

## THE VOICE OF THE MANCHESTER WATERWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### Executive Board

**President:**

Jim Goulette 625-0614

**Vice President:**

Patrick Randall 240-2747

**Treasurer:**

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 9**

### **NEW LOCATION**

**Port Charlotte  
Yacht Club**  
**22445 Glass Lane**  
**Port Charlotte, FL**  
(east on Edgewater,  
right on Bayshore,  
left on Glass, building  
on right at street end –  
parking next to  
building or on the  
street)

**Bring a snack to  
share for the social  
hour afterwards.**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

#### **TO COMPLETE THE SLATE OF 2007 OFFICERS!**

Nominations are requested at the January 9, 2007 meeting for the election to be held at the March 13, 2007 meeting.

### **LOCK REMOVAL UPDATE:**

Well, my MWCA friends, I'd like to say "I fought the good fight", but many of you may consider succumbing to extortion to be anything but a victory. However, we have it in hand – the County BCC has settled the lawsuit with our antagonist, Mr. Mudge, for \$15,000. Now we can move on, remove the lock and dredge our canals! This price is a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of further litigation to obtain absolute victory, and the escalating costs of marine construction. As you may know, the hearings on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, did not

transpire as County Attorneys and Mr. Mudge were in active negotiations; both Patrick Randall and I attended the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Charlotte County BCC's Regular Meeting to voice our support for the consent agenda item to settle with Mr. Mudge. As stated, the BBC approved the issue. That's it in a nutshell; the Board stands ready to field your questions at our General Meeting, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

#### **NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS ARE SOLICITED:**

I have served as your President for the past two terms; per our Bylaws, Article 5, Section 2, a new President must be nominated and

elected to this position this year. Please be forthcoming with your serious nominations for this office at our meeting January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We will vote at our March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, meeting.

In conclusion, I am unequivocally stating that I had little to do with our successful campaign to remove the lock. Patrick Randall, our Vice President did the yeoman's work; support in getting the word out through our *Newsletter* by Secretary Cheri Bauer, and mustering membership support by our Treasurer George Musco, was tantamount to our success. They deserve your admiration.

Jim Goulette  
President, MWCA

To view the Sun Herald's December 17, 2006, news story on the County settlement, log on to:

<http://www.sun-herald.com/Newsstory.cfm?pubdate=121706&story=tp9ch9.htm&folder=NewsArchive2>

#### **The Article title is "County's \$15k settlement will allow lock removal"**

Would you like to help organize a WINTER SOCIAL EVENT for Manchester Waterway Association members, as an opportunity to socialize for a bit longer than the normal "after meeting" session? Please contact MWCA Past-President Al Lange if you have an interest!

**THE 2007  
MEMBERSHIP FEE  
of \$ 6 IS DUE  
THIS MONTH**

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

**Mail your dues to:**  
George Musco,  
MWCA Treasurer  
19188 Waterbury Ct  
Port Charlotte, FL  
33948

**MWCA  
SPRING ELECTIONS  
COMING**

Nominations to be made, or volunteers to present themselves, for nomination at the January 9, 2007, MWCA general meeting. If you are interested, contact a Board member, then come to the meeting, and tell the members about yourself.

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Charlotte County  
Commissioners:**

Dick Loftus (**District 4**)  
Tom D'Aprile, Tricia Duffy,  
Tom Moore,  
Adam Cummings  
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**  
Tara Musselman,  
MSBU Representative

**Manchester Info  
on the Web!**

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

**MWCA 10/10/06  
GENERAL MEETING  
MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM; 43 members present, representing 31 memberships, including 7 Board members. Current Board members were introduced. Pres. Jim Goulette presided. Motions passed to accept Secretary & Treasurer reports. VP Patrick Randall, also a Manchester MSBU Advisory Committee member, reviewed the Manchester MSBU revised budget, dropped from \$1.2 million to \$500K by the postponement of the Flamingo /Como Waterway dredging. The current \$100 per ERU ad valorem tax will remain in place until such time as the lock removal is underway. The County Commissioners have agreed to a current maximum \$205 per ERU assessment to allow for necessary Waterway projects, which can be invoked in November 2007. This would mean that no public hearing would be necessary. MWCA

members are urged to notify the MSBU Board of any problems in the canals as costing of projects by Public Works for spot dredging and other small improvements can be done on a case-by-case basis. **DEP/County lawsuit:** The letter from complainant Mudge and subsequent emails were posted on the wall for viewing by members. His estimate of current damages listed \$31K in compensatory damages to his eroding seawall and dock. Several members complained of problems in and around the lock enclosure due to swift current and water depth reduced by silting. Members again requested that bumpers on sidewalls of lock be replaced if lock is not removed in very near future. It has been noted that the lock is eroding under the solid floor, and current is passing underneath the lock enclosure. Heated discussion, ensued on the lack of progress in the lock removal process, and the resulting dangerous

conditions created at the lock, which are endangering boats and boaters.

Tara M. from Public Works informed us the Alligator Creek dredging was bid at \$27.59 per cubic yard, as a guide for the cost associated with the Lewis Creek S-bend dredging bids, which will be published for bids in November. New depth soundings have been taken by members at the S-bend and marking stakes were replaced, so the website will be updated with new information.

Members suggested hiring an attorney to speed the lock removal process, but /County rules prohibit MSBU Waterway funds from being used to pay attorney fees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 for oral presentations from District 4 County Commissioner candidates Richard Loftus & Joan Fisher's representative, and coffee was served.