

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, September 18, 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 (arrived at 8:42 A.M.)
Zurima Luff, MS, PMP (left at 8:45 A.M.)
Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator
Martin Luna, Visual/Broadcast Technician*

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Mascoop.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved following brief discussion. Member Rohena and Member Winter emphasized the importance of strategic planning, with Member Winter also raising concerns about removed items. Chair Mascoop noted time constraints due to the agenda's length.

MOTION by Member Snider, seconded by Vice-Chair High, that the Agenda 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

October Agenda Item Suggestion

The Committee deliberated and approved the inclusion of Member Rohena's proposed presentation on muck-eating bacteria in the October meeting agenda.

Yes: 5 - Vice-Chair High, Member Lewandowski, Member Rohena, Member Snider and Member Woodworth

No: 2 - Member Winter and Chair Mascoop

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 25-4689](#) Approval of the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2025

Member Rohena highlighted the educational significance of the muck-eating bacteria presentation, which prompted further discussion among the Committee.

MOTION by Vice-Chair High, seconded by Member Snider, that the Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of August 21, 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

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A [ID 25-4694](#) Discussion on Potential Alternatives to the Lawn Code Mandate (Chair Mascoop)

Chair Mascoop opened discussion on alternative lawn codes aimed at improving water quality and reducing runoff. The Committee explored sustainable options for Marco Island, with Member Rohena promoting xeriscaping, drip irrigation, and native landscaping. Member Winter noted the importance of identifying practical solutions for residents and considering broader planning strategies.

Public Comment:

Marco Island resident David Crain noted that current municipal codes permit various landscaping alternatives and recommended reviewing existing regulations before suggesting changes.

Member Woodworth shared remarks on the use of rockscaping across island properties. After discussion, the Committee voted to have the Chair present a recommendation to the Planning Board endorsing sustainable landscaping practices that conserve water, reduce runoff, and maintain aesthetic appeal.

MOTION by Vice-Chair High, seconded by Member Lewandowski, to support Chair Mascoop in presenting a recommendation to the Planning Board for alternative landscaping options that require less irrigation and limit vegetation in unsuitable areas. 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

7B [ID 25-4695](#) Waterways Adjacent in the Vicinity of Marco Island (Chair Mascoop)

Chair Mascoop voiced concerns about boating safety in multi-jurisdictional waters near Marco Island. Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works clarified agency boundaries, while Sergeant Montgomery highlighted the navigational challenges of the 10,000 Islands' shifting terrain and shallow waters. The Committee stressed the need for stronger interagency coordination and better resources for unfamiliar boaters, including a discussion on Caxambas Pass.

Public Comment:

Marco Island resident Mike Josephs recommended promoting the Coast Guard's local boating course and urged rental businesses to offer educational resources for boaters unfamiliar with the area.

Vice-Chair High shared that Member Lewandowski is preparing a navigation safety presentation and noted that markers south of Naples are overseen by the Coast Guard's Fort Lauderdale office. To report issues with markers, individuals can call or text 954-350-1389. He also mentioned a Power Squadron spreadsheet tracking marker locations and jurisdictions.

7C [ID 25-4691](#) White Paper - Derelict Vessels (Member Winter)

Member Winter delivered an educational overview on derelict vessels, outlining the legal criteria used to classify a boat as derelict under state regulations. To meet this designation, a vessel must fail in three critical areas: steering, propulsion, and hull integrity. Member Winter also addressed sanitation systems and best management practices. Sergeant Montgomery noted enforcement challenges and discussed noise meter use. The Committee learned that resolving cases can take up to 24 months and involves

multiple agencies. The discussion included the challenges of managing vessels in shared waterways, especially when owners are difficult to reach or the boats remain technically operational. Member Winter advised contacting Marco Island Police with concerns, and Chair Mascoop thanked him for the informative presentation.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works, requested that agenda item 8B be addressed before item 8A.

8B [ID 25-4693](#) Crowd Sourced Bathymetry of Canals (Marco Island Police Sergeant Ryan Montgomery)

Sergeant Montgomery introduced Rosie Moore from Sea Keepers. Rosie Moore presented the Seabed 2030 project, a United Nations initiative aiming to map 74 percent of the world's unmapped oceans by 2030. She described a device that can be installed on private boats to passively collect bathymetric data while navigating. The device connects to a boat's GPS and depth transducer, recording water depth and location. When boat owners periodically upload the data, Sea Keepers processes it and submits it to the international hydrographic community. For Marco Island, the Marine Unit plans to install the device on a police boat to map all canals within a week, potentially providing valuable and up-to-date information about the area's changing waterways at no cost to the city. Rosie Moore discussed the device's functionality and data analysis with the Committee. Member Winter recommended involving boating communities such as the Power Squadron to increase participation.

8A [ID 25-4692](#) RFP for Canal Water Quality Improvements (Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works)

Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works, presented a draft RFP seeking innovative approaches to enhance water quality in Marco Island, targeting solutions like muck-reducing bacteria and fertilizer alternatives. Unlike previous efforts such as the AWT project, this initiative aims to attract fresh ideas from vendors and researchers. After review, the Committee unanimously approved public advertisement of the RFP. Member Rohena suggested backfilling as a dredging alternative, while Member Winter noted past challenges with low response rates.

MOTION by Chair Mascoop, seconded by Member Rohena, that the Waterways Advisory Committee recommend that the RFP for Canal Water Quality Improvements 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

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Marco Island City Councilor Stephen Gray highlighted economic shifts as a driver for cost-effective innovation, citing canal bathymetry and the need for efficient, practical solutions.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

David Crain, Marco Island resident, asked for an update on the aeration project. Director Martin explained the delays due to equipment procurement and the plan to resume in May. Director Martin also confirmed that the compressors are below the threshold and will be enclosed and landscaped for noise reduction.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE - 10/16/25 @ 8:30 A.M.

October 16, 2025 at 8:30 A.M. was agreed to be the next Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting.

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

[ID 25-4700](#) Proposed Agenda Topic

The following topics were raised for the Meeting scheduled on October 16, 2025:

- 1. Inlet Management Plan White Paper (Vice-Chair High)*
- 2. Navigation Safety Presentation (Member Lewandowski)*
- 3. Whiteboard Topics and Strategic Planning*
- 4. Techniques and alternatives to muck sediment remediation (Member Rohena)*
- 5. Alternatives to turf grass (Member Rohena)*

Member Winter noted that an Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025.

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Member Woodworth reported six types of blue-green algae found in his canal from benthic mat testing. Director Martin suggested verifying the results with the contractor through sampling. Member Snider noted the urgency of testing while the mats are still afloat. Member Woodworth offered to collect more samples if needed, and Director Martin agreed to coordinate with the contractor.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Mascoop adjourned the meeting at 10:14 A.M.

Tara Kosieracki, Administrative/Project Coordinator

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