

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, February 20, 2025

8:30 AM

Community Meeting Room

Waterways Advisory Committee

Chair: Martin Winter

Vice-Chair: Daniel High

*Committee Members: Elliott Mascoop,
Ralph Rohena, Jim Snider,
Rick Woodworth*

City Staff: Justin Martin, Tara Kosieracki

(1) CALL TO ORDER

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

(2) ROLL CALL

Also Present

Citizens and Visitors

Deb Henry, Marco Island City Councilor

Tamara Goehler, Marco Island City Councilor

Stephen Gray, Marco Island City Councilor

City Staff:

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

Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator

Martin Luna, Visual/Broadcast Technician

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Winter.

(4) INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

[ID 25-4208](#) New Committee Member Introductions

The meeting introduced three new members to the waterways committee and discussed their backgrounds and interests in water quality. Member Macoop shared his background in horticulture and his passion for clean, healthy waterways. Member Rohena discussed his marine and coastal engineering experience and his desire to help maintain Marco Island's waterways. Member Woodworth talked about his real estate background, lifelong passion for boating, and advocacy for clean water initiatives on the island.

(5) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice-Chair High and the Committee discussed the removal of agenda item ID 25-4220. Chair Winter mentioned that the Marco Island Coastal Habitat & Water Quality (C-HAWQ) group will have the opportunity to speak during the Public Comment section of the meeting. Justin Martin, P.E., Public Works Director, summarized the rules of procedure and public notice requirements. The reasoning provided for the initial removal was that the proposal had already been presented to the City Council, and the next step was for the group to submit a formal proposal, which the Council was awaiting.

MOTION by Member Mascoop, seconded by Member Rohena that the Agenda be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Yes: 4 - Member Mascoop, Member Rohena, Member Snider and Member Woodworth

No: 2 - Vice-Chair High and Chair Winter

(6) ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

[ID 25-4214](#) Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

Chair Winter suggested postponing the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair until the committee has a full quorum.

MOTION by Vice-Chair High, seconded by Member Mascoop, that the Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair be postponed. MOTION CARRIED THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Yes: 6 - Vice-Chair High, Member Mascoop, Member Rohena, Member Snider, Member Woodworth and Chair Winter

(7) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 25-4222](#) Approval of the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024

MOTION by Member Snider, seconded by Vice-Chair High that the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 6 - Vice-Chair High, Member Mascoop, Member Rohena, Member Snider, Member Woodworth and Chair Winter

(8) OLD BUSINESS

None.

(9) NEW BUSINESS

None.

(10) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works, provided an update on the installation of idle speed markers and the process and replacement of navigational markers. Director Martin explained where water quality data can be found on the City's website and highlighted that the Public Works department report, which includes nutrient evaluation data, is submitted to the City Council monthly. He also provided an overview of ongoing waterways projects, such as dredging, inlet side slot filling, exfiltration swales, and inlet screens. Additionally, the discussion covered the hydrodynamic study and the aeration pilot project program.

(11) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Henry expressed her appreciation for the work of the Waterways Advisory Committee and its members. She mentioned that the Chair of each advisory committee will be scheduled to provide a quarterly update presentation to the City Council. Councilor Goehler also thanked the Waterways Advisory Committee for their service and involvement.

Director Martin noted that the Waterways Advisory Committee is scheduled to provide an update presentation to the City Council at a future meeting. This will be an opportunity for the committee to share their initiatives and priorities with the City Council.

(12) PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Davies, representing the C-HAWQ Group, outlined how the cost of dredging the canals could be significantly reduced. C-HAWQ's innovative approach involves utilizing the dredged material on-site to create beneficial islands, rather than disposing of it off site. Davies emphasized that C-HAWQ is not seeking any funding from the City, but rather aims to engage the community and secure City Council approval to move the project forward.

Jonathan Koepke, owner of NCAP, Inc., an ecological restoration company, highlighted the necessity of

dredging the canals to address the root causes of water quality issues, rather than relying solely on Best Management Practices (BMPs). He expressed strong support for the C-HAWQ proposal to dredge the canals and create islands as a nature-based solution offering long-term water quality improvements.

Susan Rowley, also representing C-HAWQ, announced that she would lead the permitting applications for their proposed project. She ceded her speaking time to allow her fellow C-HAWQ representatives to elaborate on the proposal.

Samantha Depina, a member of the C-HAWQ team, detailed the ecological and water quality benefits of their approach to dredge the canals and establish naturalized islands. She explained how this plan would provide long-term solutions by creating denitrification beds and habitat for organisms like oysters to help filter the water.

Dan Davies provided his contact information and website details, mentioning he is personally available to offer further information and answer questions.

Resident Scott Wallenberg reported an oil spill incident in Tigertail Lagoon to 911 but faced issues with the response. The Committee acknowledged the importance of the incident and provided additional contacts for response. Chair Winter recommended Scott Wallenberg to write a letter to City Council regarding this incident.

Community member Richard Cipriani inquired about the C-HAWQ's feasibility, environmental impacts, and potential funding sources.

(13) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE - 3/20/25 @ 8:30 A.M.

[ID 25-4239](#) Next Meeting: Confirmation & Attendance

The Waterways Advisory Committee reached consensus on Thursday, March 20th at 8:30 A.M. for its next Meeting.

(14) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Waterways Advisory Committee agreed to the following items for the upcoming Agenda:

- 1. Coastal Zone Management; Marco Pass & Navigation Update*
- 2. Aton Repairs and America's Boating Club*
- 3. Summary Proposed WAC Discussion Items and Recommendations (Member Woodworth), with an up/down vote*

Pending Future Agenda Item:

Once Approved by City Council- Marco Island Coastal Habitat & Water Quality (C-HAWQ)

(15) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

None.

(16) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Winter adjourned the meeting at 10:28 A.M.

Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator

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