



MAC

Escambia County Marine Advisory Committee
 Escambia County Central Office Complex
 3363 West Park Place
 Pensacola, FL 32505

Approved

RESUME OF MINUTES

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Escambia County Central Office Complex
 3363 West Park Place
 Pensacola, Florida 32505

NEIGHBORHOOD & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

January 10, 2011 MAC Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Eilene Beard	Committee Chairperson	District 3/Commissioner Marie Young
David Dodson		District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson, IV
Gene Ferguson		District 3/Commissioner Marie Young
Mike Harrell		District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
Cathy Watson		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
Earle Rader		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
William Myrick		District 5/Commissioner Kevin White
H. Walt Woodfin		District 5/Commissioner Kevin White
Ed Fish		Interim County Administrator Larry Newsom
Dave Mucci		District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson, IV

Members Absent:

Excused absences

Sidney Jeff Clopton

District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino

Staff Present

Robert Turpin

NESD/ Marine Resources Division Manager

Visitors

Keith Johnson
 Andrew Diller
 Jordan Mead
 Oliver Hurst

Neil Richards
 Dustin Service
 Michael Tracy

Wetland Sciences, Inc
 Univ. Florida Sea Grant-Escambia Co.
 Fisherman / Diver
 Bloody Waters Kayak Fishing Team
 Johnson Outdoors
 Pensacola Aquarium
 Kayak Fisherman
 Represented the Roberson's Property

Agenda Item I, Call to Order

Monday January 10, 2011, call to order at 5:30 pm.

First order of business is attendance. We have an excused absence for Sidney Clopton.

Robert Turpin had some minor changes. Page three, the second paragraph change fringing needs to be changed to fringing marshlands, which is a specific type of emergent type of vegetation along the shoreline.

On page four about the BP anchors. There are more than 400 + total concrete anchors, 97 of which are the 4 ft x 4 ft x 10 ft, the other smaller. These are 500 lbs and 250 lb modules. Other minor errors will be edited.

Earle Rader made a motion to accept the Marine Advisory Committee Minutes with the minor spelling corrections from December 2010. William Myrick seconded the motion with all in favor and no one opposed.

Previously, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners has established a special fund that is the Marine Aquatic Resources Stewardship Foundation Fund. In the past we received a number of cash donations. Notable among them was a \$10,000.00 that the Gulf Breeze Sertoma donated for the purpose of funding artificial reefs. Another was approximately \$8,000.00 donation of cash for artificial reefs to be built in Susan Tay Fruitticher Memorial Reef. Over the years Escambia County has accepted cash donations for the express purpose of deployment of artificial reefs as specified by the donor of those funds. In recent conversations with local kayak fishermen, there was discussion of the proposed Casino Reef and there was an interest in creating some tournaments that would be established for, at least in part, the purpose of obtaining funds for artificial reefs, in particular, the kayak reef that they intend to build upon issuance of permits. As the conversations went on, the idea of this effort began to take shape and now has a catch phrase, "Fishing for Reefs", which is a series of tournaments that are set up so a portion of the proceeds of the tournament go into a cash donation that will go into the Escambia County artificial reef fund, so that we can build these artificial reefs. A further option to that is to allow the tournament to name the artificial reefs after the winning angler. This would be an incentive and bragging rights to the winning angler.

The reefs would have to go into a permitted reef site. Options of where to deploy these reefs would be available to area of permitted sites.

Oliver Hurst – guest

Spoke about the kayak fishing tournaments with low entry fees and the prize is having artificial reefs deployed in the name of the winner, which Robert Turpin just spoke about. He proposed 5 to 6 fishing tournaments per year. **William Myrick** liked this idea and would like to see this extended to fresh water fishing tournaments. Mr. Hurst is to write up a more detailed plan for the next Marine Advisory Committee meeting.

**Casino Reef Site**

Robert Turpin spoke about the Casino Rubble that was deployed off the beach back in the 1970's. They have created a one square mile around the old reef site, the Casino Rubble and plan to deploy materials on top of that old site to minimize the subsidence of the new materials. What we have is a beginning of an application we can submit to the State of Florida and the Army Corp of Engineers. If we stay out beyond that magical one nautical mile line, inside of which is the Gulf Sturgeon Critical Habitat, then we will have to have an informal consultation under the endangered species act. This will reduce our time in getting Federal permits. It is roughly a mile square and would take us a decade to fill this area out. Because the reef site is 8 miles from the east of Pensacola pass. Most power boats would run to the Russian Freighter from the pass. With kayaks launching from the Pensacola beach it will reduce user conflicts from power boats. It is a previously used site so it would be an easy review and we could get a State permit in three months. Army Corp of Engineers will take longer, and sets our time line. Robert Turpin would like to get our permit application submitted as quickly as possible.

William Myrick made a motion to allow Robert Turpin to proceed with the permit applications for this Casino Reef Site. Walt Woodfin seconded the motion with all in favor and no one opposed.

Robert Turpin asked that we name this reef site, the Casino Reef Site for consistency when we are talking about this area. Then there will be different artificial reef sites deployed within this 1 square mile site.

Gulf Breeze Fishing Bridge Rubble

They have made three deployments of the Gulf Breeze Fishing Bridge rubble in the center of the site. Approximately 3,000 tons have been delivered. The coordinates are **30° 17.467' N 87° 13.773' W**. This area is about ½ mile west of the three barges. The water depth is approximately 50 feet. One of the piles comes up 15 ft off the bottom, most come up around 5 to 7 ft off the bottom. The Army Corp of Engineers gave us a modification to the reef permit and gave us 8 more feet of vertical reef height which gives us up to 16 ft. The city of Gulf Breeze named this reef, the **Lane Gilchrist Reef** who was a former Mayor of Gulf Breeze that passed away in 2009. The goal is to have something that is similar to three mile bridge rubble in LAARS. Robert spoke about re-nourishing the three barges with some of the pilings to extend the life of the three barges.

Capt. Bob Quarles Reef; Bay Reef #1

Eilene Beard asked if some of the material from the bridge rubble was going to be used for the sound reefs. Robert stated that the materials are loaded on the barge for the sound reefs. After it gets deployed, we have to see how it is sitting on the bottom because the vertical height is only 6- 7 ft for this area and compliance has to be maintained with the permits. Whatever we can do, we will do.

Gulf Snorkeling Reef

Dave Walter still has his vessel in the shipyard. We are first on his list.

Bay Snorkeling Reef

We have the State permit from DEP and we are awaiting the Army Corp of Engineers permit.

Oriskany Monitoring Program

We have executed the contracts for the Oriskany Monitoring contract.



Boat Ramps

Mahogany Mill

Engineering Department is putting together a solicitation for letters of interest for firms to do the engineering and design. We are awaiting our contract from FWC and once that contract is executed then we will enter into a contract with a engineering and design firm to finish up the site, and roadway improvements.

Perdido River at Hwy 90

Greg English Property 11800 Mobile Hwy
11860 Mobile Hwy

We have received a contract back from Mr. Greg English for his two parcels at the Perdido River Hwy 90 site. Our Assistant County Attorney is working on drawing up the closing documents.

Ricky Herndon Properties 11794 Mobile Hwy
Ruby Fish Camp Road

Mike Monsour Property 11790 Mobile Hwy

We have provided copies of the new appraisals for Mr. Ricky Herndon and Mr. Mike Monsour and they will communicate their intent to the County at some point in time.

Hurst Hammock

The Board of County Commissioners approved the contracts for the two sites up at Hurst Hammock for hand launch paddle craft vessels.

Neil and Sheila Smith Property 5925 Hurst Hammock Dr

Joe Meeks Property 5900 Hurst Hammock Dr

The Bellamy property

Harvey and Anne Bellamy Property 8210 Scenic Hwy

Our real estate division has the appropriate agreement being drafted with CSX railroad and DOT and they have assigned a staff member for that project.

Century Boat Ramp

We have all the permits necessary for the Century boat ramp and Engineering Department will be sending that out for bid.

Lake Stone Facility

This went out for bid today.

**Coronado Boat Ramp**

Essentially on the same time line as the Century Boat Ramp.

13946 River Road Property

Michael Tracy of South States Gulf Coast Realty (did not sign in on guest sheet) is representing the sellers of the property (Roberson's). They are trying to sell the property for a boat ramp and they have the options to purchase the riparian rights. The Army Corp of Engineers strongly opposes the area for a public boat ramp. Mr. Tracy was inquiring what the

next step would be to get the County to acquire the land for a boat ramp. The property was voted to be removed from the list of properties by the Marine Advisory Committee in the December 2010 meeting. Robert Turpin pointed out that it would be a substantial obstacle and would not be a recommendation from the staff. It would take the Army Corp of Engineers reconsidering their position. If that happened, then we could reconsider the facts of the case.

10900 Lillian Hwy Property

Essentially we have a willing seller for this property. Coastal Bank and Trust is the owner represented by Mr. Bill Lovelace of John S. Carr & Co. Dr. Bob Austin sent Robert Turpin some information about this property. Robert will forward this information later. The bank owns the property and the site has been looked at. This is not going to be a large vessel boat ramp. It is more for bass boats and smaller vessels. William Myrick also checked into the property and spoke with Mr. Compton who is a property owner next to this property and he is all for this becoming a boat ramp. He asked if they would put up a five foot hedge or fence for privacy. Robert also mentioned that there would be some wetlands issues on this property. Robert said that Dr. Austin mention considering purchasing the adjacent property. There is a road that comes all the way down and an old right of way or utility easement that separates it from the ¼ acre parcel. The two parcels together would be 2 ½ acres or better for the ramp and parking and an area that is a 1/4 acre that would be a buffer area to Mr. Compton's property. The best area for the boat ramp is wetlands and would require mitigation. We do not have sites without wetlands. This has the advantage of being downstream of the bridge. We can't pick and choose the choice locations. There are about 50 large pine trees on the property that can be used in the mitigation and sold to St. Regis.

- (1) **10900 Lillian Hwy** property has been offered at a price of \$99,000.00 and is the northern most parcel. The property was appraised in March 2009 for \$ 215,000.00.
- (2) **10000 Lillian Hwy** is the second parcel in the middle of the three parcels.
- (3) **800 Dog Track Road** is the third parcel in this group and is the most southern parcel.

The acquisition prices for 2nd and 3rd parcels have to be moved forward once we get Marine Advisory Committee to take it to the Board of County Commissioners and then we can start on that.

William Myrick made a motion to proceed with the possible acquisition of the property for a waterways access. Gene Ferguson seconded the motion. Robert asked for a clarification if this was for both of the properties or for all three of the parcels. William Myrick stated that the motion was for all three parcels.

All members voted in favor with no one opposed.

Navy Point Boat Ramp

No updates on the Navy Point Boat Ramp

Gulf Power No Wake Zone

No additional information on the Gulf Power No Wake Zone

The Public Aquarium Proposal

Eilene Beard spoke in regards to the Aquarium. They are going to before the ECUA Board on January 19, 2011, at the ECUA meeting if anyone is interested. They are diligently trying to move forward in the hope of accomplishing their goal.

Wanton Waste Resolution

Eilene stated that the Marine Advisory Committee Members would definitely like to support this resolution and could Robert surmise the resolution.

Essentially, what the language is, is that resources of our marine and estuary waterways are vital to the health of the waterways, the health of our economy, and our community. They have a value that justifies protection that is similarly provided to fresh water and terrestrial game. If you go out and shoot a deer and leave it on the side of the road the game warden writes you up. If you go out and shoot a bunch of other game, or water fowl and leave them to die, you are in violation of existing statues. If you catch fresh water fish and just discard them, those are against those rules as well. There is not a rule for non-food fish in marine estuary waters that similarly exists in other areas of Florida statues. This is a way that the public can be educated to not repeat what we saw at the City of Gulf Breeze, and not that it is a wide spread problem, but it gives law enforcement the flexibility and another tool in their tool box. If they see wanton waste of marine wildlife, that they would see in other wild life, they could potentially site a violator. This is being forwarded to The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission by the City of Gulf Breeze and will be forwarded to Escambia County as well.

Earle Rader voiced his concern that the way this worded. Some fisherman may think he can't take fish to use for bait or chum. Robert stated that the use of fish for bait or chum is being used for a purpose of chumming. He stated that this is something we need to move forward and maintain contact as this moves forward so that it does not get hijacked by a special interest group and have them try to turn this into something it is not. Earle was concerned about Fish and Wildlife come upon us and say they were wasting the fish.

David Dodson made a motion to support the City of Gulf Breeze in their Wanton Waste Resolution. Mike Harrell seconded the motion.

Earle Rader had difficulty going along with this resolution without seeing it. He is not necessarily against the resolution. Robert stated he would pull up his email with the resolution and read it to us. He shares Earle's desire to understand the resolution and speaking up about this.

The Resolution reads as:

WHEREAS

City of Gulf Breeze, Florida and the State of Florida are surrounded by estuarine and marine waters; and

Marine and estuarine waters provide abundant marine life and other ecosystem services to Florida residents and visitors; and

Florida's environment and economy are dependent upon healthy marine and estuarine ecosystems; and,

All marine and estuarine species contribute to the health and bounty of Florida's marine and estuarine ecosystems; and,

Existing Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code protect terrestrial wildlife, freshwater fishes, and saltwater "food fish" from wanton and wasteful acts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The residents of Gulf Breeze, Florida, represented by the elected City Council of Gulf Breeze, Florida, hereby request the Florida Legislature and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to promulgate rules and regulations affording marine and estuarine species, including non-food species, with similar protection as provided to terrestrial and freshwater wildlife.

Robert stated that we could add clarifying language such that the harvest and use of marine and estuary fish for bait, including chumming are lawful acts. There is certain language that needs to be added. While the motion is still on the floor this would be a great time to make sure that that language is accommodated.

Earle still had concerns about the resolution and asked if we could look at it and vote on it next week.

David Dodson withdrew his motion deferring to next months meeting.

Eilene Beard spoke about the **Public Aquarium Proposal** and the need for letters of support. She asked if the Marine Advisory Committee could write a letter of support and also make a resolution that can go through the County to show they would support the Aquarium. Robert stated that as Chairman of the Committee, if the Marine Advisory Committee votes to give you that direction, then you can write a letter. If the Marine Advisory Committee pens a resolution and you pass it, then as staff, Robert can forward that to the Board of County Commissioners. It would have to get on their agenda calendar.

William Myrick made a motion to give Eilene Beard authority to represent the Marine Advisory Committee in sending a letter of support for the Aquarium to the Board of County Commissioners and to ECUA. Gene Ferguson seconded the motion. All in favor and no one opposed.

David Dodson officially accepted the position of Vice Chairman that was held previously by Bubba Thorsen.

William Myrick made a motion that to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm with Gene Ferguson seconding the motion and all in favor and no one opposed.