



**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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

**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**DRAFT**

**RESUME OF MEETING MINUTES**

**November 13, 2017, 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Mark Moore		District 1 / Commissioner Bergosh
Cathy Watson		District 1 / Commissioner Bergosh
Sidney Clopton		District 2 / Commissioner Underhill
Clint Retherford		District 2 / Commissioner Underhill
Eilene Beard		District 3 / Commissioner May
Joe Denmon		District 3 / Commissioner May
Kerry Freeland	Vice-Chair	District 4 / Commissioner Robinson
Walt Woodfin	Secretary	District 5 / Commissioner Barry
Gabe Jackson	Chair	District 5 / Commissioner Barry
Ed Fish		County Administrator Brown

**Staff Present**

Robert Turpin	CED / Marine Resources Division Manager
Gracie Barnes	Marine Resources Division

**Absent Excused**

David Dodson	District 4 / Commissioner Robinson
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**Absent Unexcused**

### **Visitors Present**

William Dumas  
Marsha Dumas  
Mike Pino  
Melissa Pino  
Allison Vachon  
Kevin Wade  
Andy Ross  
Bonny Boggs  
Judith Atkinson  
Christina Medrano  
Laura Waldon  
Leo Cheron  
Frances Bean  
Jami Rankin  
Jim Grantham  
Harriet Gilmer  
Andrew Blewer  
Steve Opalenik  
Christopher Felch  
Barbara Vandiver  
Brian Guarino  
Patrick M Roberts  
Rachel Wells  
Barbara Albrecht  
Johnny Walker  
Richard Cobler  
Philip Glover  
Laurence E Rom??? III  
Steve Obolinic

Shipwatch Condominium  
Shipwatch Condominium

Escambia County Sheriff  
Escambia County Sheriff Marine Unit

FWC  
Bell Marine  
NAS Pensacola

1. **5:30 PM Call Marine Advisory Committee Meeting to Order:**
2. **Attendance:** Quorum present
3. **Introduction:** New MAC Appointee Clint Retherford: Attending via conference call.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Eilene Beard made the motion to approve the October minutes. Mark Moore seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
5. **Florida Sunshine Law:** Assistant County Attorney Bobbi Ellis Wiggins presentation.
6. **10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp:** MRD Update: contractors working on soil issue due to results of bayou sediments testing. Meeting with Florida Department of Environmental Protection to resolve. MRD is working with FWC to modify Grant Agreement to extend funding for design/engineering/permitting.
7. **Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil Spill Restoration & Recovery:** MRD Update: Phase 1 Artificial Reef Construction in Casino Reef has been completed. Solicitation for Phase 2 Reef Construction in Escambia County Southeast Artificial Reef Site in process.
8. **New Inshore Reefs at Pensacola Beach:** MRD Update: Awaiting response from NRDA Proposal and seeking other funding opportunities.
9. **Proposed Boating Regulatory Areas in Bayou Garcon, Bayou Grande, Kees Bayou, Old River, and Innerarity Point Park:** MRD Update: MRD and FWC Boating & Waterways Staff (Hailey Anderson) rode with FWC Law Enforcement Officer and viewed Innerarity Point Park and Bayou Garcon sites requested by stakeholders for No Wake Zones. Total list of requested sites is: Bayou Garcon, Bayou Garcon, Kees Bayou, Old River and Innerarity Point Park Swimming Area and Paddle Craft Launch Area. FWC Hailey Anderson provided feedback per Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code. Counties are provided limited authority to establish vessel speed zones under certain conditions. Additional information and communication will be provided to FWC at a later date to justify stakeholders' requests.

**Bayou Grande:** Steve Obolinic (NAS Pensacola) Navy proposes a No Wake Zone off the Navy Public Recreation Area, to extend the existing zone as many low profile craft are navigating the area.

Robert Turpin shared that Escambia County could establish a slow zone 300 feet to each side of the bridge. A request could then be made of the FWC, to close the gap from the east of the bridge to the existing zone at the bayou entrance.

Kerry Freeland asked if the west zone would be necessary. Steve Obolinic prefers that both sides be included. Mike Papino stated that he paddle boards the area weekly and can confirm that it is an issue would prefer both sides.

Eilene Beard made the motion as follows:

***“ The Marine Advisory Committee and Marine Resources Division ask that Escambia County establish a Slow Speed / Minimum Wake Zone to extend 300 feet from both the East and West sides of the Sam Lovelace Bridge. Also ask tha the FWC close the gap from the Slow Speed / Minimum Wake Zone on the East side of the bridge to the existing No Wake Zone at the entrance of Bayou Grande.”***

Kerry Freeland seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Bayou Garcon:** Leo Goron would like to have the channel into the bayou dredged deeper, better marked and improved on the west end. He would also like a No Wake Zone from the entrance from the bay into the bayou.

Mark Moore made the motion as follows:

***“ The Marine Advisory Committee and Marine Resources Division ask that Escambia County establish a Slow Speed / Minimum Wake Zone on the East end of Bayou Garcon at the point of entrance being less that 75 feet wide and to the east.”***

Eilene Beard seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Kees Bayou:** Haley Anderson shared that the Florida Statute allows for No Wake at opening of less than 75 feet for boating safety. FDEP could regulate for grass bed protection.

Brunnie Emanuel (Friends of Kees Bayou) asked if they could apply for a boating regulatory zone on the areas less than 75 feet wide? Haley Anderson replied Yes, then look at applying regulatory zones to the open areas.

Barbara Albright stated that seagrass protection should preempt other issues, as we have so little of it.

Eilene Beard made to motion to **ask for the establishment of zone(s) in Kees Bayou with wording to be determined by Robert Turpine**. Mark Moore seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Old River:** William Dumas (Shipwatch) stated that large vessels are a major issue and would like to establish a zone address that issue.

Robert Turpin and Haley Anderson both confirmed that a No Wake Zone could not be established for the protection of private property or shorelines. Haley Anderson stated that, if an issue of safety could be documented, a zone may be established.

Martha Duma stated that their intent is to protect the safety of residents and guests. Haley Anderson restated that to establish a zone credible evidence of damage and/or injury must be documented.

**Innerarity Point:** Walt Woodfin made to motion to **ask for the establishment of zone(s) in Kees Bayou with wording to be determined by Robert Turpine**. Joe Denmon seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### **10. Lionfish Issues/Developments:**

- 11. Navy Point Living Shoreline Project:** MRD Update: Escambia County Department of Natural Resources Management staff and temporary employees and volunteers are creating Living Shorelines along eroded shorelines within Navy Point park.

Melissa Peno appreciates the response from Escambia County on moving the oyster reef breakwaters away from the swimming area.

**12. Old Business:**

**13. New Business:** Vessels Anchored in Bayou Chico. Local residents and waterfront property owners have voiced a number of concerns and complaints regarding a number of vessels anchored in Bayou Chico. Among the greatest concerns are compliance with Marine Sanitation Device regulations. MRD is working with FWC and Sheriff Marine Unit to investigate complaints.

**14. Adjourn:** Eilene Beard made the motion to adjourn. Sidney Clopton seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.