

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, November 20, 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

*City Councilor Stephen Gray
City Councilor Deb Henry
City Councilor Bonita Schwan*

CITY STAFF:

*Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Josh Ferris, Police Officer
Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator
Martin Luna, Visual/Broadcast Technician*

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Mascoop.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice-Chair High noted that representatives from the Marco Island Police Department were present to provide an update on the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry of Canals, listed under Staff Communications. The agenda was subsequently amended to move this item ahead of Old Business. The Committee then held a brief discussion regarding the agenda topics.

MOTION by Member Winter, seconded by Member Snider, that the Agenda be Approved as Amended. 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

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION by Member Lewandowski, seconded by Vice-Chair High, that the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 16, 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

[ID 25-4850](#) Approval of the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2025

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

[ID 25-4877](#) Crowd Sourced Bathymetry of Canals Update (Marco Island Police

Department Marine Unit)

Note: This item was originally listed as 8a on the agenda. At the Committee's direction, the agenda was amended to address this item prior to Old Business.

Officer Josh Ferris of the Marco Island Police Marine Unit provided an update on the bathymetric data collection efforts for the Marco Island Waterway Mapping Project, conducted in collaboration with the SeaKeeper Society's Seabed 2030 initiative. He described the process of installing tracking devices on police vessels to collect underwater topography data and explained how residents can participate in the initiative. The devices are available at no cost to boat owners with compatible systems, and Officer Ferris highlighted the benefits of contributing data to the project.

Officer Ferris and the Committee also discussed the challenges associated with historical data and emphasized the importance of gathering as much current data as possible. Police Chief Tracy Frazzano added that the department is actively promoting the initiative through presentations and social media outreach. She encouraged the Committee to support these efforts by directing residents to the department's website, where they can view the presentation and access the sign-up link.

(6) OLD BUSINESS**6A [ID 25-4851](#) Techniques and Alternatives to Muck Sediment Remediation - Continued
(Member Rohena)**

Member Rohena presented an overview of alternatives to traditional dredging, including backfill encapsulation, and outlined the potential benefits of these methods. He also provided comments comparing the costs of encapsulation, dredging, and the creation of muck islands. This led to a discussion among Committee members regarding the practicality of encapsulation and the importance of addressing the root causes of muck accumulation. Member Rohena emphasized the importance of educating the public and decision-makers on alternative solutions.

Member Rohena introduced the idea of using "muck-eating" bacteria and proposed a pilot program, prompting discussion on regulatory needs, source identification, and a science-based approach. The Committee agreed to explore the concept further, with Member Rohena tasked to present a detailed proposal at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Dr. Trotter emphasized the importance of community awareness, transparency, and long-term planning in addressing water quality issues, while commending the Committee's efforts and encouraging continued public engagement..

Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works, informed the Committee that the City Engineer's evaluation of the public-private partnership proposal is scheduled for December 8th.

MOTION by Member Rohena to recommend a pilot program to City Council for further investigation.

The motion was WITHDRAWN by Member Rohena.

6B [ID 25-4852](#) Florida Friendly Landscaping and Fertilizer (Chair Mascoop)

Chair Mascoop proposed limiting fertilizer applications to two shoulder seasons—April 15 to May 31 and October 1 to November 1—to help reduce runoff into waterways during periods of heavy rainfall and winter dormancy. He highlighted the benefits of permitting trace nutrients and iron during the winter blackout period to support turf health without compromising water quality. The discussion emphasized the need to review existing code regulations and involve local professionals to ensure the proposal is both informed

and effective.

Chair Mascoop discussed the concept of Florida-Friendly Landscaping, emphasizing its benefits such as reduced water and fertilizer use, and decreased polluted runoff. The proposal advocated for the use of native and Florida-friendly plants, efficient irrigation practices, and responsible pest management to help mitigate pollution. Chair Mascoop also encouraged residents to bag yard waste to prevent debris from entering waterways.

The Committee discussed the need for a comprehensive position statement and proposed amending the current code of ordinances to remove turf grass restrictions and promote Florida-Friendly Landscaping practices.

6C [ID 25-4853](#) Whiteboard Topics and Strategic Planning

Not discussed.

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A [ID 25-4854](#) 2026 Waterways Advisory Meeting Calendar

Not discussed.

7B [ID 25-4855](#) White Paper - Big Marco Pass and Inlet Management Plan (Vice-Chair High)

Vice-Chair High proposed a motion to modify the Tigertail Lagoon/Sand Dollar Ecosystem Restoration Permit to include maintenance dredging of Big Marco and Capri Passes, along with the placement of beach-compatible sand in authorized disposal areas. The intent of the motion is to address immediate navigational concerns while also providing a potential source of sand for future beach nourishment projects.

Vice-Chair High outlined the necessary steps for implementation, including conducting a geotechnical analysis, pursuing permit modifications, and seeking funding through the Tourism Development Council. The Committee also discussed the importance of proper marking and ongoing maintenance of the navigational channel by the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as the possibility of the City and County assuming management responsibilities for the channel. Vice-Chair High clarified that the scope of the motion is limited to sand removal and placement only.

**MOTION by Vice-Chair High, seconded by Member Winter, that the Waterways Advisory Committee recommend the City modify the Tigertail Lagoon/Sand Dollar Ecosystem Restoration permit to include maintenance dredging of the Capri and Big Marco Pass navigational channels, placement of beach-compatible sand, and authorization of a disposal area on the Sand Dollar Island berm.
MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

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

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Communications item 'ID 25-4877' was moved to follow the Approval of Minutes section on the agenda.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

None.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

See agenda item 6A Techniques and Alternatives to Muck Sediment Remediation portion of the agenda.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE - 12/18/25 @ 8:30 A.M.

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

- 1. Technique and Alternative to Muck Sediment Remediation - Muck Eating Bacteria (Member Rohena)*
- 2. Florida Friendly Landscaping and Fertilizer (Chair Mascoop)*

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

None.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Mascoop adjourned the meeting at 10:29 A.M.

Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator

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