

FINAL
Brevard County Marine Advisory Council (BMAC)
September 17, 2009
Space Coast Room, Building C, Government Center, Viera, Florida

Members Present:

Jerry Butz
Gene Cate
Mike Cunningham, Chair
Jim Mazza
Rick McCrary
John Mongioi
Joe Penovich

Members Absent

Gary Hanlin, Vice Chair
Doug Jaren

Staff Present:

Ernie Brown, Director, Natural Resources Management Office (NRMO)
Matt Culver, NRMO Boating & Waterways Program Coordinator
Valerie Citta, NRMO Admin Support Services

Public Present:

Steve Haigis, Sebastian Inlet Marina
Officer Byron Keck, Brevard Co Sherriff's Office

Handouts

(Go to <http://natres.brevardcounty.us/bmac-minutes.cfm> to view the handouts.)

- Listing of suggested marine activities for next Boating Week & Waterfest event - provided by Chairman Cunningham
- Marina Parking Standards Data - provided by Matt Culver, NRMO
- Sebastian Inlet Marina Launch Study Spreadsheet - provided by Mr. Steven R. Haigis, Sebastian Inlet Marina
- Revisions to State Legislation re: Mooring Field Projects – provided by Matt Culver

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mike Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Gene Cate moved to approve the 8/20/09 minutes and Joe Penovich seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Agenda Items

1. New Business

a. *Space Coast Boating Week & Waterfest, 2010 Venues and Events*

Chairman Cunningham distributed list of proposed marine activities for next Boating Week & Waterfest Event. Chairman Cunningham invited ideas from all members. A lot of information has been collected about local manufacturers such as Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda for Personal Watercraft Competition (listed as Item No. 5) since creating the list that will be provided at a later time. Two additional event ideas were received just before start of this meeting.

Chairman Cunningham opened the discussion to board members and suggested that contacts be made over the next month to investigate them.

Mr. Cate stated that this seems like a perfect opportunity for local yacht clubs to organize a major area regatta as one of the sailing events. Mr. Cate stated that The Eau Gallie Yacht

Club is a member of The Florida Council of Yacht Clubs which could be helpful in expanding the event.

Mr. Brown stated that the Indian River Yacht Club in Cocoa also sponsors a sailing event known as The Brevard Challenge which has strong participation from Cocoa, Titusville and Melbourne areas. Indian River Yacht Club was a strong anchor in last year's event and could be helpful in next year's event as well.

Mr. Cate suggested making an effort to expand the event by inviting yacht clubs from outside of Brevard County.

Mr. Butz stated that boats from Lake Monroe, Fort Pierce and other areas outside Brevard County did participate in the last Brevard Challenge. Mr. Butz agreed that inviting participants from areas outside of Brevard County would definitely expand the event and build excitement.

Mr. Cate suggested that local interest seems to be growing in racing remote controlled watercraft as well. Mr. Cate has observed races in Wickham Park and stated that although it would be a smaller event, it seemed highly competitive and pretty to watch.

Mr. McCrary stated that similar events are popular in Titusville.

Chairman Cunningham agreed that the event should not be limited to Brevard County. Specifically, he mentioned Ocean Lifeboat Competitions. The last time this type of event was held in Ft. Lauderdale, teams participated from all over the world.

Mr. Brown stated that once ideas are generated, an individual outside the board must passionately lead the event to make it successful. The Board will not be in a position to create events, but rather to support, foster, facilitate and promote events. Events will not be successful without a "champion" to lead them.

Mr. Penovich asked if there is a limit to the number of activities for the event and potentially overloading the event.

Mr. Butz suggested that this would be limited by participants.

Chairman Cunningham noted facilities in Brevard County owned by Honda, Kawasaki, and Bombardier and suggested these vendors could be approached for participation. Incentives like trophies would also encourage participation.

Mr. Butz asked if this event will be similar to a Poker Run or Steeple Chase or will it be a speed event. Mr. Butz mentioned a very active personal watercraft group in Brevard with over 100 members. Members are from a variety of places throughout the state, with core membership being from Brevard. This club cruises more than races and might consider a Poker Run type of event.

Mr. Cate stated that competition does pose insurance problems and most groups have limited insurance coverage.

Mr. Butz agreed and stated again that a Poker Run event would be a lot of fun and fit with the theme and spirit of this event.

Mr. Penovich stated that there are a number of worldwide trick experts that would be interesting to watch and might support the event creating more exposure for the event.

Mr. Cate suggested dealer demonstrations for the event.

Mr. Butz stated he would take the action item of finding a champion for a personal watercraft event.

Chairman Cunningham stated that the primary goal would be to get more people to the event and that over time, response would only increase.

Mr. Butz asked if an official date has been selected for the event or if Boating Week dates are available.

Mr. Culver stated that an official date has not been selected for the event

Mr. Butz stated that The Brevard Challenge will be held on the 3rd Saturday of May. Last year, The Brevard Challenge was the 2nd weekend of Waterfest. Mr. Butz stated that this would be a great catalyst for the Waterfest Event and suggested holding an International Match Race the weekend before the event.

Mr. Brown stated that one or two anchor events are important and The Brevard Challenge should be one of those anchor events.

Mr. McCrary asked if The Brevard Challenge was mostly for smaller boats.

Mr. Butz stated that any size boat can participate starting at 16' and larger.

Mr. Brown stated that it is important to have diversity with a variety of activities to encourage a broader interest group which will lead to net increase in attendance and participation.

Chairman Cunningham asked that members return next month with more specific contact information and details to move forward with plans for organizing the event. Chairman Cunningham thanked Steve Haigis, with Sebastian Inlet Marine, for providing two additional ideas for the event: an island clean-up and fishing tournament.

Mr. Butz reminded board of the Boat Brevard Aquapalooza event.

Mr. Penovich mentioned a recent small kayak fishing tournament and suggested a similar activity for the event. Mr. Penovich agreed to make contacts to see if there is interest in this type of event.

Mr. Brown stated the date for next event will be in month of May, 2010. Mr. Brown suggested the name be "Waterfest" so that the event would not be restricted to just one week (i.e.: Boating Week).

Mr. Culver stated that he would email members to verify date of National Safe Boating Week.

Mr. Butz stated tentative schedule for core week of event will be May 8-15.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Penovich agreed.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Penovich to be aware of anyone mentioning interest in off-shore fishing tournament to link to Waterfest event.

Mr. Penovich stated he would check with contacts to gauge level of interest.

Mr. McCrary suggested a Waterfest 5K event which will bring people out early. Mr. McCrary agreed to make contacts to lead this event.

Mr. Culver reminded all to make effort to spread events throughout the north and south areas of county.

b. Marina Parking Standards

Mr. Culver distributed overview and empirical information regarding marina parking standards from a variety of other jurisdictions inside and outside the state, along with some information from other countries.

Mr. Culver pointed out suggested parking ratios on last page of handout and drew attention to specific studies and relevant points to consider for various types of marinas. Further discussion continued on this topic.

Mr. Butz thanked Mr. Culver for the information and asked Mr. Brown how the BMAC can proceed with process of modifying current guidelines.

Mr. Brown stated steps as follows:

1. Continue to develop empirical data. BMAC reviews data for quality analysis and control to ensure that it works for Brevard proper to ultimately become part of a staff report.
2. Review existing ordinance guidelines to see where changes can be made and inconsistencies might exist.
3. BMAC will go before Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) with recommended action called "legislative intent" to modify the existing ordinance with the hope of allowing for more flexibility to a variety of different types of service centers.
4. Once BOCC approves BMAC recommendation, they will put together modifications and public hearing process will start to change the code.

Mr. Penovich stated the importance of addressing the commercial aspect of this issue.

Mr. Mongioi requested copy of existing ordinance.

Mr. Culver will email copy of existing ordinance to all BMAC members.

Mr. Steve Haigis described additional details regarding the spreadsheet handout he provided and specific counts shown within it.

Mr. Brown asked that BMAC read the handout information provided and provide feedback to staff about information that seems unclear or where questions might exist. Before approaching the BOCC, it is important that information is thoroughly vetted out by BMAC. Email Mr. Culver with any questions or comments related to the handout information.

2. Old Business

a. *International Match Race Scheduled*

Mr. Butz stated that next International Match Race has been scheduled for November 6-8. The event will be similar to previous match races. People from around the world are invited. Most participants are from United States. Confirmation has been received from local participants as well as from participants from Connecticut, New York and Cleveland. This year's event has a "yacht club" spin which will try to promote a sense of heritage in club v. club competition. A request has been made of Brevard County Parks & Recreation Department for use of The Coast Guard Auxiliary Building at no cost for a 6 hour clinic typically held the day before the event. This year, Parks & Recreation may charge for use of the facility. Offering this training at no cost, along with the experience and points gained by participating in this kind of event are extremely important incentives for participants. This event is expected to debut in 2012 Olympics. Many participants are working up to qualifying for Olympic-level competition. Free training, experience, and points help participants work towards this goal. Very few opportunities to learn, participate, and excel at this event currently exist in United States.

Mr. Cate asked what level of participation can be expected from out of the area.

Mr. Butz stated that there will be approximately 60 people involved with approximately 30 being from out of the area.

Mr. Cate suggested developing a resolution for the event to encourage continued support of

the event and related training.

Mr. Brown stated there might not be enough time to address the issue with a resolution.

Chairman Cunningham suggested a letter be written to Parks & Recreation Department to highlight benefits of the event stated by Mr. Butz.

Mr. Cate motioned that such a letter be drafted. Mr. Penovich seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown stated staff would draft a letter for Chairman Cunningham's signature.

Mr. Butz discussed a page from WIMRA.org website that lists schedule of Match Races occurring throughout the world and verified this event is absolutely a non-profit event. Currently, only two other cities in the country host this type of event. St. Petersburg hosts in the Fall and Los Angeles in the Spring. Mr. Butz described a long range goal of Cocoa becoming host to Grade 3 event of this nature with even more variety of boats for match racing. Currently, the event is largely advertised online and via mass emails.

Mr. McCrary asked if Titusville groups have been contacted.

Mr. Butz stated that there is a team from Titusville Sailing Club as well as teams from Melbourne Yacht Club, Quinten Bay Yacht Club and Indian River Yacht Club. We are also attempting to get participation from Monroe Sailing Club.

b. Statewide Artificial Reef Summit

Mr. Culver stated summit will be held at Cocoa Beach Hilton on January 21st – 23rd, 2010. Sponsors and speakers for the event are needed. Any type of boating organizations, diving organizations, etc. would be welcome sponsors.

Mr. Butz left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

c. Legislative Revisions to State Mooring Field Projects

Mr. Culver reminded members FWC passed new anchoring and mooring legislation this year. A part of the new legislation is development of a pilot project to establish five mooring field sites at locations throughout the state. Locations are still be selected throughout the state and will include two sites on west coast, two sites on east coast, and one site in Keys. Mr. Culver distributed first draft copy of said legislation outlining general requirements for permitting mooring field projects. Staff has reviewed this information and Mr. Culver's comments are shown in red. This information would be included in staff report.

Mr. McCrary stated the importance of new legislation in north area of county. Improper storage of watercraft continues to be a problem for Titusville causing significant damage to newly developed pier recently. New legislation is badly needed that will be helpful in addressing some of the continuing issues in the north area of the county.

Chairman Cunningham agreed and stated that even though this specific problem occurs in Titusville, it can have negative affects countywide that could limit funding opportunities for facilities countywide.

Mr. Brown clarified that there are **two** issues relative to anchoring and mooring legislation happening concurrently. The "anchoring law" that creates buffer zones did pass last year and there is hope that Titusville will be selected as one of five sites to be part of the pilot project.

The handout information Mr. Culver presented is specifically relative to pending legislation that truly expedites general permitting processes. Ideally, a couple of pilot sites will be used to demonstrate that properly constructed mooring fields are not only economically viable but also ecologically sound. This issue uniquely speaks to the core mission of BMAC.

IV. Reports

1. Mr. Culver stated there are no staff reports for this meeting.
2. Chairman Cunningham stated that attendance report has been reviewed.

V. Public Input

1. FWC

Officer Byron Keck suggested jet ski event for next year's Waterfest event and mentioned world record was recently broken in jet ski event held at C-54 canal. Officer Keck agreed to contact St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to establish a point of contact.

Chairman Cunningham asked that Officer Keck email info he receives to Mr. Culver or himself. Chairman Cunningham wants to be sure SJRWMD is included to ensure smooth coordination if a number of events are held at same location.

2. Sebastian Inlet Marina

Officer Keck extended many thanks to Mr. Steve Haigis for his gracious assistance with a recent BCSO project conducted over Labor Day Weekend.

Chairman Cunningham stated Sebastian Inlet Marina has been a very valuable asset since starting operation in Brevard County. The Marina has generously offered to help in any way with events the BMAC may consider.

VI. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cate. Mr. Penovich seconded and the motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.