

Brevard County Marine Advisory Council (BMAC)  
November 20, 2008  
Space Coast Room, Building C, Government Center, Viera, Florida

**Members Present:**

Jerry Butz  
Mike Cunningham  
Gary Hanlin  
Doug Jaren  
Jim Mazza  
Rick McCrary  
Finnbarr Murphy  
George Reynolds

**Members Absent**

John Mongioi  
Wayne Mozo

**Staff Present:**

Matt Culver, NRM0 Boating & Waterways Program Coordinator  
Eddie Leonard, Marine Science Extension Agent, Agriculture & Extension Services  
Liz McDuffee, Administrative Assistant, NRM0

**Public Present:**

Lt. Randy Ball, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Sgt. Byron Keck, Brevard County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit  
Ron Morgan

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 October 16, 2008 meeting minutes and Jim Mazza seconded the motion. The 10/16/08 minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Agenda Items

1. New Business

a. BMAC Letter to the County Commission regarding sailing events in Brevard County

Ron Morgan

Mr. Morgan told the BMAC that there used to be a week-long coordinated racing event covering most of the sailing classes. At the last meeting, when the council reviewed the sailing events handout prepared by Jerry Butz, Mr. Morgan realized that many individually sponsored events are still occurring in Brevard County. Mr. Morgan thought that some of the individual events could be used as the nucleus for organizing a five-day racing event with awards. Mr. Morgan stressed that he was not looking to create a subcommittee, but was hoping to have volunteers help coordinate a week-long event that could occur in June or around the end of next year. Mr. Morgan suggested that the County sponsor the event and that Brevard Parks and Recreation be involved. In addition to sailing, other events, such as drag racing, wind surfing, and Jet Ski races might also be considered. Mr. Morgan stated that Claudia Mazzo volunteered to coordinate the event. Mr. Morgan stated that he would like the BMAC to sponsor the concept; however, he understands that there is no budget. Perhaps corporate donors would sponsor prizes. Businesses could be asked for cash donations to be used as cash prizes. Mr. Morgan suggested that the BMAC prepare an

Agenda Report asking for Board support of the event and that someone from the BMAC help coordinate the event.

Jerry Butz

Mr. Butz stated that there is a very active schedule in Brevard of individual sailing events. He suggested using some already scheduled weekend events as start and end points and then organizing a week's worth of activities between them to maximize marketing and participation. He felt that a lot of organizations would be open to that arrangement. Mr. Butz suggested that Mr. Morgan go to [www.sail-race.com](http://www.sail-race.com) to download the full calendar of events. Most of the listed events are held every year on the same weekend. Mr. Butz felt that many organizations would respond by volunteering their events during the week.

George Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds stated that Citizens For Florida Waterways holds an annual poker run that could be used as a fill-in event.

Mike Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham stated that the concept of filling in the gap between two weekends is excellent. It would also be helpful to have a list of all local boating and water sports organizations. Mr. Cunningham noted that many international organizations are already known.

Gary Hanlin

Mr. Hanlin felt that only a few people would be needed to start the organization effort. An article in Boat US would also be helpful. Mr. Hanlin also suggested that younger boating participators be involved, such as high school and college sculling teams.

Matt Culver

Mr. Culver suggested that the BMAC draft a letter to the commissioners to inform them of the concept.

b. Sebastian Inlet Marina VIP Reception

Mike Cunningham stated for the record that four BMAC members attended the reception, but no Council business was discussed.

c. Comprehensive Maritime Management Master Plan (CM3P)

Mike Cunningham stated that he discussed the status of the CM3P with Representative Poppel. Representative Poppel said he will continue to give his backing to the project and to feel free to run items by him. Mr. Cunningham also talked to Representative Posey just before the election. Representative Posey told Mr. Cunningham that if there was anything he could do, to please contact him.

d. BMAC appointments

Mike Cunningham wanted to stress that the BMAC representatives' appointment terms expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. He suggested that each BMAC member contact his appointing Commissioner and let him or her know if he wants to continue. Mr. Cunningham also stated that the three new Commissioners should be educated regarding what the BMAC does. Mr. Cunningham plans to meet with all of the Commissioners. Rick McCrary stated that it was a pleasure working with everyone on the BMAC and he hoped to have another chance to serve next year.

e. BMAC Stationery

Mr. Cunningham wanted to let staff know what the Library Board learned about using County stationery. The County Attorney's Office told the Library Board that it could use the County seal on stationery, but its use must be restricted to County business.

f. Citizens For Florida's Waterways (CFFW) Award

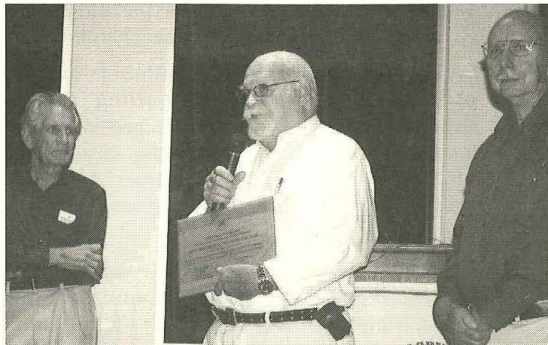
Mike Cunningham accepted the "CFFW George Reynolds Award for Outstanding Contributions to Florida's Waterways" for the Brevard Marine Advisory Council. George Reynolds, who is a founder of the CFFW and a member of the BMAC, stated that he was very proud to find out the award was named after him. Mr. Reynolds stated that the BMAC has done a fantastic job and deserved this award and many others. Mr. Cunningham asked the BMAC to discuss presenting the award to the Commissioners and asking them to display it where the public could view it. Finnarr Murphy so moved and Jim Mazza seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Reynolds distributed copies of an article about the award that was published in the CFFW newsletter. Following is a copy of the article.

## BMAC Wins "George Reynolds Award" for Outstanding Contributions to Florida's Waterways

by Peggy Cairns

If ALL agencies and organizations could follow the values and ethics of this organization, the CFFW Award for Outstanding Contributions to Florida's Waterways would be much more difficult to judge!!! We wish and you *should wish* you had more agencies like this year's recipient working for you on your waterway concerns!!

This year's winner is Brevard Marine Advisories Council (BMAC); the nominator was Kelly Haugh. Kelly wrote that the Brevard Marine Advisories Council has been a leader since its founding in 1999, noting among other achievements the monumental task they undertook to gain funding for the elimination of derelict vessels in Brevard County waterways and their leadership in the Maritime Master Plan process, a first in Florida.



Mike Cunningham, Chairman, accepted the award, presented at the CFFW Boaters Forum.

This year also marks the unveiling of a new name for the award. It is now officially the CFFW George Reynolds Award for Outstanding Contributions to Florida's Waterways, in recognition of our great founder, leader, and first recipient of the award.

The CFFW Award for Outstanding Contributions is presented to the person, organization or agency that puts forth a significant effort to manage the co-existence between man and our waterways here in Brevard County. The award criteria list the following as necessary credentials in consideration of this award:

*To recognize a Florida Space Coast resident and long term contributor (to our local waterways) of their "above and beyond" efforts in our community that mirror the CFFW motto of supporting a peaceful coexistence between man and the environment.*

It is with pride and honor that the Citizen's for Florida Waterways team recognizes BMAC with this award. The next time you see Doug Jaren, George Reynolds (yes, this is George's second award), Al Pappas or any of the members of the excellent BMAC team, extend your hand for a well-deserved congratulatory handshake! Learn more about BMAC at:

<http://natres.brevardcounty.us/bmac/>



## 2. Old Business

### a. Cocoa Waterfront Master Plan

Gary Hanlin stated that he heard about a waterfront master plan for Cocoa. Matt Culver replied that he was on the development committee and has a draft of the master plan. Mr. Hanlin asked whether the BMAC could send a letter of support asking the city if there is anything the BMAC could do to assist the effort. Mr. Culver stated that the final presentation will be in December and that he will email the contact information to the BMAC. Mr. Culver also stated that he has already volunteered the BMAC's services.

### b. Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Florida Forever Grant Program

Mike Cunningham stated that the City of Sebastian has applied for the Mayfield Grant to help develop an aquaculture area and a commercial fishing facility. Mr. Culver stated that Brevard is also applying for the grant for the area around Doc's Crab House in Merritt Island. The application is due in Tallahassee this Wednesday and Mr. Culver asked the BMAC to approve a letter of support. Jerry Butz read the support letter and moved to accept the letter. George Reynolds seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The Chairman, Mike Cunningham, then signed the letter. Mr. Culver stated that the grant rankings will be completed by the end of this year and there will be a meeting in February to finalize the awards.

### c. Derelict Vessels (DVs)

Matt Culver has been working with Janet Allen from PBS&J, a contractor of the FFWCC, to identify derelict vessels that are applicable for removal under the 1.5 million dollars available from the FFWCC. To date, five boats in North Brevard have been removed under the program without the need for permits. Four or five others will need permits before removal, but the removal costs still may be covered under the program. The FFWCC money must be spent by the end of the year. Two DVs that appear to be the hardest and the most expensive to remove have already been permitted and Mr. Culver is working to add them to FFWCC's program list.

#### Doug Jaren

Mr. Jaren stated that derelict vessels disposal at the landfills is still a problem. His process is to call up Western Waste to pick up derelict vessels that have been crushed and taken apart. The landfills have been charging Western Waste to dispose of them even though the Board of County Commissioners waived landfill fees for derelict vessels in 2005. Mr. Jaren would like some assistance because it can be very difficult to have a charge removed once it has been put on the books. Mr. Culver suggested talking to Solid Waste about opening an account that can be used for derelict vessels only, in order to ensure that a charge is not levied when a derelict vessel is taken to the landfill. Mike Cunningham will mention this problem to Euri Rodriguez, the Director of Solid Waste, when he meets with him next week. Mr. Jaren stated that he understands the problem since the boat is smashed up and it doesn't look like a boat when it is taken to the landfill. The driver must tell the landfill operator; but sometimes the operator does not accept that it is a derelict vessel or is not aware that there should be no fee for derelict vessels. Rick McCrary stated that if there was an account number to give the operator, then that should solve the problem. Mr. Jaren stated that he didn't open an account because the County wanted a substantial bond, even though the account would not be charged fees.

d. Cancellation of the December 18, 2008 BMAC meeting

The BMAC members agreed unanimously to cancel the December meeting. The 2009 schedule was distributed.

IV. Reports

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

- a. CM3P - The first working group has one more meeting before it completes its work. The members are currently editing the final document before distributing it to the steering committee. It will then be presented to the BMAC. After BMAC approval, the draft will go to the Board of County Commissioners. The second work group will begin meeting in January. George Reynolds stated that he would like a schedule of the future working group meetings.
- b. Artificial Reef Material - Gary Hanlin asked about using the old Max Brewer Bridge for an artificial reef. Mr. Culver stated that the new bridge construction will begin in April 2009. The old bridge will not be removed until the new one is completed. Mr. Culver stated that it will take 18 or more months to re-permit the artificial reef location. Mr. Hanlin suggested that the bridge contractor include a provision to load the old bridge on a barge and place it at the reef location for the County instead of cutting it up and sending it to a landfill. It would be cheaper to put it at the permitted site which is closer to the bridge location than hauling it to a landfill. Mr. Hanlin will contact the contractor and send the information to Mr. Culver.

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

- a. Artificial Reef Permit - The County is re-opening its Artificial Reef Permit. The delay has been with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) requesting some additional sonar runs over the site to ensure that there is no significant natural reef at the site. Eddie Leonard has arranged to borrow the expensive sonar equipment and will run the surveys himself. Mr. Leonard will take a refresher course on the operation of the equipment before picking up the equipment. Now Mr. Leonard is just waiting for a good weather day with calm seas.
- b. Mooring Field Analysis - The University of Florida Sea Grant has been selected as the contractor for a mooring field siting analysis. However, one of the key people in that lab will not be available after January 1<sup>st</sup>, so the relevant research won't be able to continue until the summer of 2009. Mr. Culver and Mr. Leonard will schedule initial planning meetings to meet the grant requirements, but if it becomes necessary, another contractor will be selected. Because the University of Florida is in partnership with Brevard County under its extension services, the university can offer its services at a substantially lower cost. The mooring field siting analysis will include elements such as depth of water, access to Intracoastal Waterway and availability of upland facilities. In response to a question from Rick McCrary, Mr. Leonard stated that the study should speed up the permitting process because it looks at all areas and selects the best one for a mooring field site. Gary Hanlin asked if Cocoa will benefit from the study. Mr. Leonard replied that potentially it would. The lack of an analysis did not hold up Titusville's process, but having it could speed up the process. Mr. Culver stated that it is the first step in the permitting process for the County to move forward with establishing a mooring field.
- c. University of Florida Extension Services focus for 2009 - Mr. Leonard would like to use the BMAC as a sounding board for his proposed 2009 areas of focus:
  - i. Water quality – This program will focus on homeowners' resource stewardship.

- ii. Conservation Captain Program (Like the FFWCC's Clean Marina Program) - This program will focus on boat captains for hire. It will offer marketing tools and training so that boat captains can pass on the right message to clients.
- iii. Continue working on public access issues with the CM3P.
- iv. Continue working on the artificial reef.

George Reynolds is the chairman of the D-2 Dredging Committee. It has gone into the Sunset mode because there is no money. Even though there is no money for dredging, Mr. Reynolds feels that there should be money for weir dams to stop upland pollutants from going into the lagoon. Mr. Leonard stated that this will be an area in which he will be working. The Agriculture and Extension Services Center will have a demo area of weir dams and baffle boxes. Mr. Reynolds stated that state roads also have runoff and that would be a good project for Mr. Leonard. Mr. Leonard stated that he will be working closer with the County's stormwater staff. Gary Hanlin asked if there were any high school or junior high level programs. Mr. Leonard replied that recently Westshore Junior/Senior High had a service learning project in conjunction with a science class at an elementary school in Fellsmere. The older students helped the younger students with the science of fishing and conservation. In addition, the Coastal Angler magazine gave each student a fishing rod and a tackle box. The park fees were also waived for this event.

Mike Cunningham asked Mr. Leonard to bring his work plan for the programs to the BMAC meeting in January. Mr. Leonard suggested that BMAC members contact him later if they think of other ideas.

## V. Public Input

### Sgt. Byron Keck, Sheriff's Office Agricultural and Marine Unit

Sgt. Keck stated that there is now a database that includes pictures of almost every anchored boat in the County. It has already been useful for contacting owners when calls about boats are received. The Sheriff's Office Marine Unit will try to update the database a couple of times a year. Matt Culver stated that he has been working on making the database accessible from the internet. It is currently in the testing stage. Sgt. Keck stated that outboard motor thefts are increasing in Brevard County. Mr. Cunningham asked if Sgt. Keck knew where the motors were going. Sgt. Keck replied that the smaller boat motors are staying locally, but the larger motors are being taken to the southern part of the state.

### Lt. Randy Ball, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC)

Lt. Ball is the FFWCC Maritime Supervisor covering the area south from Highway 192 to Vero Beach. Lt. Ball wanted to introduce himself and asked the BMAC members to let him know if officers were needed for events. Lt. Ball stated that this is a very diverse area with a great ecosystem. Mr. Hanlin asked Lt. Ball to feel free to give the BMAC any ideas that he may have.

### Ron Morgan

Mr. Morgan stated that the BMAC award is well earned and well deserved. For a sitting Board member to have the award named after him is the maximum compliment that the Board can receive. Mr. Morgan informed the BMAC that the regatta volunteers are Jerry Butz, Claudia Mazza and Ron Morgan.

## VI. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Finnarr Murphy and seconded by George Reynolds. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.