

April 5, 2011
Milton, Florida

The Marine Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Chairman Jeff Marker and members Rick Harris and Wayne Hawthorne. Also present were the County Administrator, Hunter Walker; Public Works Director, Avis Whitfield; County Engineer, Roger Blaylock and Marine Extension Agent, Chris Verlinde. Chairman Marker called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

The minutes of the February 1, 2011 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN/MEMBER ISSUES

Jeff Marker asked for an update on the Archie Glover dredging project. Mr. Blaylock said that the contractor needs reasonably calm conditions and the March winds have caused rough surf further delaying the project. He noted that when the contractor has been able to dredge he can only gain about 20 to 30 feet in a day. He lacks about 120 to 150 feet to complete the project. He also noted that the contractor is in financial trouble. Mr. Walker noted that an alternate plan may need to be established.

Mr. Marker asked about the process for the permits for the additional dock at the oyster pile. Mr. Blaylock said the survey crew is focused on Sandy Landing and has about three weeks to go on that project. The boundary has been completed and the County should close on the Sandy Landing property in the next few weeks at that time they will proceed with the topo which will allow us to design it. Once the topo is complete at Sandy Landing then the survey crew will shift to the Bagdad Firehouse survey and then the oyster pile boat ramp to begin getting the topographic information to support a permit.

PROJECTS / ISSUES UPDATE

Avis Whitfield reported that the redecking of the two piers at Marquis Basin is complete. Mr. Marker asked if anything can be done about the residents at the two piers using the piers for swimming and sunning. He noted that the residents will not move to allow boaters access to the piers. He asked if signage may be helpful. He also noted that jumping off the piers on the concrete side could be dangerous. Mr. Whitfield said that he will look at it.

Mr. Marker reported that the Boater Registration Fund is up to \$557,906. Mr. Whitfield noted that he will ask for a budget amendment on the Board's next agenda for the funds needed for property acquisition and construction in the approximate amount of \$300,000 to \$350,000 for Sandy Landing from the Boater Registration Funds. Mr. Marker asked if some of the funding could come from other sources in case there are other projects. Mr. Walker advised that the Board would need to make that decision. Mr. Whitfield stated that historically the Board uses funding for anything to do with boating from the Boater Registration Funds.

Mr. Harris asked if there was anything new to report on the Live Oak property. Mr. Walker said that he has talked with Commissioner Melvin briefly and he has received an email from a member of the community who has some concern with parking even next to the ramp and noted that staff needs to look at what the per parking space costs will be. He noted that if we were going to choose a ramp location to improve the parking this would be the area to focus on but we need to be respectful of the neighborhood.

Mr. Harris noted that there is a pretty hefty costs to the improvements at Sandy Landing but for what the County will gain it is pretty good investment especially for fresh water fishing and compared to what the County invests in salt water fishing it is something that is very much needed.

Mr. Walker noted that the Marine Sanctuary on the sound will be receiving some funding which will be on the Board's agenda for their April 14, 2011 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Walker noted that Scott Mason has been appointed as the District Four appointee to the Marine Advisory Committee and would have been present today but while assisting someone who had become stuck in the mud behind his house earlier today he had also become stuck and therefore was unable to attend.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.