

June 7, 2011
Milton, Florida

The Marine Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Rick Harris, Wayne Hawthorne and Scott Mason. Also present were the County Administrator, Hunter Walker; Public Works Director, Avis Whitfield; County Engineer, Roger Blaylock and Marine Extension Agent, Chris Verlinde. Rick Harris called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

The minutes of the April 5, 2011 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN/MEMBER ISSUES

The members discussed collaboration with Escambia County on a proposed site in Santa Rosa Sound between Range Point and Big Sabine as a possible nearshore reef site as recommended by Robert Turpin. A motion to collaborate was made by Wayne Hawthorne and seconded by Scott Mason and was approved without objection.

PROJECTS / ISSUES UPDATE

Avis Whitfield reported that the only real project in the works at this time is the Sandy Landing, now known as the Chumuckla Springs Boat Ramp. He noted that we are waiting for environmental permits.

Roger Blaylock noted that the survey of the boundaries, the topo and the hydrographic survey for the permit have been completed and Chris Phillips is working diligently to complete the design for submission to the state and is hopeful that construction can begin in October to be complete by January 1st.

Mr. Blaylock also noted that there is preconstruction meeting with the second contractor for the Archie Glover dredging project on June 20, 2011 and Notice to Proceed will be issued in that meeting so work should begin shortly thereafter. Rick Harris asked if that is why the "Do Not Enter" signs are posted at that canal. Roger Blaylock said yes there are about 250 feet of the southwest end of that channel that has not been dredged and it has become an attractive nuisance to people to fly through that channel and run aground.

Mr. Walker noted that the Marine Sanctuary is moving forward with the two reefs in the sound and the one in the gulf is still waiting for permitting but both are progressing nicely. Mr. Blaylock said the permits have been issued for the reefs in the sound and they are probably waiting to mobilize until they have all the permits so that they only have to mobilize one time to avoid additional mobilization costs.

Rick Harris asked if the \$244,000 in the Boating Registration Fees reflects the reduction of the Sandy Landing Fees. Mr. Walker said that it does reflect all reduction and is the current amount.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick Harris said that he launches often at the Archie Glover Boat Ramp and has noticed that about 60 or 70 percent of the time there are people trying to fish off the dock. He noted that he had spoken with Commissioner Williamson about the possibility of building a tee at the end of that dock to enhance the boat launch for people to fish. Mr. Whitfield said that his department can work up some costs estimates to discuss with the Committee at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.