

# THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Meeting Summary

April 7, 2006

Tallahassee, Florida

Colonel Julie Jones called the meeting to order. Lt. Kent Harvey led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### *Members Present:*

Rebecca Bragg, Jennifer Castle Field, Robert Gill, William Griswold, Julie Jones, Richard Jones, Joseph Kennedy, Jessica Koelsch, Charles Listowski, Cindy Muir, Lisa Neal, Edward Seguna II

### *Public and Staff Present:*

Bonnie Basham, Jim Brown, Marlene Conaway, Willy Cutts, Roger Field, Bill Gossard, Bill Griswold, Shelly Gurr, David Harding, Patricia Harrell, Kitty Higgins, Venita Hilliard, Gay Kite, Jerrie Lindsey, Richard Moore, Sandy Morone, Brian Rehwinkel, Alan Richard, Bill Sargent, Tim Smith, Phil Walters, Pat Wells, Jack Wiggin, Bruce Wright

## ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

### Meeting Summary

The Council adopted the November 30, 2005 meeting summary.

### Legislative Process

Lt. Col. Jim Brown briefed the Council regarding the process for making legislative recommendations on issues that affect boating. There is a team within the agency that reviews legislative issues. Any recommendations from the Boating Advisory Council go before the Commission for approval before going forward.

The time frame is now to make recommendations for next year.

### Boating Advisory Council – Public Awareness

E. J. Seguna II discussed the issue of whether the public knows about the existence of the Boating Advisory Council (BAC). E.J. challenged the BAC to make the public more aware they have a voice. E.J. presented several suggestions such as Council members attending local meetings, displaying information at boating stores (ex. West Marine), holding workshops, getting on board with what Captain Moore does relating to boating safety, etc. Other suggestions from Council and staff included preparing press releases after BAC meetings, enhancing the BAC web site, using local newspapers, etc.

MOTION: Boating and Waterways staff to enhance the BAC web page and follow up BAC meetings with press releases. Motion by Robert Gill. Second by Charles Listowski.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Registration of Non-Powered Vessels

Lisa Neal, Chair of the Non-Motorized Vessels' Subcommittee, provided the Subcommittee summary from yesterday's meeting.

Ms. Neal reported that the Non-powered vessel subcommittee could not find consensus and that we need to determine needs and do that through workshops. A workshop will be held in St. Petersburg on September 15. Staff will schedule a facilitator.

## PRESENTATIONS

### NTSB – Saving Lives – Making Recreational Boating Safer

Captain Richard Moore introduced National Transportation Safety Board Kitty Higgins. Member Higgins was sworn in on the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on January 3, 2006. She has 36 of experience in the public and private sectors. Member Higgins stated that boating is the second largest cause of fatalities, and the NTSB recommends education for all boaters. The entire “Saving Lives – Making Recreational Boating Safer” presentation will be added to the BAC portion of the FWC web site.

MOTION: FWC staff to explore drafting legislation for next session or as an emergency measure before that for life jacket wear for under 13 years of age as described by the NTSB. Motion by Listowski. Second by Griswold. Opposed: (Neal). Approved.

MOTION: Explore state support for education for users 21 of age and over. Motion by Listowski. Second by Koelsch. Approved.

### Boating Access Facilities Inventory and Economic Study

Jack Wiggin and Michael Thomas presented information regarding the inventory being done by the University of Massachusetts Boston and Florida Atlantic University.

### Preservation of Recreational and Commercial Working Waterfronts

Marlene Conaway, Department of Community Affairs, presented information regarding working waterfronts. Ms. Conaway’s presentation will be available on the BAC portion of the FWC web site.

### Boat Access

Scott Woolam, Department of Environmental Protection, presented information regarding boat access.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 2005 Boating Accidents Statistics Report

Kent Harvey, FWC Boating and Waterways Section, presented the boating statistics for 2005. This presentation is available on the BAC portion of the FWC web site.

## Boating Accidents – Trends; Possible Solutions; Discussion

Richard Moore, FWC Boating and Waterways Section, presented information regarding boating accident fatalities. He also introduced Gay Kite and Sandy Morone. Both ladies are mothers whose sons died in boating accidents and discussed their thoughts and feelings as a result of those accidents. The BAC members and all present thanked Ms. Kite and Ms. Morone for sharing such personal experiences with the group.

MOTION: Allow \$25,000 for signage on lakes and rivers regarding life jacket wear. Motion by Listowski. Second by Seguna. Approved.

## Legislative Issues

Lt. Col. Jim Brown presented information and provided summaries of legislation that passed during the 2006 Legislative Session.

### Commissioner Brian Yablonski

Commissioner Yablonski thanked the Boating Advisory Council members for their service.

## 2007 PROPOSED LEGISLATION

### Personal Flotation Devices

There was discussion whether to keep the current age or increase the age to require children to wear personal flotation devices.

MOTION: On the issue of personal flotation devices, Lisa Neal wants to go back to Standing Watch for feedback. Motion by Neal. No second. Postpone this issue until next year.

MOTION: FWC to move forward in 2007 to recommend the Commission support legislation for mandatory wear under 13 years of age while underway. Motion by Koelsch. Second by Griswold. Opposed: (Kennedy, Neal, Seguna). Approved.

### Mandatory Boater Education

The second part of this issue is mandatory boater education. There was discussion regarding the options for age groups, time period, etc. for education.

MOTION: The FWC 2007 legislation for mandatory boater education to be phased in a 3 to 5 year window by starting at 50 years old and older and moving in reverse order. Motion by Koelsch. Second by Neal. Opposed: (Seguna, Field, Gill, Listowski). Approved.

### Engine Cut-off

There was discussion regarding moving forward with the engine cut-off issue or waiting for federal legislation.

MOTION: Table the engine cut-off issue. Motion by Griswold. Second by Field. Approved.

## TODAY'S PRESENTATIONS

All of today's presentations will be added to the BAC portion of the FWC web site. In addition, presentations will also be made available on CD, if requested.

Adjourned.

*Note: This meeting's recording was not audible, so the more detailed summary as usually provided was not possible.*