

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, April 17, 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, Chair Mascoop, Member Rohena, Member Snider, Member Winter and Member Woodworth

Also Present

*Citizens and Visitors
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
Zurima Luff, MS, PMP
Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator
Martin Luna, Visual/Broadcast Technician
Robert D'Ornellas, IT Support Technician*

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Mascoop.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was discussed briefly, with Member Winter expressing concern about the agenda's length and the time available for discussion.

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

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

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 25-4382](#) Approval of the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2025

MOTION by Member Snider, seconded by Member Woodworth, that the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2025 be Approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

(6) OLD BUSINESS

6A [ID 25-4383](#) Amended Summary of Proposed WAC Discussions Items and Recommendations (Member Woodworth)

The Waterways Advisory Committee examined and discussed Member Woodworth's white papers. The first white paper explored Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) for Marco Island, analyzing its cost-effectiveness and potential impact on water quality. The Committee ensued conversation regarding estimated costs, effectiveness of upgrading the sewer treatment plant, and concerns about the project's overall value. After extensive debate, the Committee voted 5-2 against pursuing AWT proposals, opting instead to prioritize more immediate and cost-effective water quality solutions.

Public Comment: Marco Island resident Dave Crain shared his perspective on AWT, encouraging the Committee to review the Jacobs report from the City Council's May 2022 Workshop. He advocated for prioritizing water movement and interconnects as a more effective approach to improving water quality.

MOTION by member Woodworth, seconded by Member Rohena, to recommend that the City Council hire a consultant to assess the costs of Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) through either a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a list of pre-approved city vendors (RFQ). MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Yes: 2 - Member Rohena and Member Woodworth

No: 5 - Vice-Chair High, Member Lewandowski, Chair Mascoop, Member Snider and Member Winter

6A-2

The Waterways Advisory Committee discussed the second white paper. The second white paper emphasized fertilizer enforcement and education, highlighting the need for proactive measures on Marco Island. The Committee explored strategies such as random landscaper inspections, fertilizer testing, and canal patrols for violations. Key discussions included educating homeowners and landscapers on proper fertilizer use, grass cutting techniques, and environmental impacts, as well as broader concerns like grass clippings, weed killers, and native landscaping. After extensive debate, the committee passed a 4-3 motion to request funding for equipment and manpower to strengthen enforcement efforts, aiming to present a comprehensive proposal to the City Council during upcoming budget workshops.

Public Comment:

Nick Pearson, with a background in marine biology, emphasized the importance of relying on scientific data rather than anecdotal evidence.

Public Comment:

Dave Crain, Marco Island citizen, suggested reviewing the City Council May 2022 workshop. He also discussed fertilizer enforcement and stormwater management.

Agenda Items 6A3 and 6A4 are scheduled for discussion on May 22, 2025.

6A3 - White Paper on the Benefits of Implementing a Stormwater Utility District on Marco Island.

6A4 - White Paper on the Aeration in Canals: Evaluating the Efficiency of Air Bubblers in Tidal Saltwater Environments.

MOTION by Member Woodworth, seconded by Chair Mascoop to request that the City Manager or City Council direct Code Enforcement to develop a budget for equipment and manpower costs. This budget would be presented at the Council's budget workshops as part of a proposal to conduct random inspections of landscapers and test fertilizer samples for phosphorus and to ensure compliance with local regulations, and second, to patrol the 100 miles of Marco Island canals for violations of fertilizer and stormwater ordinances, including illegal dumping of debris in the canals. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

No: 3 - Vice-Chair High, Member Lewandowski and Member Winter

6B [ID 25-4388](#) America's Boating Club Aton Update (Vice-Chair High)

Vice-Chair High and Justin reviewed the America's Boating Club's annual survey, which highlighted deficiencies in navigational aids near Hideaway Beach and Sand Dollar Lagoon, as well as missing ATONs in intercoastal waterways. The Committee discussed jurisdictional challenges and, after deliberation, passed a motion urging the City Council to allocate funding for ATON repairs and replacements in Hideaway Beach and Collier Bay to support public safety and maritime navigation.

Note: Member Winter departed the meeting at 10:03 A.M.

**MOTION by Vice-Chair High, seconded by Member Snider, to recommend that City Council allocate funding in the fiscal year 2026 budget for the repair and/or replacement of approximately nine aids to navigation (ATONs) along Hideaway Beach and Collier Bay, which are either missing or in deteriorating condition.
MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Winter

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A [ID 25-4386](#) Wink News Hurricane Resiliency Forum Update (Chair Mascoop)

This agenda item is scheduled for discussion on May 22, 2025.

7B [ID 25-4387](#) City Council Meeting Update - April 7, 2025 (Chair Mascoop)

This agenda item is scheduled for discussion on May 22, 2025.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

None.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE - 5/22/25 @ 8:30 A.M.

May 22, 2025 at 8:30 A.M. was agreed to be the next Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting.

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

1. *White Paper on the Benefits of Implementing a Stormwater Utility District on Marco Island. (Member Woodworth)*
2. *White Paper on the Aeration in Canals: Evaluating the Efficiency of Air Bubblers in Tidal Saltwater (Member Woodworth)*
3. *Wink News Hurricane Resiliency Forum Update (Chair Mascoop)*
4. *City Council Meeting Update - April 7, 2025 (Chair Mascoop)*
5. *Phosphorus Discussion (Vice-Chair High)*
6. *Fertilizer Discussion (Vice-Chair High)*

Pending Future Agenda Items:

Once Approved by City Council- Dredging and C-HAWQ (Member Rohena)

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

None.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 A.M.

*Tara Kosieracki
Administrative/Project Coordinator
Public Works Department*

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