

# MANCHESTER WATERWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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



## ONGOING DREDGE UPDATE...

### We've got lots of dirt!

The dredging contractors are still busy and have been so since July 2nd. I can attest to this as I have followed much of the spoil in the Mack trucks trundling along Edgewater and O'Hara on several occasions. As of September 24th, they estimate 75% completion and are currently working on the harbor dogleg and some remaining spots in the Manchester. All indications are that they are doing an excellent job. Johnson Engineering did a great job marking the channel with PVC - I hope none of you impaled yourselves on them as I've done in my scull (I have an excuse as of course I'm facing backwards).

They will re-survey post-construction to confirm the depths. It looks like an end of October project completion, which will be just right for the upcoming sailing season. I have found my sails again, but due to limited amount of use over the last few years (!) my halyards have green vegetation growing on them at the masthead... Can't wait to get back out on the harbor!

**It's nomination time for MWCA Board positions.** Are you interested in taking on a more active role in our civic organization? Please contact me, or any other Board member, to learn more about these positions.

Patrick Randall, MWCA President

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

[www.facebook.com/ManchesterWaterwayCivicAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterWaterwayCivicAssociation)

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### PRESIDENT:

Patrick Randall 240-2747

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

Ray Rabil 627-6224

#### TREASURER:

Kim Carless 979-8889

#### 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 14**

January 13, 2015

March 10

May 12

October 13

### 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.

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

### Minutes of the 5/13/14 General Meeting

President Patrick Randall called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 26 members present, representing 20 memberships, including 5 Board members. Four new member families were present; No County MSBU Representative was in attendance. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Kim Carless gave his report: Current balance \$2,112.66; 90 memberships paid for '14; 2 new members added since March '14; Add'l 41 are paid through '13; Total of 220 on the membership roster. The check register and expense log are available at all meeting for review. Motion was made/passed to accept the report as presented. **Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the last meeting were printed in the newsletter that was sent to all members. Motion was made/passed to accept the printed minutes. **OLD BUSINESS:** President Randall gave an update on the upcoming dredging project: Bids were received from a half dozen contractors, and Public Works has selected Marine Contracting with best bid. The bid will be taken to the BCC for vote to approve at the end of May regular meeting. The dredging should start in mid-June, and be completed within 120 days. The dredge estimated cost will be \$322K, with a removal of approx 12K cu yds of spoils. \$404K is currently available in the MSBU fund for the project. All documentation is available online for the project per the County Public Works website. Spoils site has been designated as the old lock site on Midway. The average width of the 5 ft MLW depth will be a 50' wide channel, except where constrained at various locations like the Midway terminus bend, which will still only have a maximum 42' width due to rocks/coral shelf on Preserve side and landowner-installed rip-rap on the roadway side. A new 5-year permit will be in place for the Aquatic Preserve dogleg area. Chuck Mopps from Public Works will keep us advised of the progress, and will have additional staff alerted to watch for any permit ends dates in the future. There are no other projects on which we can piggyback to reduce mobilization costs. Current operating depth throughout most areas of the canal system is still 4.0 feet at MLW. **New Business:** Concern was expressed about the tip lot on the Midway terminus, as Patrick has received calls from realtors about construction of a dock on this property once it is sold for private home development. Patrick has made multiple inquiries at the County Building Services Dept and Permitting Dept, and no one seems to be aware that dock placement in this area will place severe restrictions on the navigable channel at this 90 degree corner with rocks on each side.

At this point, Cliff McMahon asked that all MSBU Advisory Board members who were present leave the meeting temporarily. Mr. Randall, Mr. Goulette, and Mr. McGarry went outside the building, and the door was closed. Mr. McMahon presented a letter to Secretary Bauer and asked that it be read to the assembly. His letter detailed County various agency's history of ignoring the intended 50' buffer zone on both sides of the connector canal, and the repeated issuance of dock permits allowing encroachment into the established channel. He suggested the engagement of a lawyer to pursue the matter if the County continues to ignore the hazard to navigation at the midway terminus that will be increased by any further dock building on the connector canal. The possibility of a lawyer who will work pro-bono to help us in our dealings with the County bureaucracy was mentioned. The membership was in agreement. The Advisory Board members were asked to return to the meeting. Motion was made by member Fred Anthony to proceed with a formal action, and seconded by Tom Amaral. Discussion continued among the members about how best to proceed. Formal motion was unanimously approved by the attendant membership: "The Manchester Waterway Civic Association will contact a lawyer to obtain an advisory opinion on how best to address the navigation hazard that will be caused by any further dock permits being issued for the Midway terminus lots along the Manchester/Ackerman connector canal. Then, if advised, a package detailing our case will be prepared regarding infringement of the 50' buffer zone on the connector canal, to stop any dock being built on these corner lots. This information will be presented through the MSBU Advisory Board and appropriate County agencies, and compensation for the docks that have been previously permitted that already infringe on the navigable channel shall also be addressed." Communications will be sent through Secretary Bauer. Mike McGarry, the newest appointee to the Advisory Board was formally introduced to the membership. Mr. Randall provided information on the new FaceBook page for the Manchester Waterway, that will be used in addition to the Manchester website to keep interested members updated on conditions and activities. The meeting adjourned for coffee and desserts at 8:32 PM. Respectfully submitted, Cheri Bauer, MWCA Secretary 5/13/14

Visit the Manchester Waterway website at: [www.manchesterwaterway.org](http://www.manchesterwaterway.org)

**NOW ACCEPTING**

**2015**

**ANNUAL DUES:**

**\$6**

Please mail payment to:

**Mr. Kim Carless**

MWCA Treasurer

18138 Avonsdale Circle  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Charlotte County  
 Commissioners**

*click on each to e-mail*

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**Dawn Harrison**

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