

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ESCAMBIA
COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting - May 10, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Escambia County Central Office Complex
3363 West Park Place Pensacola, FL 32505

1. Call Marine Advisory Committee Meeting to Order
 Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm

2. Attendance

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

Staff Present	Position
Robert K. Turpin	Marine Resources Division Manager

3. Approval of Minutes (and Minutes from Previous MAC Meetings, as applicable)

Approval of the April 12, 2021 Draft Minutes

Motion made by Eilene Beard

Second by Glen Conrad

Motion passed 8-0

Melissa Pino followed up on request to post meeting minutes on the website--waiting on Legal.

4. Old Business

5. 10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp

MRD Update: Escambia County Attorney's Office is working with Army Corps of Engineers' attorneys to resolve issues with Conservation Easements (CE). Corps is requiring CE to be recorded before issuing permit. For further information, see Escambia County Engineering Project Page at <https://myescambia.com/open-government/projects/project-details/perdido-bay-boat-ramp>

- Design plans are 100% complete.
- MRD has FDEP ERP Permit and FDOT Permit.
- MRD is awaiting the ACOE Permit. Once MRD has it, County will need to submit the permit to the Coast Guard for review in regards to the channel markers. Hope to have it soon.
- Conservation Easement should be recorded soon which will then finalize the obligations required in the ERP Permit.
- Current estimated construction cost is \$3.5 million (including contingency).
- Currently, only RESTORE and NRDA funding in the amount of \$3 million has been allocated for the construction of the project.
- Construction **is not** expected to begin this year.

6. Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil Spill Restoration and Recovery

MRD Update: Escambia County will receive approx. \$1.5 million for deployment of prefabricated reef modules and concrete rubble.

For an up-to-date list of artificial reefs, see <https://myescambia.com/our-services/natural-resources-management/marine-resources/artificial-reefs>

7. Proposed Boating Regulatory Areas in Bayou Garcon and Innerarity Point

MRD Update: Bayou Garcon Slow Speed Minimum Wake Zone received final approval from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for placement of regulatory signs, and will be presented to County

Commission for Chairman's signature. FWC conceptually approved the Vessel Exclusion Zone for the Innerarity Point Park Swimming Area, but denied the Motorboat Exclusion Zone for the Paddlecraft Launch. Escambia County Attorney's Office is developing an alternative that FWC will approve.

8. Lionfish Issues / Developments

MRD Update: Emerald Coast Open May 2021 at AJs Seafood Harbor Dock in Destin on 13 may 14-15 16 Awards; LRAD Festival Saturday and (www.emeraldcoastopen.com). Ft Pickens Lionfish Reconnaissance & Removal Dive (Pre-registration required www.oceanstriketeam.org) date TBD. Per Kerry Freeland, 1600 Lionfish have been removed so far in the tournament. Reminder that Springhill chamber is closed, dive safe.

9. Derelict Vessels and Vessels of Concern in Waterways Around Escambia County

MRD Update: MRD has received grant agreements from FWC for two derelict vessels (*RICOCHET* and *UNBRANDED*). Contractor that was to remove UNBRANDED has abandoned the project, therefore, MRD has to accomplish new FWC contracts for both DVs.

10. Galvez Landing Public Boat Ramp Issues

MRD Update: Per the Escambia County Engineering Construction Management Project Manager, Project consists of (1) relocation of the boat ramps and docks to the end of Cruzat Way; (2) construction of a permanent restroom facility, reconfiguration of the parking area to provide a least 44 parking spaces for vehicles with trailers, and at least 9 parking spaces for vehicles without trailers; (3) Installation of sidewalk access to ramps, docks, parking, restrooms, adjacent park, etc.; (4) Reconstruction or resurfacing of Galvez Road and Cruzat Way; (5) Installation of a left turn lane at Innerarity Point Rd and Galvez Road. (See also Escambia County Engineering Project Page: <https://myescambia.com/open-government/projects/project-details/galvez-boat-ramp>)

- 90% design plans were received in August 2020.
- 100% design plans are expected in June 2021.
- Engineer is working to acquire the Development Order through DRC as well as obtain the ACOE and FDEP permits. All are expected to be acquired by June 2021.
- Current estimated construction cost is \$2.3 Million.
- Construction funds through either NRDA funds RESTORE Pot 1 fund will need to be obtained before construction can commence.

Construction **is not** expected to begin this year.

11. Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project

MRD Update: Consultants have provided 60% Plans. (see also Escambia County Engineering Project Page: <https://myescambia.com/open-government/projects/project-details/nas-pensacola-bay-living-shoreline-project>). Natural Resources Management staff will provide an update at the June MAC meeting.

12. Langdon Bay Artificial Reef Site Proposal

MRD Update: Escambia County's previous permit application was denied by Army Corps of Engineers due to National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent Dan Brown's objection. Dan Brown has now retired, and MRD plans to meet with the new Superintendent to provide the benefits of allowing the reef permit within the waters of jurisdiction claimed by the NPS. Clint Retherford has had contact with representatives from Senator Rubio's staff and they are interested to hear and possibly assist in the reefing project.

13. Comprehensive Water Way Management

MRD Update: MRD is continuing to gather information and working with Escambia County Attorney's Office to develop Draft Ordinance for MAC review and public input. The Draft Ordinance will then be presented to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners (BCC). This is a long-term project and public/MAC input is welcome.

14. Old Highway 399 Fishing Bridge

MRD Update: The old fishing bridge (north & south sides) east of the Pensacola Beach toll bridge is experiencing structural problems due to age. An existing Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) allocation for ADA upgrades has been conceptually approved to be used to construct a new ADA-compliant fishing pier. However, the cost of demolition & reefing the old fishing bridge structures has not yet been funded.

15. Optional Vessel Registration Fee Increase - FL Statute 328.66

MRD Update: MRD will bring to BCC with direction from Natural Resources Management Director's approval upon MRD recommendation that sufficient public input has been received via MAC meetings. To date, very little public comment has been received, with little opportunity to educate stakeholders of the necessity of the increase. MRD prefers to address any concerns and hold public discussion at MAC prior to requesting a Public Hearing. MRD has requested Escambia County Attorney analysis of "boating-related projects" projects (per Florida Statutes) to be considered for funding with

OVRF funds: construction and maintenance at new/existing boat ramps; maintenance dredging at boat ramps; boating safety; waterways signage; enforcement; design/engineering/permitting for new/existing boat ramps; internet cameras at boat ramps; artificial reefs, etc.). Upon approval, Escambia County Community and Media Relations Department will issue a Press Release to solicit public input at future MAC meetings

16. Pensacola Bay Fishing Bridge Damage

MRD Update: The Fishing Bridge has been declared a total loss, and Escambia County will determine and utilize the best mechanism to obtain compensation. The scope of work for demolition of the structure will include artificial reefing.

17. New Business / Action Items:

No New Business

18. Diving Safety Symposium

MRD will work with MAC to assist in coordination of Symposia, within the constraints of facility capacity and other COVID-19 safety measures.

Diving Safety Symposium - August 9, 2021

Topics:

1. Introduction/Welcome
2. Prevention (Training, Equipment, Practice)
3. Emergency Response In/On the Water
4. Emergency Response via Professional Medical Staff
5. Contact Information
6. Lionfish
7. 1st Aid, etc.
8. CMR Resources?
9. Experienced injured
10. Actual diving scenarios
11. D.A.N.
12. Site Specifics (Oriskany; Antares; Mass/Pickens; Bridge Rubble)
13. Fishing-Diving Conflicts (Rules of the Road; Florida Dive Flag Law)

19. Seafood Safety Symposium

MRD will work with MAC to assist in coordination of Symposia, within the constraints of facility capacity and other COVID-19 safety measures. (See MRD's Seafood Safety webpage <https://myescambia.com/our-services/natural-resources-management/marine-resources/seafood-safety>)

Seafood Safety Symposium - September 13, 2021

Topics:

1. Capture/Purchase (Handling/Storage) ICE!!
2. Preparation
3. Consumption (Advisories)
4. HAB; Ciguatera; Vibrio; Anthropogenic (Mercury; PCBs)
5. Speakers: UF/FL Sea Grant/Extension; FDOH

20. Public Forum

1. William Norvell - Concerned for derelict vessel at Navy Point. He spoke with FWC and is asking for MAC assistance... FWC is working but following legal precedent on timeline.
2. JC Tullison - Concerned for water quality for swimmers to septic discharge of vessel, says boat is not anchored, it's beached.
3. Melissa Pino requests bylaw review questioning function of MAC committee, Grant request availability, to be more proactive and does MAC have long term plan or goals.

21. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting
Motion made by Kerry Freeland
Second by Clint Retherford
Motion passed 8-0
Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.