

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ESCAMBIA
COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Regular Meeting - February 8, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Escambia County Central Office Complex
3363 West Park Place Pensacola, FL 32505

1. Call Marine Advisory Committee Meeting to Order

Marine Advisory Committee Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Attendance

Committee Member	Appointee	Present	Absent Excused	Absent Unexcused	Vacant	Note
Cathy Watson	Bergosh – 1	X				
Mark Moore	Bergosh – 1	X				
Sidney Clopton	Underhill – 2		X			
Clint Retherford	Underhill – 2	X				Secretary
Eilene Beard	May – 3	X				
Joe Denmon	May – 3	X				
Pete Gaddy	Bender – 4	X				Vice-Chair
(Vacant)	Bender – 4				X	
Kerry Freeland	Barry – 5	X				
Walt Woodfin	Barry – 5	X				Chair
(Vacant)	County Administrator				X	

Staff Present	Position
Robert K. Turpin	Marine Resources Division Manager
Mark A. Nicholas	Marine Resources Environmental Programs Manager

3. Approval of Minutes (and Minutes from Previous MAC Meetings, as applicable)
Motion to approve MRD updates as given
Motion made by Clint Retherford
Second by Pete Gaddy
Motion passed 8-9
4. Old Business
5. 10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp
MRD Update: Army Corps of Engineers has not yet issued permit.
Escambia County will record Conservation Easement.
6. Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil Spill Restoration and Recovery
MRD Update: No correspondence from Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission (FWC) since January 2021 Marine Advisory
Committee (MAC) meeting.
7. Proposed Boating Regulatory Areas in Bayou Garcon and Innerarity Point
MRD Update: We have received Army Corps of Engineers permit and will
order signs and issue Purchase Requisition to marine contractor to install
piling and signs.
8. Lionfish Issues / Developments
NRD Update: FWC starting to promote 2021 lionfish removal events. Andy
Ross- Gave Lionfish Open updates & promoted year long lionfish hunting in
our area. Brady Hill-Overview of nonprofit *Ocean Strike Team*, consisting of
targeted lionfishing, eco-tourism & shark studies.
9. Vessels Anchored in Bayou Chico
MRD Update: MRD has recently removed several Derelict Vessels and has
issued Purchase Order to contractor to remove another Derelict Vessel in
the next few days. These vessels continue to pose a threat to Bayou Chico.
MRD is working with FWC to remove, and to enforce any & all violations.
Mark Moore inquired about privately owner mooring buoys in the bayou; R.
Turpin said he is unaware of any.
10. Galvez Landing Public Boat Ramp Issues
MRD Update: Our consulting engineers are working on final items to
develop 100% plans, including ECUA utilities lines down Cruzat Way or
Galvez Road.

11. Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project
MRD Update: MRD will invite Brent Wipf to provide an update at a future MAC meeting.
12. Langdon Bay Artificial Reef Site Proposal
MRD Update: Recent retirement of former Gulf Islands National Seashore may provide an opportunity to revisit this project via federal permitting.
13. Comprehensive Water Way Management
MRD Update: MRD is working with County Attorney staff to develop a draft ordinance and will consult with Natural Resources Management Department senior staff to develop strategy to bring to County Administrator and Board Of County Commissioners for consideration.
14. Old Highway 399 Fishing Bridge and Park West Fishing Pier Project
MRD Update: MRD is working with Engineering Department and other county staff to develop a plan for the existing fishing bridge, and potentially, construction of a new fishing pier on the south side of the existing facility.
15. Optional Vessel Registration Fee Increase - Public Input / Discussion
MRD Update: MRD has used new Florida Vessel Registration data (2019) to estimate economic impacts of Optional County Vessel Registration Fees as reflected on a spreadsheet that was distributed. Although this item has been on the MAC agenda for many months, lack of public input indicates the boating public is unaware of the MAC's deliberations on this issue. Therefore, MRD recommends maintaining MAC agenda to provide sufficient opportunities for county vessel owners to become aware of the need for funding for new and existing boat ramps, waterways signs, and other expenditures allowed pursuant to Florida Statutes. Clint inquired about counties that approved the fee increase, 14 of 35 per Mark Nicholas.
16. Pensacola Bay Fishing Bridge Damage
MRD Update: Once finalized, MRD will update MAC of the final determination regarding extent of damage, and repair or demolition.
17. New Business
 - 166th deployment of 3 Mile Bridge rubble per Robert Turpin.
 - Walt Woodfin resigned from service on the MAC but oversaw 2021 Election of MAC Officers.
 - Motion to nominate Clint Retherford to Secretary made by Kerry Freeland with a second by Mark Moore - all in favor 8-0.
 - Motion to nominate Kerry to Vice Chair made by Cathy

- Watson with a second by Joe Denmon - all in favor 8-0.
- Motion to nominate Pete Gaddy to Chair made by Kerry Freeland with a second by Mark Moore - all in favor 8-0.

18. Adjourn

Motion made by Eilene Beard
Second by Cathy Watson
Motion passed 8-0
Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm