******HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2023**

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2023 Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Hernando Beach Marine Group Inc. Training Center

4340 Calienta Street, Hernando Beach, FL 34607

Advertised: Friday, February 11, 2022, The Hernando Sun (CLK22-024)

The meeting agenda and back-up material are available online at: <https://www.hernandocounty.us/departments/departments-n-z/public-works/aquatic-services/waterways-advisory-committee/agendas-and-minutes>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kathryn Birren called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Attendee Name | Title | Attendance |
| Kathryn Birren | Chairman | Yes |
| Sarah Hill | Vice Chairman | Yes |
| Ronald Zellmer | Member | Yes |
| Chris Licata | Member | Yes |
| Brian Hawkins | County Commissioner | Yes |
| Carla Burrmann | Aquatic Services & Waterways Manager | Yes |
| Steve Snell | Deputy / Marine Patrol Officer | Yes |
| Eric Davis | Project Manager / Aquatic Services & Waterways Dept. | Yes |

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (Limited to Staff and Committee Only)**

* Removal of recognition of Mike Fulford by Kathryn Birren as he will not be in attendance.
* Delete Mike Senker and Scott Herring names under Staff Comments as they are no longer part of the committee.

**ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (Limited to Committee Only)**

Mr. Chris Licata made a motion that Mrs. Kathryn Birren remain as Chairman. Mrs. Sarah Hill seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Kathryn Birren made a motion that Mrs. Sarah Hill remain as Vice Chairman. Mr. Chris Licata seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 16, 2022**

**MOTION:** Kathryn Birren motioned to postpone approval of the minutes for the October 19, 2022 Waterways Advisory Committee meeting to May 17, 2023 meeting. Sarah Hill seconded. The motion carried and was approved unanimously.

**MARINE PATROL REPORT – Deputy Steve Snell**

Deputy Steve Snell provided update that a third Marine Patrol Officer has been hired.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Membership updates: Vacancies on Committee**

Carla Burrmann notified the committee that an application was received for the committee vacancy. Once this application is reviewed, it will be sent to the BOCC for approval.

1. **Update on County Harvesting Machine**

Carla Burrmann provided estimated arrival date of approximately April 2023. The vessel is currently being built and will be water tested in March 2023 if weather conditions allow.

1. **Update on Weeki Wachee River Springs Protection Zone**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will hold a public meeting to provide an overview of the Hernando County request to establish a Springs Protection Zone along the Weeki Wachee River between the upstream boundary at the State Park to the Rogers Park boat ramp canal. The meeting will be held at the County Administration Building, 15470 Flight Path Drive, Brooksville, FL 34604 on March 28, 2023 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

1. **Hernando Beach and Bayport boat dock replacements**

Eric Davis noted the docks have been approved and entered into production. Delivery of the docks is expected in 6-8 weeks.

1. **Weeki Wachee River dredge project**

Carla Burrmann provided update on this item. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMWD) is currently in negotiations with another contractor to complete the project.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. **Channel marker material considerations – Kathryn Birren**

Mrs. Birren discussed the option of using alternative materials for channel markers. Several materials such as I-beams, concrete piles, wrapping columns, and installation of springs at bottom to provide a self-righting mechanism were discussed. The County asked for additional information on the spring mechanism from an attendee.

**CITIZENS’ COMMENTS**

The following citizens commented as follows:

* Joe and Kat Crawford asked for an update on the Pine Island dredge. Ms. Crawford wants to know when this will be put back on the County’s project list.
  + Kathryn Birren stated she would contact Jeff Rogers and discuss this item.

**WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS**

1. Kathryn Birren, Chairman
2. Sarah Hill, Vice Chairman
3. Ronald Zellmer, Member
4. Chris Licata, Member
5. Carla Burrmann, Aquatic Services/Waterways Manager
6. Eric Davis, Aquatic Services/Waterways Department/Project Manager

**OTHER – Waterways Advisory Committee Agenda Requests for Future Meetings**

Mrs. Hill requested 2023 meeting dates be revised due to placement on Thursdays. Also, April 2023 meeting was moved to May due to committee member scheduling conflicts.

There was no other business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

**Upcoming Meeting(s):**

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., at the Jenkins Creek Recreational Building 6400 Shoal Line BLVD Hernando Beach, FL 34607 .