REVISED-MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 11, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle Room B-106
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – **Chair Darden** called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Roll Call - Upon roll call, it was determined that a quorum was present. Sign-in sheets are attached.

3. Chairman's Comments
   Reminder to all members, staff, and visitors: Please sign in on the sheets provided. State your name and organization when addressing the committee to assist with the preparation of the minutes. Silence cell phones and keep the conversations to a whisper, as the recording system captures all sounds.

4. Changes to the Agenda – **Chair Darden** stated that at the pre-agenda meeting there was a motion that carried to have a feasibility discussion on boat launch fees. This will be added to new business. He also added that a citizen would like to speak regarding the 250th birthday of the USA.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items – **Stephen R Deutsch** stated that in lieu of a July 4th parade, at 8:45 am there will be a birthday party at William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park, to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary.

6. Regular Business
   a. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting of May 7, 2026
   b. Approval of the Minutes of the Agenda Meeting of May 14, 2026
   c. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting of June 4, 2026

Chair Darden stated that the committee would accept all the pre-agenda and agenda minutes without objection. No objections were noted.

   d. Charlotte County Sheriff's Department and City of Punta Gorda Police Department- Marine Updates.
   Sgt. Kris McRae, of CCSO, spoke. He stated that he has received a promotion to Lt. He gave a report regarding his department's recent activities. He advised they are putting an extension in for the boat lift at Laishley Park. This has been ongoing for the last 2 years and should be done soon. He said that several anchor systems have been placed on their larger vessels, Omni Marine built a ladder system for another vessel, and a 2nd Raymarine Axiom 12Pro system was added, as well as a CoastKey. A device that the officer wears, which shuts off the boat if he falls overboard and acts as a key for the boat. All funded by MAC.

Liz Eastes was absent, so **Sgt. McKrae** provided derelict vessel information. A person was arrested (twice, separate incidents) in Englewood for the same derelict vessel, a jet ski unearthed itself in Coral Creek, believed to be from the 2024 storms, a 14' jon boat was found near Bay Heights Park, he is hoping to find the owner. The derelict vessel in Intercepter Lagoon, first reported in 2024, initially was going to be donated through the FWC program, but the owner was not granted that, so now CCSO will handle it. Currently it is in the 21-day notice process. **Jenna Ginsberg** said there are people in the community that will help the owner with that boat, but they don't know who to contact. Deputy Nelson will be handling this matter. Regarding the derelict vessel near the beach complex and Leland St., the owner is deceased. The executive of the estate was contacted, they do not want the boat, so a 21-day notice was issued, and it will be removed. Going forward, Deputy Nelson will oversee all derelict and at-risk vessels. There are currently 5 identified as at risk in the Port Charlotte area. The owners were provided with VTIP paperwork. 3 derelict vessels are currently being investigated at Leland, SE Sea Edge Dr., and Shore Dr. CCSO will be on the water for the Englewood fireworks and will be assisting PGPD with fireworks displays at Laishley Park and Fishermen's Village, and the Freedom Swim.

Officer Lee of PGPD stated that the Laishley Park boat lifts have been repaired. The new Caymas boat, funded by MAC is on the lift, however, on Monday morning he was unable to launch the boat because it was low tide and the boat would have bottomed out, so there are issues that need to be worked out, like dredging. The Anchor Light Initiative is going well, the first month 8 citations were issued and this month only 2 citations, with most people complying. Citations were also issued to an individual who brought a nonoperational boat brought to Gilchrist Park. The owner has 90 days to remove it. The state will also be taking over a derelict vessel anchored at Laishley very soon. There are only 11 boats anchored outside of Gilchrist, verses 29 when this started. Laishley Marina has slips available to rent. **Ralph Lombardo** requested pictures of the new boat. **Officer Lee** will send them to Mrs. Sargent, and she will forward them to the members. **Chair Darden** asked on behalf of a member about a derelict vessel that has been on the report since 2023. They would like an update. **Tina Powell** will speak with **Liz Eastes** regarding it. There is a boat with graffiti on it in South Gulf Cove, the Mahome vessel. CCSO is going to take over and hopefully find a new owner for it.

e. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes – (See Above)
Liz Eastes was absent.



Click on icon to open link to the report.

f. FY26/27 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Debbie Thibideau/Jacob Jenkins
Debbie Thibideau and Jacob Jenkins were present.
Jacob Jenkins spoke on the report.



Click on icon to open link to the report.

g. MSBU update – Michael Benjamin
Michael Benjamin spoke on the report.



Click on icon to open link to the report.

h. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell spoke on the report.



Click on icon to open link to the report.

7. New Business – **Jim Pase** would like to recommend commercial vessels be charged a fee for using our parking lots and boat ramps as there are times when parking is not available or perhaps expanding parking lots. **Tina Powell** stated that enforcement and collection of the fee would be the biggest issue. A discussion ensued. **Betty Campanella** made a motion to table this issue until the county reinstates its parking fees, **Hank Killion** seconds this motion. The members voted 11-4 to table this motion.

   Learn to Sail Presentation by **Tom Kavenaugh** and **Garrett Geiger**.

8. Old Business – None.

9. Citizen Comments – None.

10. Member Discussion – **Noel Hyde** asks about **Commissioner Deutsch** and his role in the MAC meetings. **Chair Darden** explained that he is attending as a citizen and can speak during the citizens comments portion of the meeting.

11. Next Meetings

- The next pre-agenda meeting will be held Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the Large Conference Room of the E. Jay Carlson Community Development Building (18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte).

- The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in Room B-106 in Building B of 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.

12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Submitted by Jane Babler, recording secretary
Community Development

Jim Darden, Chair _____ 10/8/26 Date