

MANCHESTER WATERWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R



AND THE DREDGING CONTINUES...

Manchester/Ackerman Project Progress

The Contractor is still in the process of dredging the northern Canals (Flamingo, Como, Christopher and Knox Waterways). They have dredged Como, Christopher and Knox Waterways. These canals are pending final inspection. This work was added to the **Lock Removal Project** via Change Order #2. The contractor is currently dredging the Flamingo Waterway and work is 80% complete. The total project is 63% complete.

Arterial dredge survey about to be done

We are awaiting the results of the arterial post-construction survey. The county will presumably ensure that 5-ft depths have been achieved before releasing the contractor. **If you have any particular areas of concern, please check them against the benchmarks below and consider any abnormal weather conditions that might affect the actual tidal height.** I will be doing some checks myself on receipt of the final survey data.

The following are temporary benchmarks within the Manchester project area:

Daybeacon G "9" near Station 103+50 = +1.9 ft (NGVD)

Daybeacon R "20" near Station 31+50 = +3.5 ft (NGVD)

The benchmarks consist of a PK nail and disk in the side of the timber pile. Elevations reference the top of the nail head. These TBM's were set by the County survey department in December 2008. CEC surveyed the elevations using RTK GPS on April 16, 2009.

The contractor also did some additional work by the S Curve to help navigation in that area. My main area of concern (from limited observations, been too hot lately) is the area of Lewis Creek where the Oxbow restoration has increased the flow from/to the marshlands. There seems to be quite a bit of silt being deposited in the channel here. I hope this will not be the new "sandbars by the lock" problem.

Patrick Randall
MWCA President

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

October 13

January 12

March 9

May 11

October 12

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

Minutes of the 5/12/09 General Meeting

Vice-President Ray Rabil called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. (President Patrick Randall was not in attendance due to health.) There were 17 members present, representing 24 memberships, including 4 Board members. Tara Musselman, our representative from Public Works, was present.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer George Musco reported a current balance of \$3326.91, with a total 108 paid renewals for '09 and 39 unpaid '08 members. 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. Motion was made/ passed to accept the minutes as printed.

OLD BUSINESS: Tara gave the following updates: Due to budget cuts, her position at Public Works Dept has been merged with Budget/ Administration Services, and she is now the Rep for all area MSBUs. The County is finding that MSBU fees collections are currently averaging 60% unpaid in the current economic climate, where a normal year the collection rate averages 96%. Of the 57 maintenance MSBUs in Charlotte County, 16 had reductions in fees for this fiscal year. It appears the current \$100 ad valorem assessment on Manchester ERUs should be sufficient to cover the cost of all current dredging.

Old lock area: There are still areas down past the Midway bend and going out toward the harbor that need to be dredged. A post-dredge depth survey will then be taken. **Flamingo/Como dredging:** Dredging in the Como has been completed, and dredging of the Christopher and Knox are currently underway. Flamingo dredging will start shortly. Spoils are being trucked into the Murdock Village area at no additional cost to the MSBU.

Members' complaint: Still barely 2 1/2-foot depth at the island in Lewis Creek at MLW. Per Tara, this is still to be addressed as the contractor completes the "as built" in the existing contract, and goes back over areas that need attention.

Member's question: What can be done about encroaching Brazilian pepper & mangrove that are reducing navigable canal widths? Tara advised that Brazilian pepper is a non-native invasive species, and may be cut to the waters edge. Mangroves on natural waterways may only be cut after obtaining a permit. We have a mix of natural and manmade canals in the Manchester Waterway system.

Member's question: Since the entire canal system in Charlotte County is a "Slow Speed, Minimum Wake" zone, what can be done about boats speeding through the canals? Per several members: Observers should try to get the registration numbers or boat name, and contact the Charlotte County Special Marine Unit, who may be able to contact the boatowner & give them a warning and educational materials.

Phone number for reporting problems on the waterways:

Wake or other boating violations – Punta Gorda Police 639-4111 Sheriff 639-2101 FFW 888-404-3922

Suspicious Vessels - Sheriff 639-0013

Damaged or Missing Markers - Coast Guard VHF 16 FFW 866-405-2869

Derelict Vessels / Sanitation violations – FFW 888-404-3922

Stray Crabtraps / Manatee Zone Violations – FFW 888-404-3922

Report Fish Kills – FFW 800-636-0511

Free-floating debris - Public Works 575-3600

NEW BUSINESS:

Member's question: Docks in the connector waterway are encroaching on the channel, and no agency seems to be in control of the situation. Who do we contact? Per Tara and several members: County Code Enforcement & Zoning should be made aware of the situation. Emails to Board of County Commissioners would also be appropriate.

Member's question: Who is responsible for shifting riprap after storms, or when rocks are purposefully rolled into the waterway by people who are shorefishing, especially at the narrow 90 degree bend at the end of Midway? Per several members: The MSBU will bear the cost of any obstruction removal. Boaters should try to carry a camera, and openly photograph persons and vehicles in these instances. County authorities should then be contacted with the evidence whenever possible.

The meeting adjourned for coffee and desserts provided by the membership at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Bauer, Secretary MWCA

2009 ANNUAL DUES: \$6

Mail payment to:

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Charlotte County
Commissioners

Dick Loftus, Bob Starr,

Adam Cummings,

Tricia Duffy, Robert

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PUBLIC WORKS

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MSBU Representative
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