

City Council Chamber  
735 Eighth Street South  
Naples, Florida 34102

Moorings Bay Special Taxing District Advisory Committee  
June 15, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. Chairman Pennington called the  
meeting to order and presided.

ROLL CALL ..... ITEM 1

Present:

Ron Pennington, Chairman  
Doug Finlay  
James Rozzi  
Dan Spina  
Michael Williams

Also Present:

Jon Staiger, Natural Resources Manager  
David Lykins, Community Services Director  
Elizabeth Rogers, Recording Specialist David  
Christerson, Equipment Operator III Other  
interested citizens and visitors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... ITEM 2  
None.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED ..... ITEM 3

Approval of February 17, 2004, meeting minutes (added to Item 4 below).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES ..... ITEM 4

*MOTION by Williams to APPROVE the February 17, April 20, and May 18, 2004  
meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Finlay and unanimously carried, all  
members present and voting (Finlay-yes, Rozzi-yes, Spina-yes,  
Williams-yes, Pennington-yes).*

DISCUSSION OF ENGINEERING WORK PROGRESS (Doctors Pass) ..... ITEM 5

In response to Chairman Pennington, Natural Resources Manager Jon Staiger reported that Norman Beumel of Coastal Planning and Engineering (CP&E) had contacted the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regarding the potential for emergency dredging. He further explained that Mr. Beumel had said that both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States National Marine Fishery Service raised concerns regarding critical fish habitat as well as dredging being hampered by the existence of hard bottom. Dr. Staiger then noted that CP&E had commenced the permit application process.

Dr. Staiger said that he anticipated a purchase order that week and that a budget amendment had been made.

Although Mr. Beumel had indicated possible denial of an emergency permit, Dr. Staiger said he anticipated that a renewal permit would be approved. He further explained that, historically, summer dredging had been done because of offshore spoil disposal, which allows sand to shift

onto the beach naturally. Also, there is less mariner interference with the dredge disposal pipe and less adverse weather. However, the requirement may be to dispose spoils directly on the beach, which calls for dredging in the winter.

Dr. Staiger also noted that an inherent right to navigation exists even though Doctors Pass is not a federal channel. It is, nevertheless, a state navigable waterway, a maintained channel, and a managed inlet with an adopted inlet management plan, which obligates bypassing the sand around the inlet.

Chairman Pennington read into the record a communication from Chris Day of CP&E (Attachment 1) requesting quotation of the measurements (eastings, northings, and elevations) utilized to generate William Lazear's (Save the Bays) charts dated March 2003 and April 2004. Chairman Pennington then said that he believed Mr. Lazear instead utilized latitude and longitude, although the elevations are relative to MLLW (Mean Lower Low Water). He subsequently explained that eastings and northings denote distance to the east and to the north from a reference point. Dr. Staiger further explained that it is terrestrial survey terminology. He then advised the Committee that he had approved the release of the survey data from Sea Systems (the survey contractor) to CP&E.

Chairman Pennington requested that CP &E reexamine the Doctors Pass Management Plan for determination of whether the frequency of dredging should be amended to a three-year interval. He then indicated that the rate of recurrence of beach renourishment does not affect the frequency of dredging; the impoundment basin is, nevertheless, overflowing in some areas. Dr. Staiger subsequently advocated investigating the cause of the sand shift, which had occurred from the fill area into the adjacent area known as the fillet on the east side of the north jetty. In addition, he recommended that frequency of dredging be reviewed.

Responding to Chairman Pennington, Dr. Staiger stated that no controlling depth in Doctors Pass had been officially promulgated. Chairman Pennington, therefore, requested publication of a notice, which would advise mariners to exercise adequate caution because of shoaling in Doctors Pass, the controlling depth being four feet at MLL W. This notice, he recommended, should take the form of a newspaper advertisement measuring three columns by five inches, should run for three days, and would be funded by the taxing district. Dr. Staiger concurred and further suggested including an illustration of the existing shoal and surrounding area. Later in the meeting, Chairman Pennington suggested that Save the Bays also publish the information on their website.

While supporting publication of a notice, Member Rozzi, nevertheless, asserted that temporary markers stating "Danger – Shoaling" would better disseminate the warning. Chairman Pennington, however, said that frequent movement of the shoals would require repeated relocation of the signage. In further discussion, various members expressed themselves on these proposals.

Member Williams, however, cited Marco Island mariner charts, which caution against constantly changing shoals. Therefore, he opposed both signage and paid advertising, although supporting issuance of the traditional Notice to Mariners;. Member Finlay suggested advertising several times, and Dr. Staiger recommended merely advertising that Doctors Pass is subject to shoaling and placing ads both now and in November. Member Spina advocated both publishing an

advertisement and installing temporary signage. Member Rozzi subsequently recommended placing signage at the north and south approaches to the channel.

*MOTION by Rozzi to ADVERTISE BY NEWSPAPER. AND PLACE SIGNAGE ON INGRESS AND EGRESS TO DOCTO PASS indicating danger of shifting shoals,' seconded by Spina and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Finlay-yes, Rozzi-yes, Spina-yes, Williams-yes, Pennington-yes.)*

Prior to the vote, and following discussion, Dr. Staiger agreed to contact either the boating organization Group St. Pete or the U.S. Coast Guard in Miami for advice on the best time to advertise. As noted later in the meeting, Dr. Staiger anticipated submitting the advertisement and installing sign age within the next week. Chairman Pennington recommended a Wednesday-Friday-Saturday placement.

Regarding the Doctors Pass tide gauges, Dr. Staiger reported that both gauges were determined to be inoperable, and Member Rozzi offered to inspect them that Friday. Dr. Staiger also stated that grating at the Doctors Pass light had virtually disintegrated and that a repair quote was being obtained by staff. Member Spina then requested that a report on this matter be presented at the next meeting.

Member Finlay then reported a missing bolt on the north approach danger sign, which marks the shoal across from Admiralty Point. He further noted that both wooden supports had shifted on the idle speed sign immediately north of the Harbour Drive Bridge.

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SCOPE OF DEBRIS REMOVAL ACTIVITIES.....ITEM 6  
Community Services Director David Lykins reviewed a secondary draft of Policy 04-61 relative to cleaning of Moorings Bay waterways and canals, which had been prepared for the Committee's consideration. (A copy of the second draft, as well as other pertinent materials, is contained in the file for this meeting in the City Clerks Office.)

Director Lykins reported that staff would coordinate with condominium managers, club owners, and homeowners to remove debris from points where it had collected, such as the seawall bordering the Madrid Club. He further noted that the debris removal would be achieved from shore side. Various Members also cited the south side of Mermaid's Bight and the mangroves at Seagate and also advocated cleaning the bays from shore side on a regular basis. To better organize reporting, Director Lykins recommended designating certain individuals to monitor, identify, and report locations requiring debris removal rather than receiving individual telephone calls.

In response to Member Rozzi, regarding availability of workers, Director Lykins stated that staff is redeployed from routine maintenance landside to removal of dead fish and algae when required; therefore, the cleanup process could encompass 48 rather than 24, hours. Although private contractors assist with dead fish removal, Mr. Lykins explained, staff is primarily responsible.

While Member Spina commended the Community Services Department on the aforementioned policy, he recommended revising the title to incorporate "System" in reference to Moorings Bay waterways and canals. Although Director Lykins advocated providing the policy to Save the Bays, he requested delaying further dissemination until an informational brochure is compiled. This information could then be distributed through property owners and condominium associations.

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Chairman Pennington recommended that the taxing district fund removal efforts be only for the debris within the Moorings Bay System, not citywide; however, he asserted that the City should fund all dead fish removal. Chairman Pennington subsequently advocated that the Committee approve all expenditures from taxing district funds. He then also suggested the following:

- 1) Omission of all references to debris collection from boats;
- 2) Inclusion of a statement that all cleanup would be done shore side, and in response to reports by the residents along the Bay~
- 3) Page one, PROCEDURE, paragraph one: revision of the verbiage regarding frequency and scheduling of regular cleanup; and
- 4) Page one, POLICY, paragraph one: "It will be the policy of the Parks and Parkways Division to conduct a routine cleanup of debris, trash, and vegetation in the navigable waterways and canals within the City limits, including the Naples Bay and Moorings Bay and Moorings Bay System."

Member Spina subsequently recommended adding a statement that the Moorings Bay System extends from Banyan Boulevard to Seagate Drive.

Prior to adjournment, Chairman Pennington noted that the next meeting would be August 17.

Dr. Staiger also noted that the City Council was scheduled to approve a use agreement with the University of South Florida (USF) enabling the City to participate in the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) (<http://seacoos.marine.usf.edu/HFRadar>). Dr. Staiger explained that the system is comprised of high frequency radars and data buoys in Venice and Redington Shores, and will ultimately include Lowdermilk Park. Agencies involved include the University of South Florida and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), he said. Dr. Staiger stated that the system is also able to track oil spills. He said he anticipates that the Naples station will be operating this summer. The system includes a 37-38 foot tall whip antenna, and a shorter vertical whip with an array of cross arms.

In response to Member Finlay, Dr. Staiger explained that, at present, the system measures the sea surface including current, wave direction, and surface wave speed, which could be translated into wave height; however, once all three stations are operational, and the signals cross, additional data could become available. In response to Member Williams, Dr. Staiger stated that previously received information implied that the system could track vessels.

Member Williams notified the Committee of his intended absence until the November meeting.

It was also suggested that Dr. Staiger submit a summary of pending activities for inclusion in the Committee's meeting packet.

In response to Member Spina, Dr. Staiger stated that should an emergency meeting become necessary, each Committee member would be contacted to establish the availability of a quorum.

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ADJOURN .....00.....  
10:18 a.m.

Ron Pennington, Chairman

Jon C. Staiger, Ph.D.  
Natural Resources Manager

Minutes prepared by:

Elizabeth Rogers, Recording Specialist