

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, February 19, 2026

8:30 AM

Community Meeting Room

Waterways Advisory Committee

Chair: Chris Lewandowski

Vice-Chair: Martin Winter

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

City Staff: Justin Martin, Crysten Casey

(1) CALL TO ORDER

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

(2) ROLL CALL

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

Also Present:

City Council: Councilor Bonita Schwan; Councilor Steven Gray; Councilor Tamara Goehler; Councilor Deb Henry.

City Staff: Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works; Tara Kosieracki, Project Manager; Crysten Casey, Administrative Project Coordinator; Martin Luna, Audio Visual Technician. Sergeant Montgomery, Mario Island Police.

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge led by Chair Macoop

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Mascoop requested the approval of agenda; additional topics were suggested. After receiving guidance from Public Works Director Justin Martin, the Committee agreed to discuss these topics under Agenda Item 14 (Other Committee Communications).

MOTION by Member Snider that the Agenda be Approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

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

(5) ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

[ID 26-5157](#) Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

Chair Mascoop called for nominations to the position of Chair of the Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee.

Motion by Member High nominating Member Lewandowski for Chair of The Waterways Advisory Committee.

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

Motion by Member Lewandowski nominating Vice-Chair High for Chair of The Waterways Advisory Committee. Vice-Chair High Declined Nomination.

Motion by Member Lewandowski nominating Member Winter for Chair of The Waterways Advisory Committee. No Vote taken given the unanimous vote on the first round in favor of Member Lewandowski.

Newly-elected Chair Chris Lewandowski called for nominations to the position of Vice-Chair of the Waterways Advisory Committee.

Motion by Member High nominating Member Winter for Vice Chair of the

Waterways Advisory Committee.

- Yes:** 5 - Member High, Member Mascoop, Member Snider, Member Winter and Member Lewandowski
- No:** 2 - Member Rohena and Member Woodworth

(6) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 26-5197](#) Approval of the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026

MOTION by Member High, seconded by Vice-Chair Winter that the Waterways Advisory Committee of January 15, 2025 be Approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

(7) OLD BUSINESS**A. [ID 26-5158](#) Marco Island Police Department Marine Unit**

Sgt. McGomery reported that overall waterway conditions are ideal. A buoy was lost in Capri Pass earlier this month; the Coast Guard was notified, and it was later located downriver.

He also noted that on the morning of February 19, 2028, the Police Department responded to a crane that had fallen into Collier Creek near Hyson Court. The obstruction blocked most of the waterway and made navigation difficult. The Coast Guard will be issuing a notice to mariners for this area. Additionally, an obstruction was identified near the ABC Islands. Public Works has removed approximately half of it, and further cleanup is ongoing.

The SeaKeeper Project continues to move forward, with IT finalizing the remaining components. Twenty additional citizens have volunteered to participate. Sergeant. McGomery encouraged more community involvement, emphasizing that increased data collection will result in more detailed mapping.

Committee requested an update and a timeline for the next steps to be provided in the March meeting.

B. [ID 26-5159](#) Black & Veatch Report

Justin Martin provided the Committee with an updated report from Black & Veatch. He noted that multiple attempts have been made to contact the NuQuatic lab, but there has been no response. The final report is still expected by the end of March, and those findings will be presented at the April 13 City Council workshop.

The Committee requested that an update be sent to all WAC members prior to the scheduled City Council meeting. Public Works Director Justin Martin also recommended that Council select a representative to reach out to the Water/Sewer Director as they are the ones who receive this report first. Chair Lewandowski volunteered to take on this role.

C. [ID 26-5193](#) Dredging Alternatives (Member Rohena)

Member Rohena provided the Committee with a brief review of his previous presentation on this topic. He highlighted the benefits of surgical dredging and outlined several options for pollution disposal. The Committee then engaged in an in-depth discussion of the available disposal methods, including their cost-effectiveness and environmental impact.

They also addressed the current condition of the canals and the overall need for dredging and pollution control. Several members recommended conducting a survey of the channels to support future decision-making. Member Rohena will look further into this recommendation.

(8) NEW BUSINESS

[ID 26-5198](#) Canal Access Points (Member Winter)

Vice Chair Winter presented three potential access points for small non-motorized vessels, such as kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes. The proposed locations included Veterans Park, Assisted Living Park, and Old Marco Park, noting that the latter is very small with limited parking.

He explained that updated cost estimates will be needed, as the current data on file is outdated.

The Committee held a brief discussion about local kayaking areas and the overall feasibility of the idea.

Vice Chair Winter will continue researching permit requirements and potential project costs.

(9) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

During the discussion, Justin Martin updated the Committee on the current vacancy in the Stormwater Engineer position, noting that the City would be posting the job opening later that day.

Committee members requested clarification regarding the measurements used in recent surveys, and Martin provided further insight on the methodology. The Committee also briefly discussed the laboratory's testing procedures.

(10) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- Councilor Deb Henry discussed improving kayak access and shared several pricing and design options.
- Councilor Bonita Schwan provided an update on canal access, noting that the Florida EPA Greenways and Trails Council designated Marco Island as a Florida Trail Town last October—one of only 22 out of more than 400 cities considered. She emphasized the positive impact continued commitment to this designation has on both Marco's residents and visitors.
- Councilor Steven Gray addressed the AWT topic, noting that the City Council voted down the resolution that had been presented. He also discussed canal conditions and recommended surveying targeted canals to better inform dredging decisions.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

Dwane Thomas addressed the Committee regarding the City's new enforcement of seawall elevation requirements for contractors and how these standards conflict with Collier County regulations. He also offered insight into preventative maintenance practices that contractors could implement to help reduce pollution in the canals and discussed potential regulations the City may enforce to protect its waterways.

The Committee then discussed his concerns and sought clarification from Justin Martin, who referred the

questions to the Building and Services Department under Growth Management and the Planning Board. Vice Chair Winter volunteered to follow up with the appropriate departments.

Nick Pearson then recommended that the Committee obtain a formal survey, noting that the volume of material present will determine which dredging methods are feasible. He added that having this data will also support the permitting process.

(12) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE-3/19/26 @ 8:30AM

[ID 26-5199](#) Next Meeting: Confirmation & Attendance

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026, at 8:30 AM. Chair Lewandowski asked members whether anyone would be unable to attend in person. Member Snider confirmed he will be unavailable

Quorum for the next Committee meeting date was confirmed.

(13) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Under Proposed Agenda Topics for the Next Meeting, the Chair requested that the following items be added to the March agenda and asked the respective Committee members to prepare updates:

The Chair requested that Member High present the white paper regarding management strategies for Big Marco Pass and Capri Pass, emphasizing its importance for future navigation planning and safety.

The Chair asked Member Rohena to provide a follow up discussion on dredging alternatives, continuing the Committee's exploration of viable and environmentally responsible options.

The Chair requested that Vice Chair Winter bring forward an update on potential canal access points for non-motorized watercraft to support ongoing discussions about public access and waterway safety.

In addition- Vice Chair Winter to report on seawall related matters, given the current regulatory concerns and community interest in shoreline protection.

(14) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Committee discussed the rushed nature of the white paper and emphasized the urgent need to address dredging issues around the island. Members also raised concerns about the safety risks the current water conditions pose to boaters.

Member Mascoop presented a letter of support for the Beach and Coastal Advisory Committee, which had been drafted at the Committee's request.

Member Woodworth addressed his reinstatement to the Committee, providing clarification for the public record.

Justin Martin then commented on potential permit changes that may be forthcoming, noting that these updates relate to points raised during Member Woodworth's explanation.

(15) ADJOURNMENT

Crysten Casey, Administrative Project Coordinator.

Discussion: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26AM.