

# MANCHESTER WATERWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## N E W S L E T T E R



## WHAT CAUSED THAT BUMP?



This picture was taken many years ago on the lock site property by MWCA Past-President/ Secretary/ Treasurer Bob Friedmann.

Boaters had been complaining of a hard obstruction, just inside the existing lock structure on the connector creek leading to the Ackerman Waterway and Lewis Creek. Bob checked into it, and was able to see a dark shape in the water which he reported to the Sheriff's Office. Later, when Bob & Phyllis went over to take another look, they were stopped by 2 deputies with guns drawn, wanting to know just what they were doing there! In this photo, the lock & canal would be off to the left. This car was dragged out of the canal, totally stripped, probably a gift to the waterway from "joy-riders". There were no mangroves, pepper trees, tall trees, or houses on those Midway lots south of O'Hara back in those days.

### MWCA TREASURER

### POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

The Waterway Association is seeking a Treasurer to fill the volunteer position available immediately! Long-time Treasurer George Musco has resigned effective this summer. The Treasurer's position, while only a part-time duty, is very necessary to the efficient running of our organization. Limited computer and math skills, and reliable transportation to the bank are necessary to adequately perform this job. Please contact MWCA President Patrick Randall at 240-2747 if you have a few hours available every few months to assist us!

### BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT:**  
Patrick Randall 240-2747  
**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
Ray Rabil 627-6224  
**TREASURER:**  
POSITION AVAILABLE  
**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 9**

### 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).

Please bring a snack  
to share with our coffee  
after the meeting.

[www.manchesterwaterway.org](http://www.manchesterwaterway.org)

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

**Minutes of the 5/8/12 General Meeting** President Patrick Randall called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 17 members present, representing 14 memberships, including 6 Board members; No County representative present. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer George Musco was unavailable, but sent his report showing a current balance of \$2,879.54. Our active roster includes 97 memberships renewed through 2012, 26 expired in 2011, and 72 non-renewed from 2010 and prior years = a total of 195. 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 and sent to all members. Motion was made/passed to accept the minutes as printed. **OLD BUSINESS:** Patrick Randall reported that MWCA Past-President Jim Goulette has been appointed to the Manchester MSBU Advisory Board. No information was available on ailing MSBU member Don Fredrick. The spring tides are up, and some silting-in is occurring in the Lewis Creek S-bend area. Potential dredging needs will be reviewed closer to winter tides. A new green S-bend marker is still being sought, and Cliff McMahon is working with Inland Navigation on placement. Patrick had called the County to report the crab pot "minefield" at the confluence of the 3 canal entryways in Alligator Bay after last meeting, and the pots were all removed the next day. But by the following day, a new bunch of different crab pot markers were back in the same area. Please call the County or FFW at 888-404-3922 to report any pots located in the navigable channels. **NEW BUSINESS:** The MSBU Draft Budget for 2012-2013 is currently available. \$125K has been budgeted for dredging. We are now in year 7 of the 8-year payoff of the no-interest loan from the County for the lock removal, which had increased the non-ad valorem tax line item to \$100 per Manchester ERU. No date has been set for the next MSBU Board fall meeting. Dawn Harrison is now our MSBU Representative. Welcome back, Dawn, and our thanks to Judith Nothdurft for the great job she did as our outgoing Rep. All MSBU meeting minutes can be accessed by MWCA Members and the public at [www.charlottecountyfl.com/PublicWorks/msbumstu/manchester.asp](http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/PublicWorks/msbumstu/manchester.asp). MWCA member Coty Keller submitted newspaper reports on the algal mat clogging Sunrise Lake that is possibly also contaminating Sunrise Waterway. The County's current estimate is potentially \$1 million to address the problem. Although this is not part of our waterway, Coty feels that the MWCA should become more proactive in monitoring the water quality in our Manchester system canals. He will volunteer to assist in collecting water samples for testing. Whether this testing would be done through the services of the County, or through a private source, and the costs associated with this testing, will all need to be investigated. An established benchmark would be beneficial before major construction begins in the 776 corridor, as future economic plans for the area could create a major impact on our water quality. Pres. Randall will invite Mr. Keller to address the membership at a future meeting regarding this issue. **Member Q:** There is a need for "Minimum Wake" signs in the canal system, particularly at the Hyattsville intersection with the Manchester. Could the sign be mounted on the Marker piling in that area? **Patrick:** In the past, additional signage has been rejected by the authorities as redundant. WE will Gring this issue to their attention again. **Member Q:** When will the foliage overgrowth of Brazilian Pepper trees at the Midway terminus be addressed? This is an ongoing problem for line-of-sight and tight navigation at the corner with rip-rap and coral formations on the channel, and was brought up at the last meeting. **Patrick:** We will follow-up with the County on this, so that it is remedied as quickly as possible. **Patrick's Reminder:** We need a volunteer to step forward to take up the position of Treasurer for the MWCA! George Musco is retiring, and his replacement is actively being sought. The meeting was adjourned for coffee and desserts provided by the membership at 8:02.

Respectfully submitted, Cheri Bauer, MWCA Secretary 5/8/12

Visit the Manchester Waterway website at: <http://www.manchesterwaterway.org>

**2012**  
**ANNUAL DUES**  
**NOW PAYABLE:**  
**\$6**

Please mail payment to:  
**Cheri Bauer,**  
 MWCA Secretary  
 5083 Crawfordsville  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Charlotte County  
 Commissioners**

*click on each to e-mail*  
**Stephen R. Deutsch**  
**Chris Constance**  
**Tricia Duffy**

18500 Murdock Circle  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
 (941)743-1300

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.**

7000 Florida Street  
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
 (941) 575-3613

**Dawn Harrison**

MSBU Representative  
[dawn.harrison@charlottefl.com](mailto:dawn.harrison@charlottefl.com)