



**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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

**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED  
RESUME OF MEETING MINUTES  
July 14, 2014, 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Sidney Clopton		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**

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

**Absent Excused**

Earle Rader		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
Merrick Van Landingham	Chair	District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
Lynn Laird		District 3/Commissioner Lumon May

**Absent Unexcused**

Cathy Watson		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
David Dodson		District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson IV

**Visitors Present**

Keith Johnson		Wetland Sciences, Inc.
Rick O'Connor		Florida Sea Grant
Andy Ross		Gulf Coast Lionfish Coalition
Pearce Barrett		FDEP

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:43 pm
2. **Attendance:** Quorum present.
3. **Minutes Approval:** Eilene Beard made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Sidney Clopton. All voted in favor. June minutes approved w/o change.
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:** Construction completed under NRDA, however, Escambia County MRD is making minor modifications as deemed needed.
6. **Perdido River Public Boat Ramp Design/Engineering/Permitting:** 60% Design Plans delivered today; MAC review and input requested.
  - Pearce Barrett (FDEP) briefed the committee on the current design and permitting.
  - Gabe Jackson expressed concerns with the turning angle (< 90 deg) from the entry road to the launch area.
  - Walt Woodfin suggested rotating the launch area to join the parking area beyond the launch, which would increase the turning angle (> 90 deg).
  - Gabe Jackson suggested placing the bulk of the dock downstream of the ramp.
  - Robert Turpin suggested angling the upstream dock toward shore to prevent entrapment of floating debris.
  - Dave Mucci made a motion to approve the 60% design as per the following:

*“The Escambia County Marine Advisory Committee moves to approve the 60% design of the Perdido River Public Boat Ramp, with consideration of the comments and suggestions made during the review as follows:*

    - *Length and alignment adjustment of the dock.*
    - *Mitigation of the turning angle at the launch area.*
    - *Improvements of access from the handicap parking to the kayak launch area.*
    - *Consideration of the dock height above the mean high water line.”*
7. **10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp:** Awaiting FWC ranking of grant submissions.
8. **Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil spill Restoration & Recovery:** State and federal agencies are finalizing the Programmatic Envir. Impact Statement. List of projects recently released by FDEP (including artificial reefs).
9. **Waterways Access Management:** Additional MAC and public comment requested. Recent challenge by individuals refusing to adhere to Park Department Rules. New challenges require additional consideration, and perhaps additional action.

**10. Lionfish:** Escambia County Marine Resources Division has installed lionfish awareness/reporting signs for boat ramps, fishing piers, and snorkeling reefs. MRD also working with local fishing rodeos adding lionfish rodeo categories.

- Andy Ross (Gulf Coast Lionfish Coalition) commented that recent tournaments have resulted in the eradication of many lionfish. 704 lionfish were eradicated at one tournament alone.
- There are at least four additional tournaments coming up with a lionfish category.
- There has been a noticeable decrease of lionfish on public sites. Those that are shot on public sites are now larger in size.
- Those winning the lionfish tournaments are using diving private sites.
- Rick O'Connor stated that they have begun surveying inshore waters for lionfish and are recruiting volunteers to assist in those efforts.
- He shared that lionfish have shown to be tolerant of water salinity down to 7 PPT.
- No lionfish have been observed inshore to date.
- Shelly Mitchell shared a game that she uses at lionfish educational events. The game is a clever take on the classic "Pin the Tail on the Donkey", where one pins the poisonous spines on the lion fish.

**11. Old Business:** Tugboat Ocean Wind available for reefing. PCB samples collected; results expected prior to next MAC meeting. Private sector fundraising still underway?

**12. New Business:**

**13. Adjourn:** Walt Woodfin made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Dave Mucci. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.