MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 10, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 10:53 a.m.
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle Room B-106
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – **Vice Chair Killion** called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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 – None.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items – None.

6. Regular Business

   a. Approval of the Minutes of Agenda Meeting of June 11, 2026, and approval of the Pre-Agenda Meeting of September 3, 2026. Betty Campanella motioned for approval, seconded by Mike McIntosh. The motion passed unanimously.

   b. Charlotte County Sheriff and City of Punta Gorda Police Department – Marine Updates.

      Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
      Lt. Kris McKrae stated that purchases are finished through FY 2026. One vessel will be decommissioned due to its aging out. **Sgt. Kyle Martin** gave Labor Day weekend statistics: 96 vessel stops, 107 warnings, and 3 citations. **Deputy Smith** stated that there are currently 5 derelict vessels. **Ms. Ginsberg** asked about the new free anchoring law. **Deputy Smith** stated that there is currently a 96% compliance rate.

      City of Punta Gorda Police Department
      Officer Lee stated that the City of Punta Gorda has tripled their enforcement on the water in the past year, and now the department can enforce boating laws. Nine derelict vessel investigations were conducted.

c. Derelict Vessel Report – **Liz Eastes** was absent.



Click on icon to open link to the report.

Tina Powell, Parks and Natural Resources Manager, stated that there are three cases being handled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Two of the vessels are ready for removal and one is under investigation.

d. FY 26/27 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Debbie Thibideau



Click on icon to open link to the report.

Debbie Thibideau advised that Jacob Jenkins has resigned. He handled the financials, so she requested that the report be accepted as tentative, as she has not vetted it. She attended the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) meeting last week. They will be implementing several changes: updating their bylaws and not allowing third-party organizations, like MAC, to apply for funds. They are also considering cutting funding for derelict vessels because that funding is also available through a grant through the state. CCSO utilizes state funding, PGPD does not. **Officer Lee** stated once grant funding is depleted, that they will apply for state funding. **Vice Chair** Killion asked how much funding would be reduced if Ballot Amendment 3 passes this November. Debbie estimated it to be about 15% initially and then 25% in subsequent years.

e. MSBU Update – Michael Benjamin



Click on icon to open link to the report.

Michael Benjamin spoke on the report. He reminded us that every project is waiting on permitting and FEMA money and that the county has applied for a 20-year permit for regular maintenance that would allow us to bypass the lengthy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers process. A discussion ensued regarding contacting congressional representatives, grouping dredging projects together, running aground, forming a county-wide MSBU, taking out loans, enacting a tax, budgeting for emergency dredging, implementing a notice to boater advisement, attending County Board meetings, and how to change the current systems in place, as they are somewhat ineffective and very lengthy.

f. Community Services – Tina Powell



Click on icon to open link to the report.

Tina Powell, Parks and Natural Resources Manager, reviewed the report. **Richard Russell** asked how many live oaks were removed from Bay Shore Park to put in a parking lot and what the budget is for the Port Charlotte Beach Park project. Tina was unaware of these numbers and will provide an update at the next meeting. She also apologized that the Shoreline Stabilization project was missing from the report. It will be included again next month. **Vice Chair Killion** thanked **Richard Russell** for suggesting the use of the County GIS during the meetings and **Tina Powell** for making it happen.

7. New Business – The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center briefing was postponed due to technical difficulties. A discussion regarding a time change for the pre-agenda meetings was also postponed due to Chair Darden's absence. All members agreed.

8. Old Business – None.

9. Citizen Comments – None.

10. Member Discussion – **Noel Hyde** asked why Sarasota County can rebuild their boardwalks and piers in the same footprint without waiting for a permit. **Jenna Ginsberg** stated it was because of the Nationwide Permit Number 3. She was unsure why Charlotte County could not utilize this. **Betty Campanella** complimented all the Parks and Natural Resources staff regarding William R. Gaines Park. **Richard Slewsewski** stated that he spoke with Joe Pocklington, an owner of the Riviera restaurant. He provided an update regarding that marina moving forward. **Gene Pawlowski** said we should be proactive in investigating launching and other fees that may help support MAC if Ballot Amendment 3 passes. **Noel Hyde** mentioned that the Laishley Marina has slips available. **Officer Lee** believes there were 10-13 openings. There are several reasons why these are not being utilized, including a $1 million policy requirement. **Jenna Ginsberg** stated that, in her experience, this is standard and that the harbor is shallow and needs to be dredged. **Officer Lee** agreed and believed dredging to be approximately one year away.

11. Next Meetings:

- The next pre-agenda meeting will be held Thursday, October 1, 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, October 8, 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 10:53 a.m.

Submitted by Jane Babler, Recording Secretary
Community Development

10/8/26

Jim Darden, Chair — Date