

Executive Board

President:

Jim Goulette

625-0614

Vice President:

Patrick Randall

240-2747

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George Musco

629-1467

Secretary:

Cheri Bauer 743-5140

Directors:

Al Lange 629-5603

Al Augustine 255-0822

Past President:

John Shea 255-5989

PLAN TO ATTEND!

WINTER MEETING

7:30 PM Tuesday,
January 10

Holy Trinity Church
2565 Tamiami Trail
-- 100 yds south of
Midway Avenue --
Bring a snack to share
for the social hour
afterwards.

WE NEED TO ACT **TODAY!**
THE DEADLINE IS 12/31/05.

LOCK REMOVAL DELAYS:

Report from Patrick Randall, MWCA VP & MSBU Board Member:
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) held a public hearing of the Permitting Process connected with the lock removal on Dec 15th. The FDEP informed the meeting that there is now a **14 day window** in which they are soliciting comments from the public. One person at the meeting objected strongly to the lock removal. He intends to appeal to the FDEP to stop the project, based (as we understand it) on his view that since the lock gates were removed, his Ackerman Waterway sea-wall is being undermined by the increased current; he now has trouble getting his boat onto his lift; and that damage has been done to harbor sea grasses. Manchester WW residents have paid some **\$18k** to fund an independent consultant's report that rebuts his claim about seawall erosion and

current flow

The FDEP and the Southwest Florida Water Management District have concluded that the water quality benefits of the "equivalent treatment" proposed by the County in lieu of the lock will address water quality concerns better than the lock ever did. Part of that "equivalent treatment" has already been constructed and the remainder will be constructed with the realignment of Edgewater Boulevard. A number of other agencies participated in the permitting process (including the Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) and they have concluded that the benefits of the long list of Net Ecological Benefit projects associated with the removal project will provide a positive benefit to the water and land ecosystems in our area beyond what is required under normal permitting procedures. These projects include the restoration of ecological

lands in and around the Manchester WW system and the installation of sewers and inspection of remaining septic systems in areas that contribute drainage to Alligator Bay. These requirements on others better distribute the burden of maintaining good water quality, rather than having that burden reside solely on our neighborhood. We believe that the case for lock removal is overwhelming even without the considerations for improved public safety when transiting the remains of the lock structure. I encourage you to please show your support for the Removal Project **TODAY**. **The window for receiving comments expires on December 31.**

It's important that you pick up your pen/mouse and write to the FDEP. We must show overwhelming public support for this project in order to avoid it being delayed by further consideration at the FDEP General Council Level. Please write **TODAY** to Calvin Alvarez at the address included in this newsletter.

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**Manchester Waterway
Civic Association**

2006 Annual Dues **\$6**

Your "paid through"
December date is on the
top left of your mailing
label - please renew NOW
if it does not show "2006"

**MWCA SPRING
ELECTIONS**

Nominations to be made,
or volunteers to present
themselves, for election at
the January 10, 2006,
MWCA public meeting. If
you are interested, come
to the meeting and tell us
about yourself.

Mail dues to:

George Musco,
MWCA Treasurer
19188 Waterbury Ct
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

USEFUL CONTACTS

**Charlotte County
Commissioners:**
Matt DeBoer (District 4)
Tom D'Aprile, Sara Devos,
Tom Moore, Adam
Cummings
Email any of above at
bcc@charlottefl.com
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 743-1300

**Charlotte County Public
Works Department**

7000 Florida Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 575-3600
**Mr. Charlie Mopps,
Dredging Specialist
**Ms Dawn Harrison,
MSBU Representative

**Manchester Info
on the Web!**

<http://www.geocities.com/manwatshoals>

MANCHESTER WATERWAY CIVIC ASSN.
5083 CRAWFORDSVILLE ROAD
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948

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After writing, please call the FDEP to verify they have received and read your letter/email. I'd then be grateful if you'd then let me know at by email at Patrick.randall@comcast.net or phone so we can pursue them knowing the amount of support. I can't emphasize how important this project is to both improve the environment and improve our access and safety when transiting the lock.

Additionally, the real estate value of your neighborhood depends on the lock structure being removed. If we fail, the only alternative is to rebuild the lock and operate it. This cost will be felt both in the capital assessment to rebuild the lock, the continuing O&M cost of operation, and the decreased real estate value of living behind the lock. The choice is stark, and it is possible that many of the newcomers don't have a full appreciation of what's really at stake here!

Please write TODAY to:
**Calvin Alvarez,
Environmental Manager
FDEP South District
Offices
2295 Victoria Avenue,
Suite 364
P.O. Box 2549
Ft. Myers, Florida 33902
(239) 332-6975, Ext. 144**
Email:
Calvin.Alvarez@dep.state.fl.us

**MWCA 10/11/05
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**
Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM; 46 members present, representing 32 memberships, including 7 Board members: 16 new paid memberships: Current Board members were introduced. Motions passed to accept Secretary & Treasurer reports. VP Patrick Randall, also a Manchester MSBU Advisory Committee member, gave a detailed presentation on the status of available MSBU tax funds. The \$100 assessment for the next 2 years on Manchester MSBU property owners was discussed, and how this \$75 annual increase is proposed to advance the long-delayed Midway lock removal and

Ackerman Waterway S-bend dredging. Cleanup of hurricane debris started in area canals on 10/10/05. Public Works was alerted to missing "No Wake" sign at the Como/Manchester intersection. Copies of the MWCA bylaws were made available to all attendees. Discussion held on getting a lawyer on retainer to bring pressure to bear on the County and all agencies involved to gain cooperation so the permitting process could move forward in a timely manner. Meeting adjourned 8:35 for coffee.

While awaiting the FDEP permit decision, it would be nice to see the following ...*the S bend and south of the lock shoaling have effectively closed the canal to sailboats and deeper draft vessels again. We would like the MSBU AC to formally ask to proceed with the S bend contract independently of the Lock removal and also to get PW to repeat their excellent "from the bank" dredge, S of the Lock as performed last January.*