

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

Regular Meeting - March 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 5:33 pm.

2. Attendance

Committee Member	Appointee	Present	Absent Excused	Absent Unexcused	Vacant	Note
Mark Moore	Bergosh – 1	X				
Melissa Pino	Bergosh – 1	X				
(Vacant)	Underhill – 2				X	
Clint Retherford	Underhill – 2	X				Secretary
Eilene Beard	May – 3	X				
Joe Denmon	May – 3	X				
Pete Gaddy	Bender – 4	X				
(Vacant)	Bender – 4				X	Chair
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
Mark A. Nicholas	Marine Resources Environmental Programs Manager

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

Motion for approval of February 8, 2021 meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mark Moore

Second by Joe Denmon

Motion passed 7-0

4. Old Business

5. 10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp

MRD Update: (From Escambia County Engineering Construction Management Project Manager):

- Design plans are 100% complete. We have the FDEP ERP Permit and FDOT Permit.
- We are still awaiting the ACOE Permit. Once we have it we 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 approximately \$1.5 Million for deployment of prefabricated reef modules and concrete rubble, however, vessels have been removed from the list of allowable materials. MRD will forward link to public comment mechanism to MAC Secretary for distribution. J. Dalton asked Why deny vessels? Were we targeting deep/shallow reef? Concern for Bryde's whale.

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

MRD Update: Bayou Garcon Slow Speed Minimum Wake Zone is awaiting final approval from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for placement of regulatory signs. 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. MAC-Melissa Pino, questions no vessels sign in swimming but not in Paddlecraft area. Escambia County Legal also questions FWC ruling not also excluding motor vessels.

8. Lionfish Issues / Developments

MRD Update: Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) is hosting an Earth Day Lionfish Derby (in Monroe County). Brady Hill - Emerald Coast Lionfish update: 280+ lionfish harvested with 40-50 pre-tourney participants.

9. Vessels Anchored in Bayou Chico

MRD Update: MRD has removed additional vessels from Bayou Chico ("DREAMER" and "DOG HOUSE"), and has submitted grant applications to FWC for three additional derelict vessels.

10. Galvez Landing Public Boat Ramp Issues

MRD Update: (from Escambia County Engineering Construction Management Project Manager): Project consist 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; and (5) Installation of a left turn lane at Innerarity Point Rd and Galvez Road.

- 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.

MAC-Melissa Pino, how does progress by the percentage plans. These conceptual plans were already approved by the MAC per Robert Turpin. MAC-Mark Moore, concerned about boat ramp proximity to swimmers area.

11. Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project

MRD Update: Brent Wipf provided a Powerpoint presentation. MAC-Mark

Moore: ABC sites with B&C restricted access. What happens to site A if storm occurs? Design is storm resilient per Brent. MAC-Melissa Pino: where is the sand coming from? Dredging from whites? Is it maintainable? Sand coming from area and is maintainable per Brent. Glen Conrad: A2 plan resembles Project Greenshores. What sand migration do engineers expect after construction? Sand moving S to N per Brent and need of long-term maintenance may be reduced. Site C has heavy erosion of sand and in danger of reaching road. Jacob Dalton: any shoreline hardening on sites? No, per Brent, front waters only. Kevin Wade: Old trestle or Island re-nourishment? Recapturing per Brent.

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.

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 would 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 and Park West Fishing Pier Project

MRD Update: The old fishing bridge (north and 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 and reefing the old fishing bridge structures has not yet been funded.

15. Optional Vessel Registration Fee Increase - Public Input / Discussion

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.

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

MRD Update: MRD has received a request to resume the annual Diving Safety Symposium in conjunction with the MAC.

- MRD considers the annual Seafood Safety Symposium to also be of great importance. MRD will work with MAC to assist in coordination of Symposia, within the constraints of facility capacity and other COVID-19 safety measures. Rachel Wells: are we doing diver safety symposium? Group discussion of symposiums yielded August 9, 2021 for Diving/Boating Safety and September 13, 2021 for Seafood Safety. Brady Hill with OceanStrike can help with symposiums and cited "Into the Blue" social engagement on 4/23/2021.
- Jacob Blake discussed SRIA inlet discharge for Sabine Bay and asks for MAC/EC oversight.
- Guy Fisher discussed Palafox Pier, that's under City Jurisdiction and showed photos of questionable construction of pier at Innerarity Park.

18. FWC Artificial Annual Grant Application

MRD Update: MRD has developed a grant application for funding of Oriskany Reef monitoring and seeks MAC official action for approval. MAC unanimously approved a motion to support the grant application. Motion made by Pete Gaddy to continue Oriskany sampling/testing with FWC grant application with a Second by Clint Retherford. Motion passed 7-0.

19. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting
Motion made by Kerry Freeland
Second by Mark Moore
Motion passed 7-0
Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm