

Brevard County Marine Advisory Council (BMAC)
September 18, 2008
Space Coast Room, Building C, Government Center, Viera, Florida

Members Present:

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

Members Absent

John Mongioi

Staff Present:

Matt Culver, NRMO Boating & Waterways Program Coordinator
Liz McDuffee, Administrative Assistant, NRMO

Public Present:

Janet Allen
Jeff Luce (FWCC)
Ron Morgan
Lt. Jeff Sidor (FWCC)

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of minutes

George Reynolds moved to approve the July 17, 2008 meeting minutes and Finnbarr Murphy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Agenda Items

1. New Business

a. Resolution thanking Al Pappas

Mike Cunningham presented AL Pappas with a Resolution thanking him for being a charter BMAC member and recognizing him for over nine years of service to the Marine Advisory Council and Brevard County.

b. Newest BMAC member

Mike Cunningham introduced the newest member of BMAC, Jerry Butz. Jerry is representing District 4, along with Gary Hanlin. Jerry is on the Board of Directors of the Indian River Yacht Club.

c. FWCC Anchoring/Mooring Update – John Mongioi (Tabled until the next meeting)

The group agreed to wait until next month's meeting to discuss the FWCC Anchoring/Mooring Update since John Mongioi was not present.

d. FDEP Notice of Development of Rulemaking, Rule 62-341.417, FAC, General Permit for Boat Ramp Facilities – Matt Culver

Matt Culver distributed copies of this handout and stated that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is looking into making it easier for local governments to get permits for boat ramps. Additional information is available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/rules/rulestat.htm.

e. FWCC 2009 Session Legislative Proposal, Vessel Management – Matt Culver

Matt distributed copies of this handout and told the BMAC members that this document outlined what FWCC intended to do; however, it now has distributed a draft document. Matt said that he received a copy of the draft document from Mark Leslie. Matt will email the draft document to the BMAC members since it is a lengthy document.

f. South County Boat Ramp

Mike Cunningham stated that the South County Boat Ramp had received permits from the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Army Corps of Engineers. Mike said that a debt of gratitude was owed to a lot of people. The permitting process took approximately five years including delays for cleaning up contamination on the site.

g. Cocoa Invitational Match Race

Jerry Butz reviewed a press release for an internationally sanctioned sailboat event that is sponsored by the Indian River Yacht Club and Brevard County Parks and Recreation. It will be held from November 7th through November 9th in Cocoa. The event will provide Match Racing training to sailors from around the world and finish the event with a 2-day regatta. Contact Jerry Butz (321-638-0090 or Jerry@BoatersExchange.com) for more information.

2. Old Business

None

IV. Reports

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

CM3P Working Group: The first working group meeting was held on September 10th. The first working group is addressing ramp, marina, dry stack, and managed mooring field options. Nine of the eleven working group members and six members of the public attended. John Mongioi, from BMAC, is a member. Eddie Leonard, an extension agent with the Agriculture and Extension Service and a staff liaison with the BMAC, is also a member. A facilitator from Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), Professor John Windsor, guided the discussions. A graduate student from FIT documented the group's progress. The next meeting will be held on September 24th. The working group developed a list of background questions that have been sent to the CM3P Steering Committee for responses. NRMO recently received another grant that will pay for the facilitation of a second working group.

2009 Stem to Stern Conference: The 2009 conference is scheduled to be held from May 19 – May 21 at the Cocoa Beach Hilton in Cocoa Beach.

Derelict Vessel Project: The latest derelict vessel project is in process. Since last Thursday, eight derelict vessels have been removed. It is expected that a total of 14 derelict vessels will be removed from the Indian River Lagoon. Matt Culver estimates that an additional 20 to 25 vessels went down because of Tropical Storm Fay. Matt is now working with Officer Jeff Luce to identify all of the new derelict vessels and will send a list to the state. The FWCC has requested a list of all derelict vessels that are associated with Tropical Storm Fay.

V. Public Input

Jeff Luce

Officer Luce stated that he will be working closely with Matt Culver and the Sheriff's Marine Patrol on the derelict vessel issue.

Ron Morgan

Ron stated that he would like to thank Jerry Butz and the Indian River Yacht Club for the outstanding regatta that is being planned. He also said that the BMAC had been discussing promoting regattas at its June and July meetings and with this upcoming event, perhaps some other events could also get going.

Jerry Butz

Jerry said that there is a thriving sailboat environment in Brevard and last summer the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a youth sailing program. This year there was not enough interest and the program was not held.

Ron Morgan

Ron asked if the BMAC members had read a Florida Today editorial by John Glisch called "Bust the Owners" that supported establishing a database of boats anchored in the lagoon. Ron talked to Mr. Glisch and told him that the BMAC was a primary sponsor of this database and that it is now in the process of being created. John Glisch suggested that a guest editorial be submitted to the paper on the subject. Ron suggested that, after the database goes live, the BMAC write a 200-500 word guest editorial about derelict vessels and the database.

Matt Culver

Matt said that he is hoping to have the database on the web within a month.

Mike Cunningham

Mike stated that the database will be a great tool for finding owners and reducing redundancy. Everyone working on it should be congratulated.

Ron Morgan

Ron asked if the BMAC was going to apply for an Interlux grant.

Matt Culver

Matt stated that we will need to wait until the next year's cycle to apply.

Janet Allen, PBS&J

Janet told the BMAC that PBS&J provides project management services to FWCC. Janet recently attended the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWCC) derelict vessel kick-off meeting with Major Oellette and Captain Kaiser. The FWCC just received a one-time award of 1.5 million dollars to remove derelict vessels around the state. Matt Culver met with PBS&J and outlined the process that Brevard County uses for removing derelict vessels. Janet thanked Matt and stated that the information he provided was a gold mine and that he helped out tremendously. Janet said that Brevard already has a good program in place, but with new derelict vessels coming up now, PBS&J could help with finding additional funding to remove them. PBS&J is still trying to get a read on where the derelict vessels are located around the state. The FWCC started with 3500 listings, but

after removing the inactive ones and the ones without latitudes/longitudes, the number is now down to 600. While Brevard has excellent data, the FWCC is still trying to get good data from other counties. Janet also told the BMAC about a request for papers that came from the Coastal Cities Conference that will be held in November. She submitted an abstract about a pre-emptive derelict vessel program. The abstract was about monitoring boats before they become derelicts-basically, what Brevard is already discussing. Janet envisions a web enabled secure system on a tablet that an officer can use in real time when he or she is out on the water. The tablet would contain a GPS system with a camera. Vessels would be designated by registration numbers, hull numbers and pictures. It would be a good tracking tool, but this idea does not currently have the support of the FWCC.

Rick McCrary

Rick asked what information the FWCC needed when a derelict vessel is identified.

Jeff Luce

Officer Luce replied that the hull number or the registration number on the boat is the best information to get. All boats manufactured after 1972 must have a hull number on the back. Unfortunately, some boat owners remove the registration numbers and scrape the hull numbers off. Five days after a derelict vessel is posted and a certified letter is sent, the boat should be removed. If the boat owner contacts the FWCC and starts the removal process, the FWCC will give them more time.

Doug Jaren

Doug asked Officer Luce if there is anything that can be done before a boat sinks.

Jeff Luce

Officer Luce replied that if FWCC has the contact numbers for the boat owners, then the owners can be contacted before the boat sinks. However, there is not much else that can be done until the boat sinks.

Gary Hanlin

Gary asked whether someone can notify the sheriff and then board the boat to try and save it, if a boat looks like it is in jeopardy.

Lt. Jeff Sidor

Lt. Sidor replied that if you board the boat, you assume responsibility for it-that is why FWCC does not board the boats. Sea Tow has insurance, but won't board any boat without the owner's permission.

Janet Allen

Janet suggested that the FWCC consider holding an Amnesty Day. If the owner no longer wants a boat, then he or she could get it to a ramp for free disposal

Doug Jaren

Doug wanted to know how many years that the boat registration numbers are kept. Doug contacted FWCC about some registration numbers and was told that those numbers had been purged.

Janet Allen

Janet told Doug that Tallahassee keeps all of the registration numbers in historical records. Doug will forward the registration numbers to Janet to see if she can find them.

VI. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by George Reynolds and seconded by Finnarr Murphy. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.