

MEETING MINUTES
HARBOUR HEIGHTS WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 28, 2007
9:30 a.m.

Attendees: Joe Fleming; Larry Rand; Ken Wangler; Lee Phillips
County - Dawn Harrison, Matt Logan, Kim Raymond
Coastal Engineering – Michael Poff, Jamie Cohlmeier
Absent - Eric Frohn, Steve Johnson, Jr

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes: Mr. Fleming requested the following modifications to the October 18, 2007, minutes:

- The “Open Floor” section should be amended to clarify that the right-of-way is seawall to seawall, and dredging is limited to 15 feet from the seawall.
- An addition should be made to the minutes stating that the Committee requests the budget balance at each meeting.

The Committee unanimously approved the amended minutes.

Business:

- Per Ms. Harrison, Mr. Phillips was appointed alternate by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).
- Ms. Harrison informed the Committee that the BCC approved the conversion from front feet to ERU's (equivalent residential unit) as the means of taxation. An ERU is one buildable lot, which consists of two 40 feet lots.
- The Committee discussed assessing dry lots for waterway maintenance. Key reasons to include them are the use of public boat ramps by off-water residents and water quality issues. Mr. Rand made a motion to develop a proposal for the BCC to assess dry lots at the rate of 5% to support waterway maintenance. Mr. Wangler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- Mr. Fleming stated that the Benderson Corporation will not allow its property to be used as a spoil site and feels the material will not be suitable for fill. It was suggested that he inquire if the property could be used as a temporary transfer spoil site. Mr. Poff suggested a face-to-face meeting with the Benderson property owners. Other temporary spoil site locations were discussed, such as the t-ends of the streets (which have a small easement), County-owned property, and/or private property that lines up with the canals. Mr. Poff stated the dredging cost will be higher if enough spoil sites are not available. He suggested getting bids for both mechanical and hydraulic dredging for comparison.

- The Committee discussed purchasing property for future dredging projects, especially as the area becomes built out. This would reduce the amount of time necessary to coordinate property for spoil sites. Ms. Harrison suggested forwarding the ordinance relating to the purchase of property for spoil sites to Coastal Engineering for review.

New Business:

- Coastal Engineering advised that each canal, along with the exterior areas, will be surveyed. Ms. Harrison will provide a map of the MSBU, showing the boundaries of the survey (which includes the boat ramp), to Mr. Cohlmeier. The following dredging timetable was presented.
 - February 2008 – Survey data compiled
 - February-March 2008 – All spoil sites need to be locked in
 - April-May 2008 – Permits submitted to agencies
 - May 2008 – Dredging out to bid
 - August 2008 – Begin dredging project
 - November-December 2008 – Completion of project
- It was stated that the cost would be cheaper if brush cutting along the canals was kept separate from the dredging contract.
- The tip fees for brush cutting will probably not be waived. The Committee will look for other solutions. Ms. Harrison will check with the Marine Advisory Committee to see if funding is available.

Open Floor:

- Mr. Fleming stated that Mr. Jim Emercik, director of the Santa Barbara canal, passed away. The MSBU Committee wishes to acknowledge his past work for the improvement of our waterway. He will be missed.
- There was discussion about the mouth of the San Marino filling in. Mr. Fleming stated that dredging will take place out to the pilings.

Action Items:

- Mr. Fleming and Michael Poff will meet with the Benderson Corporation.
- Mr. Fleming, Michael Poff and Ms. Harrison will work on proposal of 5% assessment of dry lots.
- Mr. Fleming, Michael Poff and Ms. Harrison will continue to work on spoil sites.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at Public Works, 7000 Florida Street, Punta Gorda.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative