

Brevard County Marine Advisory Council (BMAC)
October 16, 2008
Space Coast Room, Building C, Government Center, Viera, Florida

Members Present:

Jerry Butz
Mike Cunningham
Gary Hanlin
Doug Jaren
Rick McCrary
John Mongioi
George Reynolds

Members Absent

Jim Mazza
Wayne Mozo
Finnbarr Murphy

Staff Present:

Ernie Brown, Director, Natural Resources Management Office
Matt Culver, NRMO Boating & Waterways Program Coordinator
Eddie Leonard, Marine Science Extension Agent, Agriculture & Extension Services
Liz McDuffee, Administrative Assistant, NRMO

Public Present:

Lt. Travis Franklin (FWCC)

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mike Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

II. Approval of minutes

The September 18, 2008 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Agenda Items

1. New Business

a. FWCC Anchoring/Mooring Update – John Mongioi

Mr. Mongioi stated that all of his earlier concerns and requests for information have been met and he withdrew this item as a topic of discussion for the BMAC.

b. Sailing Activities Update – Jerry Butz

Jerry Butz distributed a handout containing a list of upcoming sailing events. (Attachment A) After input from BMAC members regarding other events, Mr. Butz stated that he would update the list and forward it to NRMO staff to distribute it to the BMAC. Staff agreed to put the event list on the BMAC web site after it is updated. The BMAC members then discussed how the council could participate and support these events and suggested the following actions.

- i. BMAC members can maintain visibility in the events by promoting the events and providing assistance whenever possible.
- ii. The County could provide give-away items to be placed in the competitors' bags. For example, the Boater's and Angler's Guide would make a good item for the

competitors' bags (Mr. Culver agreed to bring over a case of the handouts after the BMAC meeting for Mr. Butz.)

iii. The BMAC could provide a trophy to support a regatta, perhaps naming it the BMAC cup. It could stay with BMAC or be rotated around the yacht clubs. The winners' names would be engraved on plates that would be affixed to the trophy. A trophy creates good will and visibility of the BMAC organization. It would also position Brevard County in everyone's mind.

c. Sebastian Inlet Marina – Marine Industries Association Meeting – Mike Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham attended the open house at the Sebastian Inlet Marina on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. The Marine Industry of the Treasure Coast co-sponsored the event which was attended by approximately 150 people. Mr. Cunningham stated that the Kennedy family, who own the facility, are interested in exploring creating a mooring field. Currently the marina has 140 boats in the inside storage unit and the outside docks are half full. The owners are expecting full capacity by Easter of next year. Mark Leslie also attended the event and discussed organizing a Municipal Marina Owners' Association with Mr. Cunningham.

d. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) Anchoring, Mooring, and Vessel Management Draft Legislation Meeting – Ernie Brown

Mr. Brown stated that this will be a topic of discussion at a future meeting so that the BMAC can recommend a draft rule response to the Board. Anyone able to attend the FWCC meeting on October 28th at the Canaveral Port Authority Maritime Center is encouraged to do so, but must remember to abide by the Sunshine Law requirements.

e. South County Boat Ramp – Mike Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham informed the BMAC members that the South County Boat Ramp has acquired all necessary permits and the project was awarded \$500,000 at the Florida Inlet Navigation District's final budget hearing. One issue remains concerning traffic patterns. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is recommending that traffic heading south on US1 continue traveling to 1st Street and make a u-turn before heading north and accessing the boat ramp. A member of the South County Boat Ramp Advisory Committee made a video showing a trailored boat being towed by a truck going through this traffic pattern. According to Mr. Cunningham, it was "scary" to watch. He is going to forward a copy of the video to the FDOT and ask that the traffic pattern be re-evaluated.

f. BMAC Stationery – Mike Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham asked staff about the possibility of developing BMAC stationery to be used for official business. Staff agreed to contact the County Attorney's Office to investigate this request to see if Board approval is needed before developing the stationery and to clarify what actions the BMAC may take without going before the Board.

g. Stem to Stern Conference – John Mongioi

Mr. Mongioi asked about the possibility of having the registration costs waived for the BMAC members to attend the upcoming Stem to Stern Conference. BMAC

members had their registration costs waived at the conference that was held two years ago. Eddie Leonard said that the Conventions Bureau of the University of Florida is sponsoring the conference and he will check with them. Ernie Brown added that the County has been asked to make presentations concerning its derelict vessel program and the Comprehensive Maritime Management Master Plan at the conference.

h. Citizens for Florida's Waterways

George Reynolds announced that the Citizens for Florida's Waterways gives a yearly award to an individual, company or organization who has contributed the most to preserving working waterfronts or industries associated with the water. Mr. Reynolds announced that the Brevard Marine Advisory Council will receive the Citizens for Florida's Waterways award this year.

i. Max Brewer Bridge

Rick McCrary asked staff if the Max Brewer Bridge was on a fast track for repair. Ernie Brown stated that he would check with the County's Public Works Director and email his response to the BMAC members. Mr. McCrary stated that it is important to distribute information to boaters regarding how this project will affect them. Recreational boaters may not see a "Notice to Mariners."

2. Old Business

a. Derelict Vessels

Ernie Brown stated that the University of Florida College of Law has updated the Derelict Vessel (DV) Flowchart Process. Matt Culver added that the DV process has been implemented by FWCC and he has a copy of the updated process in his office. Mr. Culver stated that there is \$1.5 million available from the State to remove derelict vessels. In the near future, Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc. (PBS&J), a contractor of the State, will be conducting an initial assessment of the current derelict vessels in Brevard. Those which can be removed with minimal impact to the environment can be removed without permits. PBS&J will be looking at approximately 17 vessels for which either the FWCC or the Sheriff's Agriculture and Marine Unit have written reports. The FWCC must have data sheets completed by the Agriculture and Marine Unit officers on each derelict vessel they have identified in order to bring those vessels formally into Brevard County's derelict vessel process. The County's derelict vessel process is on the BMAC's web site. Jerry Butz asked for a copy of the derelict vessel flowchart to be sent to him so that he can extract the pertinent information for a layman's handout. It was also noted that if a derelict vessel is removed by the County from the waterways, the registered owner can't register any vehicles or vessels until the removal costs are paid. Gary Hanlin suggested that this handout be given out when a vessel is registered. Ernie Brown stated that vessel registration is renewed through the Tax Collector's Office and staff would investigate the possibility of including a handout at the time that a vessel is registered or renewed. Rick McCrary stated that there was a recent discussion at Titusville Marina regarding the derelict vessel process and it became clear that people don't understand the process. If a vessel is sold, it is the seller's responsibility to ensure the new owner is registered with the Tax Collector's Office. When a derelict vessel is removed from the waterways, the registered owner is responsible for the

removal costs. Some derelict vessels are still listed in a previous owner's name, even though they may have been sold several times.

IV. Reports

1. Staff Report – Matt Culver, Natural Resources Management Office (NRMO)

- a. The first Comprehensive Maritime Management Master Plan (CM3P) Work Group has been meeting every other week to focus on increasing ramp, marina, drystack, and managed mooring field options. John Mongioi, who is a member of the CM3P work group, said that at the last meeting the group discussed the availability of dry stacks and open spaces at marinas. The group members felt that there were more spaces available than they originally thought, so boat ramp access to the waterways might become the group's focus.
- b. Ernie Brown stated that the Florida Community Trust Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program Grant for commercial fishery operations is being evaluated for application to the Crab Shack and Doc's Bait House area, which also includes 2.7 acres of uplands and a permitted lease for a 120 slip marina. The marina slippage could be increased if more parking spaces were created. There has been preliminary discussion regarding asking a nonprofit organization to be the applicant for the project so that there will be matching funds assistance. The Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency is interested in this concept because it would increase permanent public access to the waterways.

2. Staff Report – Eddie Leonard, Agriculture & Extension Services

- a. Mr. Leonard distributed an overview of Amendment 6 that was prepared by Kathryn Hurd, JD Candidate, University of Florida Conservation Clinic; and Thomas T. Ankersen and Richard Hamann, Florida Sea Grant Statewide Legal Specialists.
- b. Mr. Leonard stated that he had recently attended a Clean Boating Partnership meeting in Orlando. He will send out related information to the BMAC members via email. He said that it was interesting to note that Florida has twice as many Clean Boating Marinas than the next state on the list.

V. Public Input

Lt. Travis Franklin stated that the FWCC has appointed Lt. Dave Dipre as the derelict vessel coordinator for the state. Jeff Luce is the derelict vessel coordinator for Brevard County.

VI. Action Items

Item	Responsibility
1. Place sailing activity handout on the web site	NRMO staff
2. BMAC stationery: Check with the County Attorney's Office	NRMO staff
3. Investigate waiving registration costs for BMAC members for stem to stern conference.	Eddie Leonard, Agriculture & Extension Services
4. Distribute Clean Boating Partnership meeting information to BMAC via email.	Eddie Leonard, Agriculture & Extension Services
5. Max Brewer Bridge: Check with Public Works Dept on how recreational boaters will be notified. Email response to BMAC.	NRMO staff
6. Forward updated Derelict Vessel Flowchart to Jerry Butz.	NRMO staff
7. Check with Tax Collector's Office about distributing the DV flowchart when boats are registered.	NRMO staff

VII. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Butz and seconded by Rick McCrary. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.