



**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Escambia County Central Office Complex  
3363 West Park Place  
Pensacola, FL 32505**

**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED  
RESUME OF MEETING MINUTES  
March 10, 2014, 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Earle Rader		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
Cathy Watson		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
Sidney Clopton		District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
Merrick Van Landingham	Chair	District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
Lynn Laird		District 3/Commissioner Lumon May
David Dodson		District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson IV
Gabe Jackson	Vice Chair	District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry
Ed Fish		County Interim Administrator

**Staff Present**

Robert Turpin	CED/ Marine Resources Division Manager
Rick O'Connor	Sea Grant Agent for Escambia County

**Absent Excused**

Eilene Beard		District 3/Commissioner Lumon May
Dave Mucci		District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson IV
Walt Woodfin	Secretary	District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry

**Absent Unexcused**

**Visitors Present**

J. Patterson	Resident
J. Le	Future Intern
Wilson Robertson	Commissioner District 1
Pearce Barrett	FDEP
Bryan Clark	Coast Watch
Anna Clark	Coast Watch
Andy Ross	Nihui Dive Charters

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Attendance:** Quorum Present?
3. **Minutes Approval:** Earle Rader will provide his recusal statement he made at the February MAC meeting regarding Pensacola Bay Fishing Bridge fees/collections.
4. **Perdido Key Gulf Snorkeling Reef:** 24 modules deployed 27 Feb. Sand shoal developed across the northern section of the reef site (bathymetric survey done in 2010), therefore requesting guidance from Corps of Engineers regarding deployment of remaining nine modules.
5. **Mahogany Mill Public Boat Ramp Construction:** Project still on track for substantial completion May 2014. Pearce Barrett update: exact completion date uncertain due to contractor's allowable "Rain & Snow Days", but hope to have ramp open by Memorial Day.
6. **Perdido River Public Boat Ramp Design/Engineering/Permitting:** Engineering firm to present design to MAC for additional review. Need to carefully review for ADA issues. Pearce Barrett update: Army Corps of Engineers has not ruled on proposal to use the eastern "water feature" for storm water. Parking capacity is affected by Corps decision, so it is necessary determination before design can continue.
7. **10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp:** Escambia County Board of County Commissioners acted on MRD Recommendation regarding grant application to FWC with 25% cash match.
8. **Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil spill Restoration & Recovery:** No additional updates from FWC. Pearce Barrett update: DEP and FWC are putting together responses to the PEIS questions & comments.
9. **Waterways Access Management:** MAC should finalize recommendations regarding boat ramp and fishing bridge issues. Lynn Laird proposed establishing parking fees at boat ramps to raise funds to offset removing user fees at Pensacola Bay Fishing Bridge. Merrick Van Landingham and David Dodson provided contrary perspective, indicating user fees should be collected by actual users of the specific facilities.
10. **Lionfish:** MRD has scheduled Lionfish Regional Control Workshop. To provide MAC members Sunshine Law compliance, the Workshop will be held in conjunction with the 14 April 2014 MAC meeting. Escambia County Commission approved Lionfish Resolution at the 6 March 2014 BCC meeting. County Commissioners also presented Proclamation congratulating Capt. Andy Ross and Nihui Divers for collecting the most lionfish during the 2013 pilot project (contest). Also at the 6 March 2014 BCC meeting, Mr. Jeremy Patterson made a \$500 cash donation to Escambia County for use towards lionfish control. Robert Turpin has confirmed with several local fishing rodeos that Lionfish categories will be offered, and Marine Resource Division will fund the placement of Lionfish Education & Outreach Information in rodeo booklets. Bryan Clark and Andy Ross provided updates on Gulf Coast Lionfish initiatives, including Lionfish Tournament 3 May 2014.

**11. Old Business:** David Dodson requested MAC discuss (at a later date) his conceptual drawing of the potential uses of the two easternmost parcels adjacent to the property under current design for Perdido River Boat Ramp.

**12. New Business:** Earle Rader requested MAC and others volunteer for the 12 April 2014 Kids Fishing Clinic (Mr. Rader provided handouts with information). Robert Turpin notified MAC members of upcoming Fisheries meetings in Mobile and Pensacola. Robert Turpin Requested MAC and others volunteer to assist with the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Barrier Free Fishing for Kids event to be held at the Pensacola Bay Fishing Bridge on Saturday, 3 May 2014.

**13. Adjourn:**