

MEETING NOTES
MANCHESTER WATERWAY BENEFIT UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 26, 2012
10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Dennis Peck, Cliff McMahon, Patrick Randall, Grace Amodeo

Absent: Donald Fredrick

Guests: Al Augustine, Jim Goulette

County: Dawn Harrison, Judith Nothdurft, Sandy Wright, Matthew Logan

Mr. Peck called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Wright discussed the status of the Committee showing one opening for an alternate member and Mr. Randall has submitted his application for re-appointment. Mr. Goulette stated that he is interested in becoming an Alternate and was given an application. Both Mr. Goulette and Mr. Randall's applications are scheduled to go to the County Commissioners for approval at the Commission meeting on February 28, 2012.

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting on December 15, 2010 were previously approved.

Old Business:

- Mr. Randall received three responses from homeowners regarding spot dredging. The Committee reviewed the areas in question All of the complaints are indicating the same areas.
 1. The area at piling #20 in Lewis Creek. The Committee requested that a green #21 marker be installed at the S Bend. This would keep boaters off of the shoal and therefore reduce the amount of silt being pushed into the dredged channel. Mr. McMahon stated that in a previous meeting a motion was made and passed to install a green marker however, the marker installed was a red marker. Mr. Logan will address the installation of a green marker at the location.
 2. Mr. Randall noted that the turning basin is starting to get tight however the bottom is still soft and there is no immediate need for dredging.
 3. The area at Marker #16 which was not on the map has hard bottom in the center of the canal. A homeowner has installed a piece of PVC pipe to mark the location. It is believed to be the top of rock. This area was missed during the last dredging.
 4. Mr. Randall added additional locations in the dog leg area at markers 16 and 18 are filling in with silt. This area is in the harbor area of the channel and is outside the interior canal system. This maintenance fees for this area are covered jointly by Ackerman and Manchester Waterway MSBU's. Mr. Logan stated that is normal for that area.
- The Committee agreed and a meeting should be scheduled before the fall to reassess the canals.
- Mr. McMahon advised the Committee that homeowners from the community took PVC pipe to measure the water depth in the canals before the last Community meeting. The Committee agreed that there is no need for dredging at this time. Mr. Randall said there are three areas where boaters are experiencing a slight bump, however the canals are passable at this time.
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- **MANCHESTER WATERWAY BENEFIT UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- **January 26, 2012**

- **Page 2**

- Mr. Logan advised that the existing Spot Dredging contract was set up with the City of Punta Gorda. The initial 3-year contract was for \$100,000. Currently there is \$35,000 and two years left on the contract. This spot dredging could be covered by exhausting that contract. He also stated that the existing contract has no provisions for quantities. If a new contract is started, a new survey would be required.
- Ms. Amodeo discussed the size of the boats using the canals and how much silt they churn up. She suggested that bigger boats churn up more silt therefore they should pay more in fees. It was stated that a 5 foot depth was agreed upon, and regardless of boat size, everybody pays the same amount.
- There was discussion about permit issues. Mr. Logan says the permits covered all of the areas mentioned. The only area in possible question would be the dog leg area; however, Mr. Mopps addressed that area previously.
- The Committee agreed that the past practice of dredging during the fall is the best time of year to dredge and they would like to continue that practice.
- Mr. McMahon left the meeting at 10:35 leaving three Committee members present.

New Business:

- The Committee reviewed the Expense and Activity Reports. Ms. Harrison answered questions and explained the reports. The representative's preparation and time spent at the MSBU meetings is charged to the MSBU, therefore, it is in the best interest of the MSBU to stick to the agenda items and keep the meetings as short as possible. Mr. Peck stated the meetings need to be conducted in an orderly fashion. Mr. Randall suggested all input go through the Chair in order to keep the meetings on track.
- Ms. Harrison explained the function of an MSBU.
- Mr. Peck discussed the list of financial and loan questions that were emailed to Ms. Harrison & Ms. Nothdurft on January 25, 2012. They are researching the items and will email the details to the Committee.
- The Committee complimented the Sign & Marking Department on the remarking that was done. They stated that they are looking forward to working with the new staff and welcome any new communications.
- Mr. Augustine discussed that there are four Community meetings a year. He suggested the MSBU Committee meet before the Community meeting to enable information to be passed on to the entire Community. Mr. Peck stated that he thought it would be more prudent to hold the Community meetings first, allowing concerns to be taken to the MSBU meetings. It was agreed that the Community should meet first.

The next meeting will be scheduled after the draft budgets are available and have been sent to the Committee for review. Ms. Harrison stated that it is preferable that the Committee agree on the 2012/2013 Budget before it goes before the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.