

City of Marco Island Florida

*51 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, Florida
cityofmarcoisland.com*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, May 22, 2025

8:30 AM

Community Meeting Room

Waterways Advisory Committee

Chair: Elliott Mascoop

Vice-Chair: Daniel High

***Committee Members: Chris Lewandowski,
Ralph Rohena, Jim Snider,
Martin Winter, Rick Woodworth***

City Staff: Justin Martin, Tara Kosieracki

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mascoop called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

(2) ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Vice-Chair High, Member Lewandowski, Member Rohena, Member Snider, Member Winter, Member Woodworth and Chair Mascoop

Also Present*Citizens and Visitors*

Tamara Goehler, Marco Island City Councilor

Deb Henry, Marco Island City Councilor

Bonita Schwan, Marco Island City Councilor

Rene Champagne, Marco Island City Councilor

City Staff:

Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works

Jeff Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer

Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator

Martin Luna, Visual/Broadcast Technician

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Mascoop.

COMMENT BY CHAIR MASCOOP:

Chair Mascoop underscored the importance of adhering to the handbook for Boards and Committees of Marco Island, emphasizing professionalism, clear communication, and decorum. The Committee ensued conversation regarding the Sunshine Law and topics on the agenda.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Member Snider, seconded by Vice-Chair High, that the Agenda be Approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Vice-Chair High, Member Lewandowski, Member Snider, Member Winter and Chair Mascoop

No: 2 - Member Rohena and Member Woodworth

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 25-4443](#)

Approval of the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2025

MOTION by Vice-Chair High, seconded by Member Winter, that the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2025 be Approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair High, Member Lewandowski, Member Rohena, Member Snider, Member Winter, Member Woodworth and Chair Mascoop

(6) OLD BUSINESS

[ID 25-4446](#) White Paper on Canal Aeration/Amended Summary of Proposed WAC Discussion Items and Recommendations (Member Woodworth)

The Committee engaged in a discussion about the pilot canal project. Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works, provided insights into the canal aeration initiative, emphasizing its foundation in a comprehensive 500-page nutrient source evaluation study. He highlighted the City's success in securing State appropriation, with a 50% match from the City. The project includes installing compressors in a pilot canal and conducting water quality testing. Director Martin also noted that a City Council water quality workshop is scheduled for July.

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A [ID 25-4447](#) Wink News Hurricane Resiliency Forum Update (Chair Mascoop)

Chair Mascoop recapped the Wink News hurricane resilience forum, highlighting Marco Island's complex water quality challenges. He explained how flooding in Central Florida impacts the Gulf water quality. The discussion covered the lasting pollution effects of hurricanes and agricultural runoff, as well as broader regional influences like phosphate mining and water management.

Vice-Chair High underscored the importance of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project in improving Marco Island's water quality. He stressed the need for ongoing funding and advocacy for key initiatives, urging citizens to engage with representatives. Restoration efforts focus on regulating Caloosahatchee River discharges, directing water south, and reducing phosphorus levels. Residents were encouraged to visit the South Florida Water Management District website to learn more. Member Winter suggested inviting Charlotte Roman to provide insights, and the Committee discussed waterway cleanup and maintenance strategies.

7B [ID 25-4448](#) Flushing - San Marco Road (Chair Mascoop)

Chair Mascoop presented a proposal to install larger culverts under San Marco Road to enhance tidal flushing in the canals. Director Martin cited a hydrodynamic study showing that adding two 60-inch culverts would improve water circulation. Rising costs have increased the project's estimate from \$400,000 to \$5 million, prompting the City to seek additional funding, including a \$750,000 state appropriation request. The Committee discussed tidal flushing, and Chair Mascoop urged members to review the study and be ready to vote at the next meeting on whether to prioritize the culvert installation as a key recommendation to City Council.

7C [ID 25-4449](#) Phosphorus Discussion (Vice-Chair High & Chair Mascoop)

Jeff Poteet, General Manager of the Water and Sewer department, provided insights into phosphorus levels and water treatment. He also answered questions about Advanced Water Treatment (AWT). Jeff Poteet highlighted the plant's recent recognition with the David W York Award and emphasized that nearly all treated wastewater is reclaimed, with deep well injection reserved for periods of excess rainfall or reduced demand.

7D [ID 25-4450](#) Fertilizer Discussion (Vice-Chair High & Chair Mascoop)

This topic will be discussed on June 19, 2025.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Director Martin provided insight for the capital budget workshop scheduled on June 16, 2025.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Schwan discussed the Everglades Restoration, underscoring the vital importance of adhering to the Sunshine Law and upholding public trust. She emphasized that Committee members must remain vigilant in their communication practices to ensure transparency and accountability in their interactions

Councilor Champagne urged the Committee to develop a strategic water quality plan for 2025–2035, outlining clear short, medium, and long-term priorities. He emphasized the importance of well-researched recommendations and unanimous agreement when advising City Council. He also encouraged members to participate in the City Council July 7th water quality workshop to help address environmental challenges and solutions.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

David Crain, Marco Island resident, commented that the water quality analysis reports are provided on the City website and discussed canal quality on Marco Island. He suggested testing and drilling to explore the potential for deep well injections, similar to what is done in the Keys, to address water movement issues.

Nicholas von Hofen, Island Country Club Chief Operating Officer, discussed the importance of Florida Best Management Practices in golf course operations, which help manage irrigation water and nutrient runoff.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE - 6/19/25 @ 8:30 A.M.

[ID 25-4444](#) Next Meeting: Confirmation & Attendance

June 19, 2025 at 8:30 A.M. was agreed to be the next Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting.

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

[ID 25-4445](#) WAC Topics for June 19, 2025

The following topics were raised for the Meeting scheduled on May 22, 2025:

- 1. Fertilizer Discussion*
- 2. White Paper on the Benefits of Implementing a Stormwater Utility District on Marco Island. (Member Woodworth)*
- 3. Aton Update (Hideaway and Marco Island Waterways)*
- 4. Dredging (Member Rohena)*
- 5. Whiteboard all Topics and Create a Strategic Plan (Member Winter)*

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee commented on the upcoming City Council water quality workshop scheduled for July 7, 2025.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:29 A.M.

*Tara Kosieracki
Administrative/Project Coordinator
Public Works Department*

NOTE: TWO OR MORE CITY COUNCILORS OR OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY BE PRESENT