



COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**APPROVED
RESUME OF MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|--|
| Cathy Watson | | District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson |
| Sidney Clopton | | District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino |
| Merrick Van Landingham | Chair | District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino |
| Eilene Beard | | District 3/Commissioner Lumon May |
| Dave Mucci | | District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson IV |
| Walt Woodfin | Secretary | District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry |
| Gabe Jackson | Vice Chair | District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry |
| Ed Fish | | County Interim Administrator |

Staff Present

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

Absent Excused

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| Lynn Laird | District 3/Commissioner Lumon May |
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Absent Unexcused

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| David Dodson | District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson IV |
| Earle Rader | District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson |

Visitors Present

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|----------------|------------------------|
| Mathew Johnson | National Park Services |
| Keith Johnson | Wetland Sciences, Inc. |
| Anna Clark | Coast Watch Alliance |
| Bryan Clark | Coast Watch Alliance |
| Rick O'Connor | Florida Sea Grant |
| Keith Johnson | Wetland Sciences |

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm
2. **Attendance:** A quorum was present.
3. **Minutes Approval:** Dave Mucci made the motion to approve the April minutes. Gabe Jackson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
4. **Perdido Key Gulf Snorkeling Reef:** Waiting for suitable weather/water conditions to deploy the remaining 9 reef modules.
5. **Mahogany Mill Public Boat Ramp Construction:** Rain/flood event has delayed ribbon cutting. PIO will mail invitations.
6. **Perdido River Public Boat Ramp Design/Engineering/Permitting:** Rain/flood event impacted site (flooded central parcels), therefore design should take this into consideration. Proposed design has not yet been approved by Army Corps of Engineers.
7. **10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp:** FWC has not yet ranked grant proposals.
8. **Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil spill Restoration & Recovery:** FDEP & FWC making final determinations in the next month or so.
9. **Waterways Access Management:** Walt Woodfin made a motion to propose that:

“The Marine Resources Division propose to the Board of County Commissioners to modify the existing fee ordinance for Pensacola Bay Fishing Bridge. The new fee will be charged for parking only (\$5/vehicle/12 hours), and provide penalty for violation. The option of a yearly permit is to be maintained for a fee to the general public and available free to veterans.”

Dave Mucci seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The prohibition of camping, dumping, alcohol and etc should to be posted and in accordance with Department of Parks and Recreation’s policy. The proposed parking meter will cost approx. \$10-12k.

Bryan Clark suggested approaching Pensacola City officials to assist on purchasing a meter per their existing contract. Mr. Clark also suggested closing the Bridge for a couple of hours a day to allow for cleaning and to further discourage camping.

10. **Lionfish:** MRD has received additional Action Pledges, and is drafting Lionfish Action Plan. We have engaged FWC and collaborating with state for inclusion in state’s plan. 1,914 lionfish removed over 4 days in Gulf Coast Lionfish Coalition derby.

Brian Clark commented that on the Eilene Beard Reef Complex the smaller lionfish are using the rope knots for cover. Robert Turpin commented that the polypropylene rope could be replaced with a degradable material. The recommendation should be made to Walter Marine as they construct the modules.

Mr. Clark noted that the lionfish lay in wait to ambush other fish at the reef holes at sand level. Mr. Clark noted a significant increase in the presence of sea turtles at the reef structures.

Mr. Clark will start collecting live lionfish for demonstration and educational purposes. Eilene Beard will foster the live lionfish in the aquarium at the Dive Shack.

Mr. Clark noted that the public reefs appear to be well policed by divers, where unpublished reefs still have a considerable presence of lionfish.

11. Old Business: None

12. New Business: None

13. Adjourn: Walt Woodfin made the motion to adjourn. Dave Mucci seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm