

MANCHESTER WATERWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



LOCK REMOVAL & DREDGING - LOTS OF PROGRESS !!

Lock removal & dredging progress - The contractor reported the completion of all dredging and channel widening from the "old" lock site south around the Midway curve and into the Manchester main channel past the 40-ft blue powerboat. A 50-ft wide channel that is a full 5-ft depth @MLW should now be available all the way through this section. Watching them working on the Midway curve, they seem to have done a good job widening the channel on that blind corner. I haven't been out to check depths yet, but a lot of rocks and spoil were being removed from the outside edge of the curve.

I understand that they are now reconfiguring their dredge barge to better negotiate the corner by the Midway bridge before resuming operations at the harbor end of Lewis creek, through the S-bend and out into the dogleg. I'm hopeful Tara from Public Works will be along to our next meeting for an update.

I can report that the obstruction near marker 18B is still there, as solid as ever. We recently came to a shuddering halt on a +1-ft tide recently. My advice to all is to favor the S of the channel at this point. This obstruction has been reported before, and I will follow up with Tara to see if the contractor can remove it on the way to the Flamingo & Como dredging.

Patrick Randall, MWCA President

**2009 DUES NOW PAYABLE -
HELP THE MWCA KEEP HELPING YOU!**

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:

Patrick Randall 240-2747

VICE PRESIDENT:

Ray Rabil 627-6224

TREASURER:

George Musco 629-1467

SECRETARY:

Cheri Bauer 743-5140

DIRECTORS:

Al Augustine 255-0822

Al Lange 629-5603

PAST PRESIDENT:

Jim Goulette 625-0614

QTRLY MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday at 7:30

January 13, 2009

March 10, 2009

May 12, 2009

October 13, 2009

PORT CHARLOTTE YACHT CLUB

22445 Glass Lane
Charlotte Harbor, FL
(Go east on Edgewater,
right on Bayshore,
left on Glass, to building
on right at end of street).

Bring a snack to share!

MANCHESTER WATERWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
5083 CRAWFORDSVILLE DRIVE
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948

MWCA MEETING MINUTES 10/7/08:

President Patrick Randall called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 29 members present, representing 24 memberships, including 6 Board members and Tara Musselman, our PW representative. President Randall welcomed the new members who were present, then laid out the meeting agenda. The Current Board members were introduced.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer George Musco reported a current balance of \$3306.80, with 20 paid renewals for '09, 89 current for '08, 75 delinquent from '07, and 30 delinquent from '06. A motion was made & passed to accept the Treasurer's report. The check register and expense log are available at all meetings for viewing.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the last meeting were printed in the newsletter that was mailed to all members. A motion was made & passed to accept the minutes as printed.

OLD BUSINESS: Channel Encroachment: There are 2 current concerns – Constriction on the Midway corner of the narrow channel, and docks on the connector canal. After consultation with the County, the Zoning Dept. will more closely monitor and more cautiously review permit applications, so as to not further reduce the navigable channel.

Riprap @ Midway Corner: Approx 6 feet of navigable channel have been lost at the "Big Bend" south of Marker #9, and the current channel does not align with the original channel. AT MLW, there is only 38 feet width @ 3-foot depth, with a hidden rock/coral reef on the south side. Use of extreme caution & ONE LONG BLAST on a warning device are advised when approaching the Big Bend from either direction. Reminder: Vessels traveling with the tide have right of way, but deep draft vessels & sailboats must also have access to the deeper center of the channel. The MWCA position: A no-cost return to the "as-built" channel width ASAP is critical.

Dredging: Arterial – Project Manager Mark Kincaid's survey estimates spoils of 700 cu yd @ harbor & 475 @ dogleg (to be paid 83% Manchester & 17% Ackerman MSBUs). Another 480 cu yd north of lock, and 2340 cu yd at Midway bend brings total to 4,000 @ \$35/cu yd, total \$140,000. There is hope that loose rock at the Midway bend can be removed by bucket by SteMic work crew.

Dredging: Flamingo/Como – Current estimate is \$202,000 to attain 4 ft depth to Edgewater & 3 ft depth beyond. Spoils sites were still needed, and members volunteered property sites to Tara at this meeting. The County will obtain permits, complete right-of-entry paperwork, and will fill, level, and sod the lots at the end of the project.

Lock Removal Update: Per Tara M from PW - The lock is gone! The contractor is completing work on the NEBS, and a change order will be submitted to the County for the arterial dredging. The continued dredging in Alligator Bay to regain channel depths will not be a cost to the MSBUs. Pilings have been installed at the t-canals to allow only non-motorized watercraft access to these areas, and replacement cost is set @ \$900 each, payable by the Manchester MSBU, should they be tampered with by anyone. The Contractor has received threats from commercial/rec fisherman during the installation, so we should remain vigilant. Parks & Rec Dept. has no current plans for use of the lock site. Tax-wise, no increase is foreseen in the current \$100 annual ERU assessment for the 5-yr payoff period.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisit the purpose for the MWCA: 1) Lock removal – almost completed. 2) Agreement with County for a 50-ft wide, 5-foot depth for the Manchester main channel, and Ackerman approach to the harbor. 3) Vigilance over proposed use of Midway property by Parks & Rec.

Change in MWCA Charter: Past-President Jim Goulette suggested changes in the charter to increase the term lengths. A motion was made, and affirmative vote made by the membership, to completely remove the clause in Section 2 limiting the President & VP to no more than 2 consecutive terms. A round of applause was given to all past and current Officers.

The meeting adjourned for coffee and desserts provided by the membership at 8:30. Cheri Bauer, Secretary MWCA 10/8/08

2009 ANNUAL DUES: \$6

Mail payment to:

George Musco,
MWCA Treasurer
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Port Charlotte, FL
33948

[www.geocities.com/
manwatshoals](http://www.geocities.com/manwatshoals)

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