

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, October 16, 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 STAFF:
Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works
Zurima Luff, MS, PMP
Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator
Martin Luna, Visual/Broadcast Technician*

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Mascoop.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Member Winter, seconded by Member Lewandowski, that the Agenda be Approved. 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

[ID 25-4743](#) Approval of the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2025

The agenda was approved following a brief discussion. The Committee revisited a September item regarding alternative landscaping options for the Planning Board. Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works, outlined the steps needed to advance the recommendation, including drafting a document and potentially securing support from a City Councilor. Chair Mascoop offered to prepare a comprehensive draft for the Committee’s review. Member Woodworth initiated a discussion about algae testing. Director Martin answered questions regarding the budget and offered to help coordinate accurate sample collection.

MOTION by Vice-Chair High, seconded by Member Rohena, that the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 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 25-4745](#) Whiteboard Topics and Strategic Planning

The Waterways Advisory Committee engaged in a discussion on "Whiteboard Topics and Strategic Planning." Member Lewandowski proposed focusing on water quality improvements. The Committee explored a variety of related topics, including Advanced Water Treatment (AWT), dredging, aeration, circulation, runoff, landscape debris, fertilizer, and septic and drain fields.

Public Comment:

City of Marco resident David Crain emphasized the importance of circulation in dead-end canals. He referenced the Harper Report and suggested that the Committee consider shifting focus beyond water quality. Additionally, he expressed concerns about first flush events and their impact on water conditions.

Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works, noted that the Water Quality topics discussed by the Committee fall into two categories: preventative and remedial. Following discussion and debate, the Committee voted to prioritize fertilizer management as the top preventative measure, and canal circulation as the top remedial approach. Member Winter referenced the Harper Report during the discussion. The Committee agreed to dive deeper into these topics at the next meeting.

Preventative: Fertilizer – 4 votes

Remedial: Circulation – 4 votes

Preventative: Landscape Debris – 2 votes

Remedial: Dredging – 2 votes

Preventative: AWT – 1 vote

(7) NEW BUSINESS

[ID 25-4748](#) Techniques and Alternatives to Muck Sediment Remediation (Member Rohena)

Member Rohena delivered an educational presentation on alternative techniques for muck sediment remediation, titled "Nutrient Reduction System – Marco Island Waterways." The presentation focused on the use of beneficial bacteria through a bio-health pod system, which utilizes small aeration devices and nano pods to release microbes that break down organic sediment. The system has shown success in freshwater environments. He proposed a pilot program and responded to Committee questions regarding the pilot structure, potential placebo groups, environmental considerations, and costs.

Public Comment:

Marco Island resident Duane Thomas raised concerns about the condition of seawalls and their potential impact on water quality. He also expressed concerns related to zoning regulations and estate lot development. Director Martin clarified that setbacks and the distance from a property corner to the start of a boat dock fall under the Planning Board's purview, while issues related to dredging and panel depth are governed by the Building Code.

Marco Island resident David Crain suggested exploring alternative methods, such as drilling at the end of dead-end canals. He also shared a photo of a dredge boat.

Marco Island resident and Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee member John Quinlan proposed a pilot program at Mackle Park to evaluate the effectiveness of the bio-health pod system. He also introduced the concept of an oyster pod system as a potential natural filtration method to improve water quality.

Member Rohena presented encapsulation and backfilling as potential strategies for sediment management, highlighting benefits such as enhanced seagrass growth and improved sediment stability. Director Martin noted that dredging was the primary recommendation in the Harper Report, explaining that transportation costs make up the majority of expenses. He added that backfilling would also involve

significant costs, with transportation remaining the largest factor. He emphasized the need to consider navigational depths in any proposed solution.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Marco Island City Councilor Stephen Gray raised concerns regarding illegal discharges into the canals.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

See items 6 and 7.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE - 11/20/25 @ 8:30 A.M.

November 20, 2025 at 8:30 A.M. was agreed to be the next Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting.

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Committee identified the following potential Agenda items for its November 20th meeting:

- 1. Florida Friendly Landscaping and Fertilizer (Chair Mascoop)*
- 2. Whiteboard Topics and Strategic Planning*
- 3. Big Marco Pass & Inlet Management Plan White Paper (Vice-Chair High)*

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Member Woodworth shared details of a dredging process he observed during a Magistrate's hearing. He described a method in which a company uses a vacuum pump to extract silt from beneath boat docks.

Vice-Chair High expressed his appreciation for the cards and cupcakes, and encouraged the community to become more actively involved with the City.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

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

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