

# Brevard Marine Advisory Council (BMAC)

September 15, 2011

Space Coast Room, Bldg C, Government Center, Viera, Florida

## Members Present:

- Mike Cunningham, Chairman
- Dan Daniels
- Kelly Haugh
- Jim Mazza
- John Mongioi
- Joe Penovich
- Jim Rosasco

## Members Absent:

Jerry Butz  
Gary Hanlin, Vice-Chairman  
Ron Rincones

## Staff Present:

- Ernest Brown, Director, Natural Resources Management Office
- Matt Culver, Boating and Waterways Coordinator
- Holly Abeels, Marine Science Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension
- Jeanette Scott, Council Secretary

## Public Present:

- Ron Morgan

## Handouts:

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

- Regional Waterway Management System for Brevard County PowerPoint
- By-Laws/Rules and Regulations of the Brevard County Marine Advisory Council Amendment – Update Department and Director
- CM3P Fecal Coliform Perspectives, Dr. John Windsor, Florida Institute of Technology
- Boating Eco-Tourism Course Offered Press Release
- Actively Recruiting Eco-Tourism Captains
- Eco-Tourism Course to be Offered to Local Boat Captains News Release
- Economic Impacts of Artificial Reefs

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Haugh moved to approve the August 18, 2011 minutes. Mr. Mongioi seconded the motion, and the August 18, 2011 minutes were approved unanimously.

## III. Agenda Items

1. **New Business** – No New Business Agenda Items

## **2. Unfinished Business**

### ***a. Regional Waterway Management System PowerPoint Presentation***

Mr. Brown provided a brief overview of the topic prior to the Regional Waterway Management System PowerPoint Presentation. Mr. Brown stated during the last BMAC meeting, the Council approved moving forward to investigate a comprehensive assessment to inventory boat ramps and infrastructure. A Regional Waterway Management System (RWMS) will help the County prioritize projects and address funding concerns. Mr. Brown added the Florida Inland Navigation District typically funds 50% of these assessments through grants. Mr. Culver stated he spoke with a representative from Lee County regarding the Regional Waterway Management System 2005 prepared by Florida Sea Grant for Manatee and Lee Counties. The representative shared with Mr. Culver the assessment has been useful to provide justification for funding of projects. Mr. Rosasco inquired who would use the assessment. Mr. Brown replied the RWMS will assist with permitting and regulatory agencies.

Mr. Culver presented slides on several reasons to develop a RWMS:

- a) Provides a county-wide baseline for waterway infrastructure.
- b) Provides a management and public policy tool that is science-based and cost effective.
- c) Provides data necessary to identify, evaluate, and prioritize public access and channel maintenance and improvements.
- d) Allows for targeting of local resources towards projects.

Mr. Culver also presented slides additional possibilities for the RWMS:

- a) Baseline information can provide slip count information.

Mr. Brown briefed the Council on the concept of slip banking which has a premise of a no net-loss. This concept still needs to move forward, but it may require adjustments to the Manatee Protection Plan.

- b) Provide the information needed to obtain FDEP regional general permits for dredging.
- c) Used to gather county-wide waterway marker information.

Mr. Rosasco inquired on the inventory of waterway markers and manatee signs. Mr. Brown replied an assessment was made by PBS&J a few years ago on the waterway markers. The FWC has updated surveys of the manatee signs. Additionally, the USCG Auxiliary conducts an inventory on navigational markers in the Indian River Lagoon and also makes note of derelict vessels.

Mr. Culver provided several examples of data derived from the RWMS for Lee and Manatee Counties. There was discussion on dredge depths and restoration of dredge depths back to natural, historic levels. Mr. Brown stated that not all the examples from the RWMS Lee and Manatee Counties are well suited for Brevard County. A draft scope of work would be tailored to meet the needs of Brevard County. Mr. Brown explained the data from the 2007 Boating Characterization Study (identification of users, vessel types, and destinations) will be beneficial when developing the proposed Brevard County RWMS. Mr. Daniels commented it is critical for the proposed RWMS to be flexible and adaptable, not static. Mr. Brown added the RWMS would be a policy tool to set priorities and establish a balance between the ecological, economic, and recreational needs of Brevard's waterways. Mr. Daniels inquired who would conduct the study. Mr. Brown replied Florida Sea Grant, who completed the RWMS for Lee and Counties, or a consulting contractor are possibilities. Mr. Mongioi cautioned about the effects and impacts of hurricanes and refill rates of dredging activities. Mr. Brown stated this consideration would be added to the scope. In summary, Mr. Brown stated the RWMS is a viable project and recommended defining a scope of work to address, but not limited to: 1) What is the anticipated outcomes; 2) Maintain access to waterways; 3) Restore dredge depths; and 4) Assess infrastructure. **Mr. Mazza moved to draft a scope of work for the RWMS. Ms. Haugh seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.** Mr. Rincones inquired if the draft scope would be crafted by staff. Mr. Brown replied staff has existing data, and he is confident staff will be able to draft a scope of work.

Staff Action Item: Draft a scope of work for the Brevard County RWMS

***b. By-Laws/Rules and Regulations Amendment Approval***

Mr. Culver presented the revised By-Laws/Rules and Regulations which contained the Department/Director changes as presented during the August 18, 2011 BMAC meeting. Attendance Review (Item VI) was moved on the Agenda below Call to Order (Item I) as recommended by the Council Secretary to formally establish a quorum at the beginning of the meetings. Mr. Rosasco stated he would like to add the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the BMAC meetings. Mr. Mazza moved to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the Agenda (Call to Order) as an amendment to the By-Laws. Chairman Cunningham seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mongioi moved to approve the current change to the By-Laws (Department/Director and Attendance Review). Mr. Mazza seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The amendment to add the Pledge of Allegiance will be considered for final approval at the October 20, 2011 meeting.

**c. Space Coast Boating & Waterfest 2012**

Mr. Brown encouraged the Council members to continue working on event ideas and contacts for the next Waterfest. Mr. Mongioi stated the first meeting to discuss the 2012 Palm Bay Waterfest, originally scheduled for September 21 was postponed. The meeting is tentatively scheduled during October. Mr. Mongioi added he will be in attendance.

**IV. Reports**

**1. Council Reports**

**a. Mr. Daniels** – Reported on the Waterfowl Summit held in Ocala, Florida during August 2011. Mr. Daniels provided a summary of the Summit presenters who spoke on topics such as wetland systems, GIS use, geotubes use for dewatering, sheet flow to Everglades, invasive plant management, Clean Water Act, and SJRWMD restoration projects.

**b. Mr. Mazza** – No Report

**c. Ms. Haugh** – No Report

**d. Mr. Rosasco** – No Report

**e. Mr. Penovich** – No Report

**f.. Mr. Mongioi** – Stated the visit details need to be finalized, but it is likely the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary, Mr. Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr. visit to Turkey Creek and possibly Brevard County boat ramps may take place during the October 12-14, 2011 timeframe.

**g. Chairman Cunningham** – Reported his attendance at the ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the new fishing pier and “T-Dock” at the Sebastian Inlet State Park on August 30, 2011. Chairman Cunningham remarked on the funding/agency partnerships and construction of the dock.

**2. Staff Report – Natural Resources Management Office**

Mr. Culver presented the CM3P Fecal Coliform Perspectives by Dr. John Windsor, Florida Institute of Technology. The Perspectives identified sources of fecal coliform (FC) that discharge to surface waters: a) wastewater treatment facilities; b) urban runoff; c) septic tanks; d) agriculture; and e) wildlife. The Perspectives stated wastewater treatment facility serving 200,000 residents discharges 1 billion FC per day. The estimated impact from pet waste is 6.4 billion FC per day per animal. Ms. Haugh noted the amount of manatee dung in the Merritt Island canals. Mr. Brown stated there is a concern of the impacts of muck resuspension in the water. Mr. Brown added seagrass levels had been exceeding 1943 levels, but a recent invasive algae bloom has resulted in a loss of almost all seagrass in some areas of the Indian River Lagoon. Chairman Cunningham added he

was pleased to see the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners (Board) support the resolution requesting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) consider and grant the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) petition requesting the EPA withdraw its determination that Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) are only needed for Florida. The FDEP petition is asking for the opportunity to present data specific to Brevard County's waterways and to update and revise the Total Maximum Daily Load. Mr. Brown added the Board executed an Interlocal Agreement with local municipalities to cost share a study to update and revise the TMDLs adopted by the FDEP for the Indian River Lagoon.

### **3. Staff Report – UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Center**

Ms. Abeels reported on the press release regarding the boating eco-tourism course offered. The UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office will partner with the Space Coast Office of Tourism and USOBE, LLC to offer a boating eco-tourism course for local boat captains. The boat captains will learn about the Florida wildlife, flora/fauna, dolphins and history unique to the area. The cost for the training is \$300. Mr. Brown stated the county is lacking "official" eco-excursion opportunities, and this course is a positive step. Ms. Abeels shared the one page summary on the economic impacts of artificial reefs in Southwest Florida. The study was conducted by Florida Sea Grant and University of Florida researchers with funding provided by a grant to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the West Coast Inland Navigation District; and participating counties. Chairman Cunningham inquired on the number of artificial reefs in Southwest Florida, but Mr. Brown stated the square area of the artificial reefs could be meaningful data. Ms. Abeels reported the first series of the 4-H Fly Fishing Series will begin in late October for 16 youth ages 12-18. There is a waiting list for the next series.

## **V. Public Input**

### **1. Ron Morgan**

Mr. Morgan thanked the Council for beginning the preliminary planning of the Waterfest and will pursue a kayak/canoe event to be held during Waterfest 2012 in the north Brevard area with Mr. Mark Leslie. Mr. Morgan stated input provided by Ms. Abeels and a marine science page will be added to the International Science Center online at [www.internationalsciencecenter.com](http://www.internationalsciencecenter.com). The site is dedicated to providing internet access to science information.

## **VI. Attendance Review**

Chairman Cunningham conducted the Attendance Review.

**VII. Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Daniels. Mr. Penovich seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.