

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES  
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Dixon, Chairman  
Nancy Dauster, Thomas McAlear, David McBride,  
Charles Thomas, James Thompson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Hoffman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor  
Tracy Quintana, Executive Assistant  
Jim Thomson, John Hubertz, Mike Curl,  
Larry Lynn, John Dauster

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. Monday, April 18, 2011

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Meeting of February 17, 2011
  - Ms. Dauster MOVED, Mr. McBride SECONDED approval of the February 17, 2011 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORTS**

- Mr. Dixon requested the total seawall footage in Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) be included in each month's agenda packet. He then commented on the stated figure of \$239.17 for total cost to pour a seawall slab, as discussed at the February 17, 2011 meeting and delineated in the minutes of same, confirming that figure applied to materials.
- A. Permits Authorized by City Staff for Installation of Docks, Lifts, Outpilings, etc.
  - Mr. Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, reported 19 permits were issued in February 2011.
- B. Budget Utilization Report – February 2011
- C. Seawall and Seawall Cap Replacement Status Report
  - Mr. Brodersen confirmed members had been provided with both subject reports, as delineated in the agenda material, offering to answer any questions regarding same.
  - Ms. Dauster commented the Budget Utilization Report stated 21% of seawall cap replacement was complete and 22% had been expended for same, noting reports over the past few months showed a similar trend; however, she stated she felt expenditures should run slightly behind.

- Mr. Brodersen advised those figures would fluctuate due to cost differences, explaining expenses varied dependent upon whether work was done on an occupied or vacant lot. He mentioned completed work could also be reported before the billing for same.
- Ms. Dauster clarified seawall replacement included seawall cap replacement.
- Mr. Brodersen commented on the seawall replacement budget figure of \$1,554,024, explaining purchase orders for the contractor, steel, testing, concrete and Geographic Information System (GIS) work, for example, were all paid out of that account.
- Mr. McBride commented on the stated figure of 6,054 linear feet of seawall cap replacement, as depicted on the Budget Utilization Report, asking if same included seawall cap for the 4,178 feet of seawall replacement also denoted in the report.
- Mr. Brodersen replied it did not.

D. Patrol – Bill Dixon

- Mr. Dixon reported volunteers put in 139 hours on the water and over 40 hours in administration. He advised the Police Department put in 100 hours on the water, issued 1 citation, 18 warnings and performed 31 inspections. He commented favorably on same, explaining affected boaters would hopefully spread the word regarding the City’s intolerance of speeding.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Dixon drew members’ attention to correspondence from Mr. Domenic Penta, as delineated in the agenda material, which requested the Committee consider stenciling street names on PGI’s seawalls when budget constraints allowed.
- Ms. Dauster recalled a similar suggestion put forth in the past, stating there had been some concern with liability.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Water Testing Results from the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC)

- Mr. Jim Thomson, CHEC, introduced Mr. Jon Hubertz.
- Mr. Jon Hubertz reviewed his background with various military, State and local agencies relative to environmental work. He advised the water testing program was sponsored and funded by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and supported by the City and the City’s advisory committees. He displayed a presentation of CHEC’s water sampling program, as delineated within the agenda material, outlining the testing process and commending the many dedicated volunteers. He stated nitrogen, phosphorus and chlorophyll totals were complete through 2009, results for 2010 were still pending but data appeared similar. He added the overall water quality values for Charlotte Harbor were good or fair, according to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

- Ms. Dauster mentioned she was one of the volunteers, asking if she should be recording rainfall beyond the 24 hour period prior to testing.
  - Mr. Hubertz replied more information was always helpful.
  - Mr. McBride clarified testing was done on the top foot of water, noting salinity would be considerably less than that found in deeper water.
  - Ms. Dauster mentioned sampling was always conducted on the first Tuesday of the month at sunrise.
  - Mr. John Curl strongly recommended conditions such as rainfall be routinely recorded.
  - Mr. Larry Lynn stated he also was a volunteer, confirming the Department of Environment Protection's (DEP's) water testing program required testers to record rainfall measurements; however, amounts varied greatly throughout the area.
  - Mr. Hubertz concluded his presentation with a brief review of activities the general public could do in the interest of water quality protection. He thanked the Committee for their time, offering to answer any questions.
  - Mr. McBride questioned the number of sampling stations necessary to ensure the results were statistically significant.
  - Mr. Hubertz expressed uncertainty regarding same.
  - Mr. McBride asked if any work had been conducted through either atomic absorption or other analytical techniques in an effort to identify the multiple sources of phosphorous.
  - Mr. Hubertz replied he was unaware of same.
  - Mr. McBride explained there were multiple sources, some being man made and others naturally occurring.
  - Mr. Thomson thanked members for their time, stating he would continue to keep the Committee updated on CHEC's water sampling activities.
  - Mr. McBride opined the program was weak from a scientific standpoint.
  - Mr. Thomas stated he believed tides had a significant effect on results.
  - Ms. Dauster noted volunteering entailed only one hour per month.
- B. Budget Preparation – Fiscal Year (FY) 2011/2012
- Ms. Tracy Quintana, Executive Assistant, drew members' attention to the FY 2011/2012 Financial Planning Calendar, as delineated in the agenda material, stating same provided members with the various deadlines staff faced during the budget process. She announced representatives from the Finance Department planned to attend the Committee's May 16, 2011 meeting, asking members to be prepared to discuss specifics at their next meeting.

- Mr. Brodersen distributed a statement of budget related information, as delineated in the agenda material, asking members to keep same in mind during their deliberations.
- Mr. Thomas requested a comparison between that which had been budgeted for 2010 and the work completed as a result of same.
- Mr. Brodersen replied the current seawall budget would be expended in its entirety. He noted over 4,000 feet of seawall requiring replacement would remain at the end of the current year. He explained the overall condition of seawalls had been rated on a scale of five through two, with five being the worst. He reported 626 feet of seawall had been rated with a 4 out of a total of 7,076, 4,364 feet had been rated with a 3 and 2,086 had been rated with a 2.
- Mr. McBride asked if staff had attempted to place any predictions on the above described condition values, i.e., condition 2 was likely to fail in “x” number of months, etc.
- Mr. Brodersen replied they had not, noting this was only the first year where conditions had been identified and entered into the GIS. He stated staff would be better able to determine the rate at which seawalls were worsening after the following year’s inspections and assessments.
- Mr. Dixon clarified 7,076 feet of seawall had been identified through the GIS program as needing replacement.
- Mr. Brodersen agreed, noting 2,290 feet had already been replaced which left a balance of 4,786 feet.
- Mr. Dixon clarified the budget information distributed this date by Mr. Brodersen indicated an additional 1,647 feet would be replaced during the current budget year, which left 3,139 feet to be replaced in the following budget year.
- Mr. Brodersen reminded members those figures did not take into account any catastrophic loss due to a severe weather event, for example.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the level of damage to the seawalls identified as needing replacement, albeit not immediately.
- Mr. Thomson then questioned the status of the recent bid opening for a marine contractor.
- Mr. Brodersen replied Marine Contracting Group (MCG) had been awarded the contract. He then distributed a statement detailing the compressive strength of 4”x8” concrete test specimens, as delineated in the agenda material, commenting favorably on the results. He also displayed an aerial photograph of the mangroves in the area off Sancho Panza Court, as delineated in the agenda material, stating the section labeled “P1” was owned by Punta Gorda Isles Sales, Inc. (PGIS) while the land just outside that

section, marked in red, was State owned. He explained the red line depicted an area roughly 200 feet back from the water's edge. He noted the Committee had expressed a desire to clean out the subject area, asking members to consider the specifics of same; however, he explained he would need to confirm DEP's agreement with such action. He opined the existing State permit would allow such trimming, adding he would also need to ensure PGIS had no objection.

- Discussion ensued with regard to how much area to trim and the cost associated with same.
- Mr. Dixon questioned the amount expended on mangrove trimming in FY 2009/2010.
- Mr. Brodersen replied he did not have that information on hand but would provide same at the Committee's next meeting.
- Mr. John Dauster suggested requesting permission to trim as much of the area as possible, stating same may allow for some mitigation.
- Mr. Lynn stated he traveled through this area quite often, adding trimming mangroves to six feet would be of no assistance whatsoever with regard to visibility.
- Mr. McAlear disagreed, stating some trimming and thinning of the area would be of at least some help.
- Mr. McAlear MOVED, Ms. Dauster SECONDED to recommend the Canal Maintenance Division initiate mangrove trimming in the area off Colony Point Drive by 200 feet to a height as low as permissible and to continue to trim until levels reached as low as possible. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Ms. Quintana confirmed the Committee wished to have an agenda item under Unfinished Business for mangrove trimming on their next agenda. She further clarified Mr. Dixon would like to continue to have "Patrol" as an agenda item under Reports.

#### COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. McAlear stated he hoped to present some information on conditions of the bottoms of canals at the Committee's next meeting.
- Mr. Brodersen mentioned a few high spots in the canal system had been dredged.
- Mr. Thomas stated Mr. Steve Fabian had suggested consideration be given to a two-level annual assessment fee, one for mooring a boat and one for utilization of the canal system itself.
- Mr. McAlear stated he had attempted to count the number of both excessively large and small lots to no avail. He asserted it was unfair for people with 35 feet of seawall to pay the same amount as those with 300 feet; thus, he suggested the former receive a 25% discount on the annual assessment fee while those with 300 or more feet of seawall frontage would pay a 25% surcharge.

- Mr. Thomas pointed out same did not address the condominium issue as had been discussed at length by the Committee.
- Mr. McAlear agreed condominiums represented another problem.
- Mr. Brodersen then announced work was once again starting on the south side of the Colony Point Drive bridge, adding completion was anticipated in four to five weeks. He advised the area was closed to boat traffic from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, asking members to pass the word to their neighbors.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.

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Bill Dixon, Chairman

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Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary