



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 8, 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 – None.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items – None.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from April 10, 2025. (Not done yet)
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from May 01, 2025. (Not done yet)
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Liz Eastes said we have more updates from CCSO since I put this out. We do have five open cases, three of them were removed, two have been relocated and fifteen already to be removed we still have two on administrative hold.

Mr. Pase said there is a vessel that is 40 feet plus right outside of Fisherman's Village, it did not sink by a hurricane it is definitely a problem fourth of July. If anybody has been there at night it is a disaster, it is going to be a real problem. It must be removed before the fourth of July; it is the county's responsibility to take it out of there. **Ms. Eastes** said if it's outside of Fisherman's Village that would be Punta Gorda. **Mr. Pase** said it's almost in the channel. **Ms. Eastes** stated there is a legal process that has to be followed, and they both discuss. **Commissioner Deutsch** said to get a hold of Punta Gorda to put a light on it, talks about the steps, time and speaks to Ms. Ginsberg they both discuss. Then he speaks to Corporal Williams with CCSO that this could be an emergency. **Ms. Ginsberg** said to report it to the Coast Guard as a hazard and discusses with Mr. Pase. **Mr. Lombardo** speaks to the members on this matter regarding this.

Commissioner Deutsch speaks to Ms. Eastes on calling. **Ms. Powell** speaks on this and explains the steps and process, contact the Coast Guard as an individual. **Mr. Lombardo** speaks to Ms. Powell on this, and you don't need to lecture me on this and have drafted letters for the committee and they discuss.

Commissioner Deutsch said where exactly is the boat. **Mr. Pase** said Fisherman's Village, it's about maybe a thousand yards out. **Ms. Ginsberg** said and it sunk? **Commissioner Deutsch** it's partially sunk. **Mr. Pase** said oh yeah. **Commissioner Deutsch** said I am surprised someone over there hasn't reported or done something about it, the most important thing is to get a marker on it, so no one runs into it in the dark and get a light on it. **Mr. Pase** said it's over forty feet long. **Commissioner Deutsch** said how long has it been there. **Mr. Pase** said I would say three months. **Commissioner Deutsch** said no one has hit it yet. **Mr. Hickey** said Officer Russell sent a letter out this week with some things that are in their jurisdiction this is definitely in the city's jurisdiction not the county's. Doe's anybody remember what boats he was listing. Maybe that is on their list, and they are already aware of it and working it.

Sgt. Kris McRae said Officer Russell is not able to make it today, so I have been trying to communicate with him on this specific boat. Are you speaking of the dual mass boat that is out near the point. He said that is an FWC boat and while looking at the paperwork he said he did email someone. I imagine that's the email you're speaking of about the vessels and his jurisdictions. That is an FWC boat and they're working on. Talks about the two possible boats and discusses.

Ms. Eastes talks to the Vice-Chair on boats were relocated and the owner hasn't brought it out of derelict status.

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

City of Punta Gorda Police Department

Officer Russell is absent.

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Crpl. Williams said has just a few updates, out in the Englewood area I have two there is an open about a twenty-foot center console that was overturned that we were able to locate the owner, and the owner removed that, so the vessel has been taken off the water. Then there is a Nordic Tugboat that we have been having trouble identifying anything in regards to. We are waiting on some Coast Guard documentation; we may have identified an owner until we documentation back from the Coast Guard we won't be certain on that. Then specifically the sailboat that you were talking about near El Jobean bridge the owner of that vessel was located, we issued a criminal citation. The twenty-one-day period has expired and right now the authorization for removal is being worked on, that is being put through. Slow as it maybe the process is still moving forward on that.

Commissioner Deutsch said I am going to guess that boat if it was in the channel, being we've known about it so long it might be near the channel and will guess it's not. If it was in the channel, they would have got it out on an emergency.

Crpl. Williams said as far as any other updates, we have responded to vessels fires over the past week, we responded to individuals in mental health crisis 22 miles offshore, vessels taking on water some is Charlotte and Lee and other counties, we have had an increase in call volumes. Over the month of April, we did three nighttime operations which results in the use of the gear that has been purchased through grant funding from MAC. Talks about anchor light and night and quite a few citations written for that as well and some of the low light lighting enforcement in regards to vessels being out on the water and moving early in the morning that aren't displaying the proper lighting.

Commissioner Deutsch asked what you are doing for Memorial Day are you going to have a crowd down on the.

Crpl. Williams said there is going to be a crowd, I don't know how big this year. It stands to reason it will probably be at least as last year if not bigger. Some of the talent they were trying to bring in for that event didn't happen. It's kind of always a toss up as to the people when people show up. They are actually and had more involvement with Coast Guard this year in planning of that event. We got our operation plans that we're working on, we will have the Sheriff's Office will staff with some of the overtime grant money that is utilized. It is that weekend but not for that event specifically and we will have patrol increased on the waters and other areas.

Ms. Campanella said is the freedom swim going through this year again.

Crpl. Williams said as far as I know it is.

E. FY24/25/26 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Debbie Thibideau

Debbie Thibideau goes over the report, talks about FY26 and said that Team Punta Gorda withdrew their application yesterday, so they are off the list. Letters will be going out this month to all of the grantees to let everybody know what they have left. We are kind of at the six-month mark, so everybody will receive a letter with their balance, letting them know what they have left to spend within the next six months. Ashley from the city of Punta Gorda will be at the meeting in June to go over the ALA, I know that has come up a few times in prior meetings.

Mr. Killion said as she mentioned at the next commissioners meeting the commissioners will make up the grants funding, it should be pretty straight forward unless one of the applicants that we didn't grant the full funds from the board.

Commissioner Deutsch said as we look back over the years, I think there has only been two out of the dozens that we've had. One was Water Fest and the other is Team Punta Gorda that we had a question on.

F. MSBU Update – DeWayne Nodine

DeWayne Nodine said hope everybody got my memo and goes over dredging Sunrise, save soil for the beach, talks about the teams meeting with himself and Matt Logan with the project manager at Coastal Insurance Consultants to see what else we can do to expedite getting that project out for bid, we saved a

month of getting the soil borings, we are not their only client and everyone is swamped with work, talks about applying back in April for emergency dredging permits with Army Core of Engineers for Northwest Port Charlotte and additional areas and they said it doesn't meet but could do a different permit and will submit survey and documents to them, then he explains the process.

Commissioner Deutsch said just want to verify dates, was November the projected date for opening the second ramp at the beach complex, was that the date we were given.

Ms. Powell said the second ramp, no.

Commissioner Deutsch said I live in that area and too close to the neighbors and that needs to be dredged. Two questions, when can we expect that will be dredged. I went by the boat launched the other day. Secondly, we have the master dredging permit, do you know what I am talking about. Where we've got several different routine dredges which are under one permit. **Ms. Powell** said a nationwide permit yes. **Commissioner Deutsch** said can we add to that and discusses with **Ms. Powell** along with **Mr. Nodine** about the dredging with the November date, and phase 2, dredging and renourishment on the beach, etc.

Mr. Nodine said we are going to have this on the street for bidding in early June maybe we can talk to Grady this afternoon to see what can be done. If this can be moved up, by on the street I mean out being advertised for bidding. It is probably a month or so they have to leave it open then we take bids, and the bids have to be reviewed, the contract must go to the county commissioners. It will be a dredging that will hopefully start in October. The contractors are all very busy right now and explains.

Mr. Killion said is it your department that handles the bathymetric surveys, because I know on my stormwater MSBU in west county we have a lot of items and discusses this with Mr. Nodine and also talks on two waterways.

Ms. Ginsberg said in general the definition on navigable waterways is it leads to open water and explains.

Mr. Hickey said normally you give a list with the different MSBU's can you give me an update with Alligator Creek situation. **Mr. Nodine** said they finished the new survey to update to see what things look like now, I haven't seen the draft of it yet, but Grady said that should be here in the next couple weeks. **Mr. Hickey** said is that going to go out for bid soon and **Mr. Nodine** said as soon as we reasonably can and explains going through the steps for every project and discusses everything involved. **Mr. Hickey** said one last question on this, because it keeps coming up from time to time. The whole Charlotte Park area which is not in the city limits of Punta Gorda even though it's around it. Connects to Alligator Creek so everybody in there pays into the Alligator Creek MSBU but yet the Charlotte Park area, who takes care of is that stormwater, who takes care of doing surveys, checking, dredging and stuff in that whole Charlotte Park area. **Mr. Nodine** said I do not know. A discussion ensues with several members including Commissioner Deutsch on dredging, the mangroves and waterways, then stated this needs to be addressed with Joann Vernon and John Elias.

G. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell said not really any updates and talks about the projects and goes over the new page she just sent. Took the report I had and condensed it into just a couple bullet points and discusses them with everyone.

Mr. Lombardo said thank you this is very helpful the way you redid this, and they both discuss the process.

Commissioner Deutsch said I want to share this, most of us are aware of what happened in our neighborhood with the storms that we got. I've been all over the county I haven't seen everything. Tina is probably the one person in the county that has seen everything. If and I said this, and I'll back it I think I can literally back it up. We had so much extensive damage in the county, if FEMA handed us a check for \$200 million dollars, we couldn't get all the work done. It would take us probably seven or eight years to get the county back to where it was. Because of engineering, permitting and the bottom line and touched up on it before the availability of the people to do the job is a real issue. Because everybody is busy, and everyone has the same problem on this part of the gulf coast that we have when you go from Fort Myers to Sarasota up towards Bradenton. There is just an incredible amount of work to do and all we can do is pray that we do not get another storm this year. So, we can make a little progress on it.

Ms. Powell said I report on 27 parks to you all, we oversee 64 parks. In addition to the things that are damaged to our coastal parks we also have the parents that are upset about the shade that's missing from the hurricanes, everybody has their thing, and we are doing our best.

Commissioner Deutsch said I had a couple people upset last week they wanted to know when we are going to open the fishing pier and they can go fishing on the 41 bridge and told them I am going to guess 4-5 years and discusses, then mentions that about 300 people showed up at the meeting last night and asked questions, try their best to answer the questions and explains.

Mr. Lombardo speaks with Ms. Powell we're all relying on the FEMA money, and I am concerned because North Carolina just got slashed for money from Helene, Arkansas got denied money, who are we dealing with that ensures that even money will be available to us at the numbers that we hope to get. **Ms. Powell** said I don't know on the staff level; we don't deal with anyone. That is more of a policy out of the Federal Government decision and a discussion takes place with **Commissioner Deutsch**.

Ms. Campanella said everybody has their own little complaint, how do you decide and asks Ms. Powell if maybe one of the meetings you could explain how the process works. **Ms. Powell** said sure, and talks on this with the FEMA process, cost negotiations and explains. **Commissioner Deutsch** joins the conversation.

Ms. Ginsberg asks Ms. Powell a question about South Gulf Cove ramps it says Ian damage under project status is that just an error, both discuss, and Ms. Powell said it was an error and a conversation continues about the reports.

7. New Business –

A. New Anchoring Law

Mr. Pase talks about the law that Tallahassee has put through with this 1.5 million people to control their waterways and says it's illegal and explains. A discussion takes place with **Commissioner Deutsch**, **Ms. Ginsberg**, and **Mr. Hickey** joins in on the discussion including talk on boats not in the best condition, mooring fields, rules, Fisherman's Village, DV report is costing taxpayers money, and registration and insurance.

Ms. Ginsberg speaks on senate bill 164 and explains, and **Commissioner Deutsch** joins in, and both have a discussion.

B. South Gulf Cove – Water Level

Ms. Ginsberg explains we are a Locke waterway, so the waterway is basically a Locke, the level reduces in the winter without rain the water goes down and explains the process. Then talks about the request of opening the Locke, they opened in mid to late April and explains the process and what is involved pertaining to the process and what took place. Talks on the permit, county owned land, owner is responsible to dredge under their own dock and explains.

Mr. Killion speaks to **Ms. Ginsberg** on water quality requirements that don't allow you to leave it open. A discussion takes place with **Commissioner Deutsch, Mr. Lombardo** including the documents written on this.

Mr. Hickey speaks about this, and the Locke removal and **Mr. McIntosh** joins the discussion about the doors removed before they moved here, we've been here eleven years and explains. Also, there was another entrance off another shoot, the water comes in it's not dredge deep enough for boats to go through. The water still does come in and out, even if the Locke's are there. The MSBU just recently paid to have the inlet and was twenty-one feet and now it's supposed to be forty feet. They just finished it last week.

Ms. Ginsberg said it is my understanding is that Locke was put in for use during construction only. It was never intended to be left in, but I am not one hundred percent sure. A discussion takes place on this with **Commissioner Deutsch** and **Mr. Hickey** joining in, including the death of two manatees in 2021.

8. Old Business –

Mr. Killion said I think we've already discussed the dredging process and challenges are there any other further information if not let's move on to citizen's comments.

Mr. Vigne said is there some way to find out the status on the channel markers. **Mr. Eric Campbell** speaks on this and explains about the markers and has submitted this is in the works now. **Mr. Hickey** said marker 16 & 23, marker 16 is the important one on Alligator Creek it's in the curve, when you see people aground, talks about the people hanging to the green side of the markers and crowding over and explains the issues. We need marker 16 replaced and 23 is at the intersection at Buckley's Pass is nobody knows where it is and hope to God that's completely gone and there isn't a stump underneath. People are just hugging near marker one and two and a discussion takes place.

9. Citizens Comments – None

10. Members Comments –

Ms. Ginsberg said the hazard marker on the rock in the interceptor lagoon has been for roughly 3 or 4 months south of its location is sinking and has only about six inches of the hazard marker above the water at this point. **Mr. Campbell** said it is that low now and both discuss.

11. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, June 5, 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, June 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106 in Murdock Building B.**

12. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Jim Darden, Chair