



COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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

Marine Advisory Committee

**APPROVED
RESUME OF MEETING MINUTES
September 09, 2013, 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

Earle Rader		District 1/Commissioner Robertson
Cathy Watson		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
Sidney Clopton		District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
Eilene Beard		District 3/Commissioner Lumon May
Lynn Laird		District 3/Commissioner Lumon May
David Dodson	Chair	District 4/Commissioner Robinson IV
Dave Mucci		District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson, IV
Walt Woodfin	Secretary	District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry
Gabe Jackson		District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry
Ed Fish		County Interim Administrator George Touart

Staff Present

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

Absent Excused

Absent Unexcused

Merrick Van Landingham	Vice Chair	District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
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Visitors Present

Keith Johnson	Wetland Sciences, Inc.
Andrew Blewer	Escambia County Resident
Andy Ross	Niuhi Dive Charter

1. Called to Order at 5:40 pm
2. Attendance: Quorum Present
3. Minutes Approval: Earl Rader made the motion to approve, Gabe Jackson seconded the motion. All voted in favor with none opposed.
4. Casino Artificial Reef Site Permit: MRD awaiting Army Corps permit
5. Bay Snorkeling Reef 'Historic Shipwreck Replica': Searching for anchor to add to reef
6. Perdido Gulf Snorkeling Reef Construction: Contractor building modules and preparing deployment vessel
7. Escambia County Southeast Artificial Reef Site: Awaiting Army Corps of Engineers permit
8. Mahogany Mill Public Boat Ramp Construction: Construction is underway. The concrete ramp has been poured.
9. Perdido River Public Boat Ramp Design/Engineering/Permitting: Firm selected for Design, Engineering & Permitting. FDEP finalizing contract with consultant
10. Hurst Hammock Paddlecraft Access Launch Design & Permitting: The project is in queue for funding
11. 10836 Lillian Highway Analysis/Due Diligence: BCC Re-approved modified contract; Will submit for design/permitting/engineering funding via Fla. Boating Improvement Program grant in next grant cycle
12. Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil spill Restoration & Recovery: Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to be developed for remaining projects. MRD & Escambia County requested expediting of projects that had existing Findings of No Significant Impacts (e.g., Escambia County Artificial Reefs).
13. Bayou Chico Navigation Hazard: No response to second MRD inquiry. Sidney Clopton spoke to the USCG. The USCG Captain is to attend the October EMAC meeting to answer questions.
14. Proposal from owner of M/V Titanic for artificial reef: Without a funding source, MRD cannot negotiate. Similar funding issue resolved (for Oriskany) via private sector fundraising (this also effective for Alabama's "LuLu" reef. MRD can discuss other vessels/prices availability and lowest threshold price with owner's agent.
15. Proposal of ex-military submarine for artificial reef: MRD seeking MAC's consideration & input.
16. Escambia River derelict vessels and associated debris: Contractor unable to work due to high water flow/levels in river.

17. Old Business: Lionfish R. O'Connor spoke concerning the low participation during pilot project; additional consideration needed before subsequent 'contests' Andy Ross commented on the fact that some of the lion fish may be going to Alabama Rodeos due to more valuable prizes. It was also discussed that the private sector could become more involved. It was also suggested that a lion fish division could be incorporated into existing traditional rod and reel tournaments.
18. New Business:
 - a) Morton Salt vessel offered for sale for approx. \$350,000
 - b) Walter Marine has 155ft freighter available for reefing (\$400,000 deployed)
 - c) MRD seeks public comment and MAC input regarding "Waterways Access Management" (written information provided to MAC and public at the Sept 9 MAC meeting). Proposed timeline is input & comments period through the October , November (2013) meetings, with final input and MAC recommendation at the 13 January 2014 MAC meeting.
19. Adjourn: Earl Rader made the motion to adjourn, Dave Mucci seconded the motion. All voted in favor with no one opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm