August 2, 2005
Milton, Florida

The Marine Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Chairman Ken Johnson and members Dan Wakley and Jeff Marker. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and Marine Extension Agent (Christina Verlinde). Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Marker moved approval of the minutes of the June 7, 2005 meeting; Wakley seconded, and the vote carried unanimously (3-0).

Hurricane Dennis Update

Walker said Hurricane Dennis was not as bad as Hurricane Ivan, but there was considerable damage. He presented slides of the damage to some of the county piers and boat ramps.

Blaylock said Navarre Beach boat ramp will be out of commission for several months. He said the parking lot took an even greater hit than the boat ramp. Blaylock said the county is in the process of compiling a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) project worksheet. He said there will be change orders to the Hurricane Ivan repair contract for Hurricane Dennis impact.

Walker said Hurricane Dennis destroyed what was left of the fishing pier at Navarre Beach. He said the county's intent is to demolish the damaged pier and build a new pier according to more current standards with blow out panels similar to the Okaloosa County pier and Pensacola Beach pier. Walker said the county will submit a project worksheet to FEMA with the new technology.

Wakley discussed the road damage at Navarre Beach and asked if there are any plans to re-nourish the north side (sound side) of the island. Blaylock said the north side is not eligible through FEMA for reimbursement because it is not an engineered beach. He said the county will be funding Navarre Beach projects already underway for the next five years. Blaylock said Northwest Florida Water Management District is handling Hurricane Ivan clean up of state waters, and he felt they will handle Hurricane Dennis clean up as well.

Blaylock said all the piers and docks that the county just completed repairs on from Hurricane Ivan are damaged again. Marker asked if there is anything the county can do to prevent the severity of the damage. There was discussion on the water surge and wind damage. Blaylock said there were mitigation measures in place from Hurricane Ivan damage. He discussed possible causes for the pier failures. Blaylock said possible mitigation for the piers could be for the pilings to go deeper and use larger pilings.

Marker asked if a public notice can be compiled with a complete update of which boat ramps are open and usable. Walker said he will get the information posted on the county website.

Wakley said there was a small article in the newspaper that provided a phone number for permitting for residents that had docks destroyed. He said the county staff did an excellent job getting the information out to citizens.

Oyster Restoration Project

Verlinde said the oyster restoration will still take place. She said the hurricane has slowed down the schedule, so the planting will possibly take place in August.

Public Meeting Issues

Johnson said the committee planned to discuss signage, but with the damage from the hurricane signage can be put off until a later date. Walker said staff has been working to get the signage that was lost with the storm surge from Hurricane Ivan replaced. Wakley asked if FEMA will help to replace buoys and signs that were lost. He said he is not sure the marine assets have been addressed as much as the land assets. Johnson said he felt this is something that should be looked into. Walker said this is something Public Works can check into.

The next scheduled meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Marine Advisory Committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.