

Broward County Municipal Marine Summit
Meeting Summary
Wednesday – February 20, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Municipal Marine Summit meeting was called to order by Broward County Marine Advisory Committee Liaison John Fiore at the War Memorial Auditorium in Holiday Park located at 800 NE 8th St Fort Lauderdale, Florida at 7:08pm

II. WELCOME

Mr. Fiore introduced the Chair of the Fort Lauderdale Marine Advisory Board, Grant Henderson. Chair Henderson expressed his appreciation to all those present for making the time to attend the Summit and working to make the waterways in Broward County better. Chair Henderson introduced Barry Webber, Vice-Chair of the Broward Marine Advisory Committee. Vice-Chair Webber welcomed all attendees and noted that this is the 4th Summit. He continued that these events are an important and productive tool for all committees to work together. Vice-Chair Webber thanked the City of Fort Lauderdale for hosting the event. Mr. Fiore introduced Tina Murto, Broward County Parks and Recreation Senior Program Project Coordinator and Summit Facilitator. Facilitator Murto explained the Summit format.

III. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Facilitator Murto asked that all boards and committees introduce their members and guests. Participants from the United States Power Squadron, Pompano Beach Chapter, Florida Inland Navigation District, Broward Sheriff's Office, and Marine Industries of South Florida also introduced themselves.

IV. MARINE ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fort Lauderdale Marine Advisory Board

The Fort Lauderdale Board discussed the George English Park renovation is out for construction bid this month and features 400 linear feet of boating staging docks, grounding out docking design to make it easier to launch boats, and accommodations for larger vessels. They continued that the Coontie Hatchee Park project is also going out for bid and after completion it will be an excellent location for paddle boarders. Fort Lauderdale continued that there has been a recovery and disposal of 5 derelict vessels. There was also the maintenance of two marina steps in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Dania Beach Marine Advisory Board

The Dania Beach Board discussed a presentation made to the Dania Beach City Commission that included the topics of speed zones, a dedicated Broward Sheriff's Office marine officer, and property that could be ideal for Boaters Park. Dania Beach Board continued that there is also a new city marina underway.

Marine Industries Association of South Florida

The Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MISAF) commented that there is an updated Thomas Murray Economic Impact Study. They also stated that they proposed to raise the Broward Boulevard Bridge. MISAF continued that the first Foreign Trade Zone has passed. MISAF invited Summit attendees to participate in the annual Coast Guard Foundation dinner and the 42nd Annual Broward County Waterway Cleanup in March. MISAF noted that in conjunction with FIU, FAU, Nova and UM marine research was authored. MISAF highlighted the Salty Jobs program that educates those who are interested in joining the marine industry field. MISAF added that they have their first ever contract with NBC to produce an hour long show on the boat show.

Lighthouse Point Marine Advisory Board

The Lighthouse Point Board explained that they are a reactionary board to address problems when they arise. The Board continued that their last two meetings have been canceled, due to no issues needing to be addressed.

United States Power Squadron, Pompano Beach

The United States Power Squadron, Pompano Beach thanked the Broward Marine Advisory Committee for the grant money that has been awarded to them. They continued that last year they had over 175 students go through the ABC class, passed out the Broward Safe Boating Guide at numerous function, and are currently working on the lifejacket program. The United States Power Squadron added that they won a national award for public relation for community service and are receiving the award in Orlando.

Deerfield Beach Advisory Board

The Deerfield Beach Advisory Board stated that last year their Commission approved the development of the first ever comprehensive beach management program. Deerfield Beach Advisory Board continued about their artificial reef that will be accessible from the shore and is a unique way to educate residents and visitors on the importance of reefs.

Pompano Beach Marine Advisory Board

The Pompano Beach Marine Advisory Board stated many of their accomplishments are code related. Codes passed include: requirements on seawalls and retaining walls, codes on perpendicular docks for small watercraft, requirement removal for a step-down, prohibiting multi-family docking in a navigational channel, requirements for seawalls at higher elevations to avoid runoff. Codes under review include a minimum seawall elevation and establishing slow speed zones. Pompano Beach Marine Advisory Board continued with other items under review that include: water taxi licenses, ladder requirements on docks, identifying living shore lines, maintenance dredging, and street sign completion.

Hollywood Marine Advisory Board

The Hollywood Marine Advisory Board stated they have remove four derelict vessels and have four pending. The Board continued that they participated in the Broward County Waterway Cleanup last year and picked up 12 cubic yards of trash. The Board added that they are in the process of anchorage legislation and also sponsored a cardboard boat race.

Broward County Marine Advisory Committee

Vice-Chair Webber recognized the Director of the Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, Dan West. Vice-Chair Webber continued that the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) administers the Broward Boater Improvement Program (BBIP) and Enhanced Marine Law Enforcement Grant (EMLEG) funds on behalf of Broward County. Vice-Chair Webber noted that MAC recommended to the Broward County Board of Commissioners BBIP funding totaling \$1,145,000. Vice-Chair Webber thanked Mr. Fiore for his contributions in creating the floating dock at Birch State Park, which was funded through BBIP and FIND. He continued that MAC recommended \$817,181 in EMLEG funding in the past year. Vice-Chair Webber also noted that MAC never fails to have a quorum.

V. DISCUSSION OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND BEST PRACTICES

Bridge Closure Notification System – FTL

The Fort Lauderdale Board discussed the issue with the bridge closure notification system. They continued that bridges are often closed due to events, maintenance, or emergencies, but notifications to the marine industry is inadequate. The Fort Lauderdale Board added that sometimes commercial entities are aware, but other entities are not informed. They concluded they would like to see a better system in place.

Canal Maintenance Dredging Plans – FTL

The Fort Lauderdale Board discussed for the past few years they have tried to implement a maintenance dredging program in Fort Lauderdale, and have it written into the budget. The Board continued that as the process currently stands for dredging request, a person has to put their name on a list and it could take years before the dredging actually occurs. Also, when it occurs the dredging only encompasses 2-3 hundred yards. They commented that storm waters fill up canals and they are trying to advocate that portions of the storm water charge could be used for dredging the entire area, not just small sections.

Waterway Signage & Aids-To-Navigation Maintenance or Replacement – FTL & DF

The Fort Lauderdale Board discussed when new pylons are put in, they need to be properly marked. They continued that there also needs to be a review of pylons that are already in place, but not properly marked. The Fort Lauderdale Board concluded that navigation pylons should be properly marked and maintained.

The Deerfield Board concurred and stated that west of Pioneer Park there is not a no wake zone and it needs to be a no wake zone. They also wish to see proper signage and a review of existing signage that needs to be maintained or replaced.

Use of Enhanced Marine Law Enforcement Grant Hours – BC

The Broward Marine Advisory Committee discussed how their committee administers the EMLEG fund and there has been a decrease of hours being used in the past year. They continued that they understand that this past year there was a need for more guards at schools, but wish to work with the agencies to get more hours on the waterways. The Broward Marine Advisory Committee added the purpose is boater safety. It is not about punishing boaters, but educating them.

Derelict Vessels and Anchoring Legislation – BC & HW

The Broward Marine Advisory Committee discussed how derelict vessels are a continuing problem, especially in Hollywood. They continued with an example how one boat was tied to the radar mast of another already sunken boat and proceeded to sink on top of it. The Broward Marine Advisory Committee thanked FIND for funding grants to assist with this issue.

The Hollywood Board concurred that derelict vessels come in as fast as they are able to pull them out. They continued that in order to combat this issue they are trying to add a mooring field and new anchorage legislation.

Idle Speed/No Wake Zone on Dania Cut-off Canal at Marinas – DB

The Dania Beach Board discussed the lack of uniformity in idle speed/no wake signage. The Board continued that some bridges have signage saying idle speed, while others say no wake. Dania Beach also added that sometimes these signs are in areas where there is nothing to warrant them.

Proposed Dania Beach Boaters Park West of US 1, North of Dania Cut-off Canal – DB

The Dania Beach Board discussed a piece of land that might make an ideal addition to Boaters Park. They continued that the city is investigating who owns the land and part belongs to the City and part belongs to the County.

Use of Existing Marina on Broward Aviation Div. Property North of Griffin Rd – DB

The Dania Beach Board discussed an area on the Broward Aviation Division Property that was purchased with FAA funding. They continued that the land could be used for a sheriff's deputy marine unit and dock rentals. The location could not accommodate large vessels, only smaller ones.

Waterway Master Plan – HW

The Hollywood Board discussed a Waterway Master Plan that was conducted some years ago, but the projects never came to fruition due to lack of funding. They commented that they are continuing to work on them and it looks as though in the near future they will be able to get a couple of the projects off the ground.

Sea Level Rise, Raising Seawalls – HW & PB

The Hollywood Board discussed a bond issue that will be brought up on March 12th dealing with sea level rise. The Hollywood Board continued that the bond includes funding for raising seawalls and other sea level deterrents to prevent flooding. They added that the bond also includes resources for a new police station.

Marine Construction Companies Use of Public and Private Property - MIASF

The Marine Industries Association of South Florida discussed land being used for construction access. They continued that FIND last year identified a couple sites for this use. MIASF added that Florida has 19 million residents and is expected to grow to 26 million in the next 15 years and Florida is the largest state in the country for boater registration.

Stopping Conversion of Marine Industry Property to Residential Usage – PB & MIA SF

The Marine Industries Association of South Florida discussed the loss of industry property and that it is being replaced by residential property. They continued that it is important to keep a working waterfront and access. MIA SF added that the residential areas generate tax base, but not jobs.

The Pompano Beach Board concurred and are working at securing commercial city waterfront to maintain the marine industry.

VI. FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

The Florida Inland Navigation District discussed the 2018 Economic Benefits of the District Waterways study in Broward County. FIND has invested in the last 10 years a little over \$24 million in the Broward County waterways. FIND commented that the report being handed out is in draft form, but will be completed in the next month and will be available on their website. FIND reviewed the annual economic impact created by the intercoastal waterways (ICW) and ICW activities is \$8.3 billion. FIND added that a survey was conducted about what would increase boater use on the ICW and the highest response was more recreational destinations. FIND concluded that their investments in the ICW of \$362,442 avoids lost annual revenues estimated at \$236.5 million. FIND added, as previously mentioned by MIA SF, that they did a commercial access inventory and have copies of their list of properties for attendees of the Summit. Mr. Fiore commented that FIND has been a tremendous partner and not as many projects would be funded without them.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF MARITIME CONCERNS

The Lighthouse Point Board stated the possibility of a dedicated channel for voice recorded notifications.

The Lighthouse Point Board commented that bridge tenders are directing boats and also not responding to the radio. Mr. Fiore commented that a report will be done on this topic and that the County owns three bridges on the New River, but the rest are run by the Department of Transportation.

The Dania Beach Board discussed a new Dania Beach Mega Yacht Marina on the Dania cut-off canal. The Board described the layout as 7 tiers, with 2 fixed and 3 floating piers with 6 slides designed to accommodate boats up to 160'. The Board added that there is more land in the area that could be developed for this type of use.

The MIA SF discussed the proposed pedestrian bridge by Florida Department of Transportation over the New River. MIA SF stated that they do not support this project. MIA SF added that this proposal will be up for discussion in mid-March.

Mr. Fiore wanted to recognize the Tactical Advantage Consultants instructors present that teach the marine law enforcement classes that EMLEG funds.

The Fort Lauderdale Board wanted to recognize Mr. Fiore as he is retiring on July 1st and has served the community for 35 years. A plaque was presented to Mr. Fiore in appreciation for his service. Mr. Fiore express that it has been a tremendous pleasure and commented that the best part was all the cities and the County working together to make the waterways better.

VIII. SUMMARY OF JOINT MEETING

Mr. Fiore commented that a summary of the meeting will be made and passed out, so that it could be shared with all members who were unable to attend.

IX. NEXT STEPS

Mr. Fiore introduced Jay Sanford, who will be taking up the roll of Broward County Marine Advisory Liaison after Mr. Fiore retires. He added that more liaison meeting will be had in the future.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan West, Broward County Parks and Recreation Director, wanted to recognize Mr. Fiore and his accomplishments over the years. Mr. West commented that in that time \$17 million has been distributed from the BBIP fund and over \$15 million from the EMLEG fund. Mr. West wanted to express his gratitude to Mr. Fiore for working and bringing all the different marine communities together to improve Broward's waterways. Mr. West discussed doing a Boater Master Plan for the county in collaboration with FIND, who has been incredible with funding projects. Mr. West thanked Mr. Fiore on behalf of himself, the County, the Parks and Recreation Division, and Bertha Henry, the County Administrator.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.