even want to think of the sanitation systems they have on board. Those are the boats that eventually become derelict. Because their owners will not spend the money to even register their boat or put a proper light on it. They are the ones that will be derelict someday and then we will deal with them. So, how much emphasis are you able to put on checking boats, let's say just unregistered that have no decal or no number if they are not documented.

Sgt. Kris McRae said I have one guy designated on my team to deal with derelict vessels and derelict vessels alone. Also explains about the rest of his team and all that they do, and both discuss.

Commissioner Deutsch said unless it's a hazard to navigation the process to find the owner takes months and step by step because we must follow the old marine laws. If it's a hazard to navigation they can act on it quickly. Quick question, several years ago we had some serious problems with Chadwick Cove. Is that still a problem it used to be, and **Sgt. Kris McRae** said it is not we do have our issues like Punta Gorda has down with the mooring fields, not so much the mooring fields the area out in front of Fisherman's Village, Gilcrest Park and all that.

Ms. Gassett Shoemaker said it was early last year that Aaron Williams put together the process flow diagram for the derelict boat process. We have a lot new members and maybe we should recirculate that,

to understand there is a process in place. I still have it and could send it to Kim to distribute. The sticker is part of it the different color stickers, the problem is the community doesn't understand what color the sticker is unless it has instructions on it. A discussion ensues with Sgt. Kris McRae and Chair Darden.

Chair Darden said your vessels are on this report right, the ones you are taking care of. Sgt. Kris McRae said yes.

Officer AJ Russell with Punta Gorda Police said had some rescues the last couple of days, kayaker overturned and was transported, and he is in good health., assisted animal control in an investigation with some dogs on a boat. FWC obviously Coast Guard is investigating that. Talks about stuff in the marina and will reach out to Tom Massey the engineer to see he can give an update about removal. FWC can give me an update on the dual mast sailboat. Last week I went to a regional meeting in Sanibel Harbor, people from Tampa to Naples were there, marine units and stuff like that. Venice and Cape Coral both gave presentations about their newly enacted anchorage limitation zones. Obviously, the city has a mooring field, but we have an undesignated mooring area, where people just drop anchor and leave boats for extended periods of time. These zones essentially limit how many days or x number of days that they can stay in one spot and enforce violations. Talks on report, signage and a discussion with Chair Darden takes place including the new law with boarding a boat.

Ms. Campanella speaks to Officer Russell she is a vessel inspector, and we were told this is probably several years ago that if a boat has got the inspection sticker on it. That law enforcement is not allowed to stop it for a minor like he said for inspection, only if there is a possible suspected crime on that boat, is that true and both discuss.

Mr. Hyde asks Officer Russell regarding those boats you mentioned where there is nobody on it, and you see there is no registration or you're out there at night are you allowed to leave something on that boat telling them there in violation and both discuss.

D. FY25/26 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Debbie Thibideau

Debbie Thibideau is not present.

Chair Darden said Debbie Thibideau is not here today, so we will go to Tina Powell with the community services update.

E. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell goes over her report,

- **Ainger Creek Park:** still waiting for funding we submitted the grant application with the state. So, once we hear back from that we will be able to move forward starting next fiscal year.
- **Allapatachee Park:** parking lot and erosion is in with Army Core and DEP for review.
- **Anger Fishing Pier:** remains closed due to hurricane damage.

- **Bayshore Live Oak Park:** the eastern most parking lot adjacent to Sunseeker has been partially reopened to be able to provide public access to the river walk once Sunseeker opens their portion of it. The rest of the park remains closed due to hurricane damage. We were able after approval from the board to submit our request of purchasing to start the repair designs for that project.
- **Boca Grande Fishing Pier:** also remains closed due to hurricane that one has also be submitted to purchasing to initiate the design process.
- **Butterford Waterway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Cedar Point Environmental Park:** is closed but also, we were designing the replacement of that pier prior to the storm so that design is also actively with Army Core already.
- **Centennial Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center:** the seawall is still with Army core.
- **Darst Park:** is also still with Army Core for their review.
- **El Jobean Fishing Pier:** remains closed due to hurricane damage but a design request was sent to purchasing to initiate that process.
- **Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier:** the southern end of the parking lot has been reopened we do have the shuttle service from Tringali and access to the beach. We are actively working on the phase 2 reopening of that park. The boardwalk has been demolished; we are doing sand sifting in that area to make sure all that debris from the demolished board walk goes out. Purchasing has our contract request for the repairs to the sidewalks, ADA parking, the asphalt, the curbing and the stormwater. So, we can get that second phase of that park opened. We also submitted the long-term design request to the purchasing department to start that. Those are a lot of long lead time permitting projects.
- **Harbour Heights Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Hathaway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park:** is currently closed due to hurricane damage. We are working on a reopening plan and timeline for that park as well.
- **Live Oak Point:** remains closed due to hurricane damage. We have two sets of hurricane damage at Live Oak Point the initial Ian impacts we did receive our Army Core permit. We are working on our construction bid documents to make sure they are structured in a way that we can maximize our FEMA reimbursement for the Ian portion of those damages. Which is primarily erosion, and the seawall. The Helene/Milton damages which are further erosion, the seawall, the boardwalks, the fishing piers, the restrooms that has all been submitted to purchasing to initiate the design and permitting of that project as well.
- **Placida Fishing Pier:** also remains closed due to hurricane damage and we are pursuing the design project purchasing for that park as well.

- **Placida Park:** the redesign and expansion project, facilities is managing that we have an internal design team meeting to go over some final requests regarding some of the upland features such as restrooms and things like that. So there working on the cost estimation and any other requirements from other departments. Whether it be public works, utilities, community development so they are actively working through that process.

- **Port Charlotte Beach Park:** the recreation center and the pool are both being managed by facilities. They provided the update that the recreation center design has moved into the development of construction documents. The pool is still under design review at this time. My report does say it is a tier two project which is where it falls in the sales tax. It was advanced to go with the recreation center but was originally designed as a tier two sales tax project. Community services is managing the park amenities project, which is the relocation of the bocce ball we did some public meetings for what else the community wants to see in that little triangle area when you first come in. So, we have a conceptual plan we have moved into the design and permitting phase of that project. So, we are actively working on that. Also, the design request has gone to purchasing for repairs of the single boat lane that was closed from lan damages. A portion of that park still remains closed due to hurricane damage and safety issues. However we did open the sport courts, playgrounds, sailing center and the single boat lane.

- **Riverside Park:** facilities are managing the replacement of that boat ramp. They're developing the construction documents right now to go out to bid. We have received all permits for that project.

- **South Gulf Cove Park:** that ramp is closed due to hurricane damage that is another project where the designer request had gone to the purchasing department.

- **Spring Lake Park:** only the canoe kayak launch remains closed due to lan.

- **William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park:** the ADA canoe/kayak launch is almost done we did our punch through walk yesterday and we got a list of things that facilities their contractor and we must work on to get that going. The sales tax project we are in about fifty percent design documents for that project.

Commissioner Deutsch said just for everyone's interest once the project is done, and it goes to the Core of Army Engineers give them a rough idea of how long that takes. **Tina Powell** said once we have a design that we submitted, anywhere from 18-24 months. The Riverside boat ramp project that we have been working on took just under two years, I'd say about 22 months for that project. **Commissioner Deutsch** said I wanted to share that so people know some of the frustration we get, when we're all set, we got to wait a year and half to two years before we can start the project. **Tina Powell** said unlike our state regulatory agencies, the federal agencies don't have any statutory time requirements. So, when we inquire to the status of a specific project if it has been assigned a reviewer, they may give us an update. If it hasn't, we are just told it is sitting on the desk pending assignment.

Mr. Lombardo said I want to commend you and can you modify this report rather than say no further notice, both discuss.

Ms. Gassett-Shoemaker said Tina you're a rock-star like all the county employees are that join us on the MAC. I think what would be super helpful and this ties into what Ralph is asking for. On a monthly basis you put a lot of effort into creating that report. But if we have a tracker that had each step of the life cycle of a project and where it was when we meet each month. That would take a lot of the guess work out of

this. **Ms. Powell** said part of the issue is it's a lot of guess work for us and discusses the entire process and everything involved.

Mr. Hickey said as the commissioner said Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU, that affects me getting my trowler out I need some depth because I got a heel. Two and a half years for Army Core to approve the permit that finally got pushed through the system emergency stuff. Because of the widespread damage that happened last year. Three hurricanes happened between the time the permit went out Ian, Helene and Milton. So now the delay again and now we got a permit, now they got to go back and do the Bathymetric surveys again, new estimates for how much more needs to be dredged and that delays it even further. Explains the delays regarding the Army Core of Engineers and nothing moves them and how they operate.

Mr. Hyde would like to hear from the citizen. The citizen speaks on sand and emergency dredge, and it would be about \$240 thousand dollars, and he said we can not do that because my directions and my job depend on it following protocol. He said his protocol was this has to go through FEMA and because of that our project went to a million dollars through delays and costs. We got half the job done and we are trying to finish it now with another dredge. The problem is if everything has to go through FEMA you better count on three years that is where we are at. The \$240 thousand dredge we spent a million dollars and we're going to spend another \$300-400 thousand to finish it.

Chair Darden thanks Tina for an outstanding briefing that you gave us, and FEMA is so complicated. A lot of it doesn't make sense and talks about projects.

Tina Powell said I do have one more thing it's not on my list because it's not officially a project. It relates to Port Charlotte Beach and some of the other. We did present a plan to help stabilize Port Charlotte Beach and do some of that and is currently funded on a potential sales tax or the CNA, CIP process it has been identified. Funding hasn't been identified yet so we have a plan we are just waiting for the appropriate process for funding for that. But it's a combination of oyster reefs, some additional sediment track, some wave attenuation items, it's a long-term plan to help mitigate some of those issues. I don't know if it will be fully fixed.

F. MSBU Update – DeWayne Nodine

DeWayne Nodine said I am going to talk on Buena Vista and correct the record. The contract for the project that started last September with Kelly Brothers was \$966 thousand dollars roughly. We shut down the project in mid-November, they started dredging on the Sunrise the most offshore and did the first 450 feet offshore before Helene hit. We have our engineer Coastal Engineering Consultants did the pre-dredge survey real quick for the Gardner Waterway. We sent them over there, that was a different transfer point for the dredge material to shore. They were getting that set up between Helene and Milton, then didn't get to start dredging on Gardner until shortly after Milton. Two and half weeks after Helene hit and that was a bit more delay. They got Gardner dredged, then we did the pre-dredge survey for the George Road. That contract was to dredge Sunrise, consisting of Gardner and George Road waterways and we seen a twenty-five percent volume increase due to Milton. There was additional shoaling we saw someplace in there before they started dredging on the Sunrise. Seen the cash register starting to spin quickly there after Milton so that was the reason why we shut that project down while in progress. To give us time to re-access. Sunrise plus what is going on with the beach park and talks about the materials, change order to revise the project for the Sunrise and beach replenishment. That is now in progress, received the final signed contract days ago and that has been published on the MSBU website. That was sent to the Buena

Vista Advisory Committee Members. There is a very narrow channel on the west side of the Sunrise right off the point. It has been accumulating over time, around 450 yards of additional material was deposited in there by Milton and do not remember the amount from Ian. Talks about the contract with Kelly Brothers and they were not paid all that money, because they did not do all the work that was in the contract because we cancelled it and discusses everything with the project including the price of five hundred and ninety some thousand dollars. So, I want to correct the misstatement that I keep hearing that we spent a million dollars for a project that we stopped while in progress. The contractor did not get paid for any work they didn't do. Talks about moving forward with the revised project, got the survey done for the Sunrise. We had a meeting with someone from community services earlier this week to discuss their need for additional dirt for their plans for the new beach park project. So instead of hauling bad material that is not suitable for the beach replenishment to the county landfill. They've said they would like to have all that material and place above the mean high-water line. Talks about the soil borings, Coastal Engineering and what they can do to speed up don't want delays, they also have customers as well, taking bids in July.

Chair Darden said when you say Buena Vista, what is the difference between Sunrise Waterway, Buena Vista and the area right by the boat ramp by the beach complex. **Mr. Nodine** said that whole area is in the Buena Vista Waterway system, the Buena Vista MSBU and discusses.

Mr. Nodine goes over document on the big screen regarding the Planning and Project Approval Phase and explains each section.

Commissioner Deutsch wants to share if there was somewhere to cut a corner one person would complain.

Chair Darden asks the people who wanted to ask questions, if they could come forward now.

Scott from Buena Vista said why isn't there a capability to do an emergency dredge contract, a standing contract where all we have is one hundred feet out in front of the point. We have an emergency dredge contract we do not need a sophisticated survey. Anybody with a barge and a decent operator could go out there and clear out and at least get the channel functional again so people could pass.

Mr. Nodine said I thought about that a lot and talked to my boss some and the engineer I work with at Coastal still thinking about it some, and always willing to listen to other perspectives. Punta Gorda Isles is a very controlled environment always doing dredging out there I've been told. They have one contractor who knows the waterways very well. In my opinion relatively speaking that's a very controlled environment vs. where we've got if you take a look at a map a lot of waterways and goes over all of them. Then talks about getting a contractor, prices and explains process and all involved.

Chair Darden said a lot involved and get money from WCIND and navigation improvement.

Mr. Hickey speaks on this spot dredging brought to six feet.

Scott with Buena Vista talks on this contract, process and put a design build contract and discusses.

Mr. McIntosh said to Mr. Nodine that Punta Gorda has a spot dredge contract and call them to see how they manage it.

Mr. Hyde speaks on this, and they went from six feet to eight feet and discusses this.

Ms. Ginsberg asks Mr. Nodine if he is finished with his presentation, and he talks to her on this and they have a discussion.

Ms. Gassett-Shoemaker congrats Mr. Nodine on 1 year anniversary and standing in the hot seat. Mr. Nodine speaks on dredging, state law.

Chuck Wotski, MSBU Beach complex closed and partially open, if we have sand available will they be ready to accept it the sand explains and has a discussion.

Chair Darden said lively discussion, we are losing people though, so we need to wrap this up and appreciate everybody's comments and the public especially for coming in and your concerns, thank you DeWayne for providing what you could from an engineering and scheduling prospective. Then said for Mr. Nodine to look into Punta Gorda with a spot dredge contract. It seems like Sunrise channel needs to be dredged more than everything else. If we had something like that it seems like it would be beneficial and may even have precluded the frustrations that the county has gone through already with hurricanes and time.

7. New Business –

Chair Darden said to keep the new business on for grant recommendation guidelines and new anchoring law. We really don't have the speakers here for the new anchoring law, it's still being arranged. The grant recommendation guidelines I'm talking about number seven.

Ms. Ginsberg said do you want to motion to table the two of them. **Chair Darden** said yes.

Jenna Ginsberg made a motion for 7B and 7C New Business to table grant recommendation guidelines and new anchoring law to the next meeting, seconded by **Hank Killion**.

Chair Darden said do we need to hold dredging process on for Old Business or are we done. **Mr. Nodine** said yeah got lot's more to talk about. **Chair Darden** said we will drop that off unless the public has additional comments in the future.

8. Citizens Comments –

Scott with Buena Vista said the Tina Report that kind of detail parks and all that stuff. Although it looks like an interesting report and a lot of pictures but it's woefully lacking in detail, it really needs to address each item for every place and suggests it to be revamped. FEMA is at the heart of a lot of this stuff giving money and we took it upon ourselves to meet with Senators about all this and ask for how do you get the process fixed between the county and the federal government FEMA. The lady we were working with said listen I can help you with your personal case, but the county has to ask me for help. They both discussed about the county not asking them for help and she informed Scott that someone at the county level needs to reach out and get with Senator Scott, Steube all of those individuals and say fix the FEMA process.

Ms. Campanella said this is regarding grants, we had our board meeting yesterday for the boater's club power squadron and the commander was giving his report and was talking about grants and I know we had decided we were told starting next year no more volunteer hours were going to be accepted. Then he goes on to say that the grant request starting next year are going to be half and half and we have to match our grant request is that right.

Chair Darden said no let me explain, if WCIND is not going to allow volunteer hours as matching then yes that organization has to come up with fifty percent. The way this body has been promoting in the past we want to maximize use of all grant monies the best we can and reduce the burden on the organization. Especially those who less money to put toward these things, by using BIF Local for grant funds to supplement WCIND's fifty percent portion. Now we will try to continue to do that as long as we have enough funds in BIF Local. Both discuss the funding and the organizations pertaining to this.

Ms. Ginsberg said going back to the comment that the councilmen from Punta Gorda made about Laishley Marina looking for financial assistance. Talks about them they have had time to fix things like mooring balls and start bringing revenue in. They have options for commercial endeavors that to be a money-making endeavor, they could lease out their lease to they have a submerged land lease from the State of Florida to operate that marina. They are a for profit company, explains and don't understand why they are looking for a handout. **Mr. Hyde** said just to clarify asking for the handout what are you referring to. **Ms. Ginsberg** said she asked for money to help rebuild the marina because of the expense of it and couldn't afford to rebuild the marina was her comment. It sounds like they were looking for money to help rebuild the marina and remove the boats that are there. A discussion ensues with Mr. Hyde and Mr. Gloer.

Mr. Hickey said the city had a sub-contractor or a contractor managing the marina, it was very mismanaged. They weren't keeping track of the insurance, also they got into big trouble with their land lease. As you were saying they had too many people in that marina, no oversight and explains.

Ms. Ginsberg said FEMA won't rebuild docks and discusses.

Mr. Hickey said nothing will be done at Fisherman's Village.

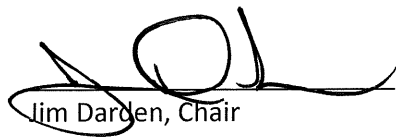
11. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the **E. Jay Carlson Large Conference Room. (f/k/a Building Construction Services)**
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106 in Murdock Building B.**

12. Adjournment

Mr. Hickey made a motion to adjourn and seconded by **Ms. Campanella**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.
Minutes Approved



Jim Darden, Chair