

Brevard County
Marine Advisory Council Minutes
June 21, 2007
Space Coast Room, Building C, Government Center, Viera, Florida

Members Present:

Mike Cunningham, Chair
Gary Hanlin
John Mongioi
Wayne Mozo
Finnbarr Murphy, Vice Chair

Members Absent:

Doug Jaren
Al Pappas
George Reynolds
Heie Simonsen

Staff Present:

Ernie Brown, Director, Natural Resources Management Office
Jim Fletcher, Director, Agricultural & Extension Services
Eddie Leonard, Agricultural & Extension Services
Matt Culver, Natural Resources Management Office, Boating & Waterways Program Coordinator
Liz McDuffee, Natural Resources Management Office

Public Present:

Rob Rowe, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mike Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Finnbarr Murphy moved to approve the minutes as written. Wayne Mozo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Agenda Items

1. New Business: "BoatUS Honors Access Award Winners" Press Release

Finnbarr Murphy moved to table this discussion until the next meeting because George Reynolds, who requested that this item be put before the Council, was not present. Wayne Mozo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

a. Comprehensive Maritime Management Master Plan (CM3P)

Jim Fletcher gave an update on the CM3P development meeting that was held on June 19, 2007. It is the third meeting since August, 2006 and the second meeting this year. Jim was hoping for goals to be defined at this meeting; however, because of the high percentage of new attendees, the majority of the meeting time was spent discussing issues and reviewing the results of the May meeting. Both Jim and Ernie Brown agreed that this is a community-driven

process and it is important to let the participants be heard. This may result in the process taking a little longer, but the results will be worth it. Ernie suggested putting more structure around the meetings. Jim Fletcher stated that it is critical for people to understand that the development of the CM3P won't be accomplished in three or four meetings. There are many people who want to be heard and who must have buy-in to the process. Ernie stated that we are discussing controversial issues, but he was encouraged by the willingness of people to express themselves and work through issues with which they were not comfortable. There was some feedback from participants who wanted to be on different subgroups that better matched their expertise/interests. Mike Cunningham stated that he doesn't feel that there is such a thing as being in the wrong group. It is important for participants not to lose sight of the overall objective; therefore, they should be encouraged to "step out of the box" and not just stay in the group that matches their expertise. Mike added that it is important for each subgroup to have a facilitator. Mike also recommended that participants be encouraged to review the materials that were given out at the first meeting. Jim Fletcher stated that the expectation is that the people in the subgroups will read the distributed material ahead of time. He added that there are aspects in other plans that could be a part of Brevard's CM3P. Jim also noted that the group kept the discussion going beyond the established meeting end time because they were engaged in the process and this was a positive note. Ernie stated that the CM3P is a long-term plan and that it is important to make sure that we continue to move forward on related projects/items and not allow the development of the plan to hold up progress. The following suggestions were discussed by BMAC and will be considered for implementation at the next CM3P development meeting on July 17 in Palm Bay at the Lagoon House from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. (Jim stated that the meeting location is being moved around to allow input from all areas of the county.)

- Encapsulate the CM3P progress to date at the beginning of every meeting.
- Review the ground rules at the beginning of every meeting.
- Encourage participants to read the distributed material and bring the material to the meetings. (Finnbarr Murphy and Gary Hanlin asked for the material to be sent to them.)
- Get volunteers to facilitate the subgroups. Provide training to the volunteers prior to the meeting. (Matt Culver, Ernie Brown, Jim Fletcher, Eddie Leonard and Liz McDuffee are available to facilitate. Jim mentioned that Charles Sidman and Bob Swett, from the University of Florida, may also be available)
- Ensure that there are at least eight to ten people in each subgroup. Accomplish this by:
 - Prioritizing the eight focus areas and having the subgroups work on just the top three or four topics (this will require more than one meeting to cover the eight topics).
 - Having the subgroups work on two or more focus areas so that all eight topics are discussed during one meeting.

Ernie Brown discussed the role of the BMAC in the development of the CM3P. Because the CM3P will be presented to the BMAC at a future date, members must be sure to adhere to Sunshine Laws if they attend CM3P meetings. A BMAC member can participate in a subgroup if he is the only BMAC member in the group, but if two or more BMAC members

are present in a subgroup or in the main meeting, they should not participate (however, they may listen and observe).

IV. Reports

1. Staff Report – Matt Culver

- Working Waterfronts Tax Deferral Ordinance – The Board of County Commissioners took “No Action” at the second reading of this proposed ordinance. This means that it has been set aside. If the Commission wants to take action at a future date, it will let staff know. Ernie Brown stated that there is a referendum coming up in January that has a component dealing with working waterfronts on a state-wide basis, so it might solve the problem. It would require tax assessment on actual use – not “highest and best use.” John Mongioi stated that its approval would result in a tax reduction – not a tax deferral. Gary Hanlin stated that taxing at “highest and best” use is ludicrous. Gary also mentioned that the Governor’s Council is approving anchorages now and that if Brevard has a prospect, the county could go to it. Ernie stated that the cabinet is serving as the Board of Trustees over leased submerged lands.
- Derelict Vessels Project – The Bid has been awarded and the contract should be approved by the Board on June 25. The contractor should start removing derelict vessels the following week (around July 1). Gary Hanlin asked if there was anything in the contract regarding cost overruns. Matt replied that the contract is set up on a per boat cost so any boat that is not removed will not be paid for.

2. Attendance Review – Completed by Mike Cunningham

3. Anchoring & Mooring Fields – Gary Hanlin stated that he met two individuals from the City of Cocoa who are interested in creating a mooring field. He told them that they can come to the BMAC for information and assistance. (He did not have their names with him, but he does have their information for future reference.) Gary also stated a representative from the Seven Seas Cruising Association was a speaker at the recent FWCC meeting in Melbourne. The Seven Seas Cruising Association has created a group to research anchoring and mooring field issues.

4. Mike Cunningham asked Ernie Brown if there were any boating budget issues that might be discussed at the Board’s budget workshop on June 25. Ernie replied that \$20,000 designated as matching funds for derelict vessel removal may be eliminated from the budget.

V. Public Input

There were no comments from the public.

John Mongioi made a motion to adjourn and Finnarr Murphy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.