



HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Hernando Beach Marine Group, Inc. Training Center
4340 Calienta Street, Hernando Beach, FL 34607

Meeting Advertised: Friday, July 9, 2021 Hernando Sun (CLK21-147)

Agenda Available Online:

<https://www.hernandocounty.us/departments/departments-n-z/public-works/aquatic-services/waterways-advisory-committee/agendas-and-minutes/-folder-1515>

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Chuck Morton	Chairman	Yes
Kathryn Birren	Vice Chairman	Yes
Michael Senker	Member	Yes
Sarah Hill	Member	Yes
Mike Fulford	Member	No
Commissioner Wayne Dukes	Committee Liaison	No
Scott Herring, P.E.	Director of Public Works/County Engineer	Yes
Keith Kolasa	Aquatic Services/Waterways Manager	Yes
Cpl. Steve Kelly	Marine Patrol Officer	No
Teena Dagliere	Administrative Assistant II	Yes

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Morton called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Morton asked if everyone reviewed the minutes provided for the April 21, 2021 meeting and asked for approval. Mike Senker made the motion to approve, and Sarah Hill seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

MARINE PATROL REPORT

Corporal Steve Kelly was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Seagrass Mitigation Update**

Keith Kolasa stated that progress has been made with DEP. They have released us from future monitoring. They met with Army Corps of Engineers and received good news. We will be tweaking report over next few months, justifying why we should be released from federal monitoring.

2. **State Road Canal Dredge Status**

We have DEP permit. We have all the plans; survey and we have bid specs with Purchasing. Only hold up is Army Corps of Engineers. Recent email received from them stated that permit should be issued soon. This is a top priority project.

3. **Hunters Lake Boat Ramp and Canal Dredge Status**

Keith Kolasa stated that the ramp is now open. Clay Black from the Stormwater department is getting a permit renewed for the dredge project which includes an Army Corps review. It is funded in next year's budget. Mosquito Control was able to get out there to spray specific areas before the lake dropped too low.

4. **RESTORE Artificial Reef Program**

A consultant was selected and went through cost negotiations and a contract was drafted for the first phase of the project which includes design, permitting, site evaluations and monitoring. There was an increase in cost from the first estimate. Due to the cost increase a grant amendment is being processed by Gulf Consortium which requires approval by the Gulf Council. Currently waiting on the amendment.

5. **Lake Lindsey Tussock Update**

Keith Kolasa and Chairman Morton met with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Southwest Florida Water Management District in January, and along with a few emails from Chairman Morton, was able to secure \$20,000 from FWC to do some shredding. The shredding was completed in June. Keith showed before and after pictures of the lake.

6. **Waterways Operations—Staffing Update and General Information**

Keith stated that he now has a full staff of three. One of his employees retired. One new staff member managed some parks in Virginia and the other new staff member transferred from the Utilities department.

7. **Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve**

They are close to getting the draft done for the Nature Coast Aquatic Management Program. As soon as it is received, Keith will forward any information on the upcoming workshops.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tom Allen (Member of Pine Island POA) stated that there is a channel marker missing on Pine Island. He also asked if Waterways was taking over all the Functions of the Port Authority. Chairman Morton stated that the BOCC took over all the functions of the Port Authority. Mr. Allen stated that the County dumped new sand onto Pine Island and now it needs to be dredged. Keith stated that Pine Island canal is listed in the state expenditure plan for boat ramps and dredging.

Joe Crawford (President of Pine Island POA) stated they have been trying to get this resolved for 7-8 years and nothing gets done. Keith Kolasa stated that RESTORE money may be able to be used. He will investigate it.

Scott Herring stated that this group was before the Board at the last BOCC meeting and the Board has requested that it be brought before them

Chairman Morton suggested that this be put on the agenda for the next Waterways meeting in October

Chairman Morton asked to make a motion to pass this forward to the Commissioners. Vice Chair Birren made a motion and Mike Senker seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Erin Daley stated that she participated in the scallop sitting program last year and again this year and found more scallops this year than last year

BOARD COMMENTS

Mike Senker mentioned that there seems to be some missing channel markers. Keith stated he would check into it.

Vice Chair Birren asked when the Board will be holding the next Port Authority meeting. Scott Herring stated that he has not been privy to that discussion. Vice Chair Birren also stated that commercial fleet is being contacted to assist with cleaning up of dead fish due to red tide.

Sarah Hill asked that the dock and seawall criteria get added to the October agenda. She feels that its more stringent at the county level than at the state level. Chairman Morton stated that he will add this to the October agenda along with red tide

Keith recapped items for the next meeting in October. Pine Island, red tide and dock and seawall criteria will be some of the items discussed. It was also decided that the meeting be in Hernando Beach since there may be an issue with meeting in the Brooksville Chambers since the judges require security when the building is occupied. It was decided to table the Brooksville meeting until the 2022 Agenda is set.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Senker motioned to adjourn, and Vice Chair Birren seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next Waterways Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at the Hernando Beach Marine Corp, Inc Training Center, 4340 Calienta Street, Hernando Beach, Florida 34607