

**Marine Advisory Committee
July 5, 2016
Milton, Florida**

The Marine Advisory Committee met on above date with the following members present: Jeff Marker, Rick Harris, Scot Mason and Heather Barrineau. Also present was the County Administrator, Tony Gomillion; Erica Grancagnolo, Grants Manager, Chris Verlinde, Marine Extension Agent, Roger Blaylock, County Engineer and Stephen Furman, Public Works Director. Chairman Jeff Marker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting were approved.

ARTIFICIAL REEF GRANT PROJECT

In Sheila Fitzgerald's absence Erica Grancagnolo gave the committee an update on the NRDA Artificial Reef Project. She stated that it is a rather slow moving project that is ongoing with significant input from FWC and DEP. She added that they are in control of this project and we are following their instructions. Taylor Engineering has been selected to assist with design, bid phase and construction services. Ms. Grancagnolo stated the procurement process will most likely result in one bid so no evaluation or ranking will be necessary. She concluded by saying that regular updates will be provided to the Marine Advisory Committee and no action is needed on this item.

ARTIFICIAL REEF PROCUREMENT SELECTION

Ms. Grancagnolo presented the following individuals for the artificial reef procurement selection committee, which is a requirement of the NRDA Grant agreement. She stated that these individuals will be responsible for evaluating and ranking proposals associated with the nearshore fish/dive reef. She noted that with the snorkel reef there will most likely result in one bid and therefore no evaluation and ranking will be needed.

- 1) Alex Fogg, FWC Representative (Contract Requirement)
- 2) Michael Schmidt, Santa Rosa County (Project Manager on behalf of the County)
- 3) Chris Verlinde, Santa Rosa County/UF IFAS Sea Grant Agent (Prior FWC reef grant experience)
- 4) Heather Barrineau, Marine Advisory Committee (also represents Navarre Beach Science Station)
- 5) Mike Sandler, Navarre Beach Marine Sanctuary

Mr. Marker asked if there was any action needed from the Marine Advisory Committee on this list and Mr. Gomillion stated that the list would be going before the BOCC at their

July 11, 2016 meeting as a recommendation from the Marine Advisory Committee. The list was therefore approved without objection.

NO WAKE ZONE

Mr. Furman stated that this request is being made after a citizen contacted Com. Bob Cole about extending the no wake zone along the Bagdad Mill Site Park on the Blackwater River. Mr. Marker then asked for the specific location of the no wake zone existing at this time. Mr. Furman stated that there is no wake zone currently centered around the Oyster Pile boat ramp, 300 feet in either direction from the landing itself and with the creation of the new kayak launch at the end of Cross street in Bagdad, staff has discussed the recommendation of extending the no wake zone northward so it would include the oyster pile, the new kayak launch and since going that far, recommend extending it north of the new T fishing pier that is being constructed at the new Bagdad mill site park. He added that it would put the northern limit of this no wake zone at the tip of the island at the confluence of Pond Creek and Blackwater River. He indicated that it would require permitting from FWC as well as approving the location. He said that he believes it will qualify but we have to get the permit through them before moving forward in getting the funding to have the pilings and sign installed.

Mr. Marker stated that he agrees that it should be in that location. Mr. Harris stated that he felt it should have been there to start with. Mr. Blaylock asked if there was a proposal to move it any further south and Mr. Furman replied that there wasn't. Mr. Furman stated that typically they discuss with FWC verbally or send a map to see what their initial thoughts are because there are a lot of regulations they deal with. He added that 300 feet is a typical distance away from the center of the launch that is recommended by FWC. Mr. Marker stated that he was in favor of what we are proposing and would consider moving the other marker as far south as they would allow but not beyond the tip of the island. Mr. Furman stated we can pursue this and hope for good results. A motion was then made and approved without objection.

REPORT ON PIERS AND DOCKS

Mr. Furman stated that this report had been prepared by Tammy Simmons, listing a brief history and condition of the county's docks and piers. He added that this report was prepared due to some of the facilities being closed because of poor conditions as well as dangerous conditions. He stated that he would like for this committee to discuss some possible options so that a recommendation could be made to the BOCC for funding.

The top four listed in poor condition were discussed in detail. Mr. Furman stated Navarre Park and boardwalk rate in poor condition and will be looked at by a consultant and considered in an overall recommendation on the park as a whole. There was discussion of using boater registration fees for those highlighted as the most crucial and Mr. Furman stated that it was the hope of staff that the Marine Advisory Committee would

recommend to the BOCC using those fees. He then stated the next action would be for staff to come up with a multiyear prioritization plan to look at a portion of incoming boater registration fees to allocate to this list and over the next 2-3 years tackle the rest of the ones in poor condition. He added that on the least damaged ones, there are items that we can do with in-house staff with current repair maintenance budgets. Mr. Mason asked if quick fixes were going to be addressed fairly soon and Mr. Furman said hopefully in the next 3-6 months as timing and manpower allows.

Mr. Marker questioned if it would qualify for a grant since it would require a major repair. Mr. Gomillion stated he is not sure which grant cycle that would fit into since there is a source of funding from the boater registration fees. He added that we could look at some of the other grants but it might fall under a lesser priority. Mr. Blaylock stated that since Sandpiper is not considered a boat ramp it would not be eligible for the boater improvement portion of the grant cycle. There was discussion of whether it would qualify for boating registration fees since it wasn't a boat ramp. Mr. Furman said he would meet with Mr. Gomillion and the County Attorney, Mr. Andrews to see if it is possible to use these fees. Mr. Furman stressed the importance of timing and that it may have to be closed. Mr. Harris expressed concern due to this facility being used by a lot of Santa Rosa County residents.

Ms. Barrineau asked if recreation or TDC funds could be used to make repairs at the Woodlawn Boat Ramp. Mr. Gomillion stated that TDC funds have specific restrictions and a determination would have to be made that it is a tourism related activity. He added that rec funds would be more of a valid discussion. Ms. Verlinde stated it would be a good project for the Florida boater improvement fund. She stated it does require a match but if we could do it through the county it would be a good project. Ms. Barrineau then made a motion to start the permitting process for Woodlawn Boat Ramp as well as pursuing alternate funding and starting the bid process. This was approved without objection.

Mr. Marker stressed the importance of this topic and that it would definitely require more discussion. Mr. Furman stated he is asking that a multi-year plan be established to address needs of all piers and docks that are maintained by the county and then bring back to this committee with specific options. Mr. Gomillion added that at this time there is no particular action to be made but in the future will bring back a multi-year plan with some specifics related to funding. He said this will give this committee more time to review the report prepared by Ms. Simmons.

CHAIRMAN/MEMBER ISSUES

Mr. Harris questioned the status of a work order turned in on channel marker pilings coming out of Mulat into the bay. He stated there were two leaning over real bad and now more were leaning and it would only get worse. Mr. Furman stated he would check on the status of the work order and added that we don't have the capability of going in

and re-erecting wooden pilings and if we need to get pricing from a marine contractor to straighten up the pilings we can do that.

PROJECTS / ISSUES UPDATE

Boater Registration Fees as of June 30, 2016 is \$264,890.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Chairman