

THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Summary  
December 5, 2006

Members Present:

Ron Baker, Rebecca Bragg, Jennifer Castle Field, Frank Gernert, Robert Gill, William Griswold, George Jones (for Cindy Muir), Julie Jones, Richard Jones, Joseph Kennedy, Jessica Koelsch, Mark Leslie, Charles Listowski, Peggy Mathews, Cindy Muir, Virginia Queen, Edward Seguna II

FWC Personnel and Public Present:

Brack Barker, Bonnie Basham, Jason Bennis, Paul Barry, Jim Brown, Antolin Carbonell, Jennifer Carver, Lee Chamberlain, Rob Clift, Roger Field, George Garrett, Bill Gossard, Dewey Jackson, Lisa Neal, Steve Olive, Liz Sparks, John Sprague, Frank Woll, Monica Woll, Bruce Wright

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

New Members

Paul Ouellette introduced the two new BAC members – Frank Gernert (Scuba Diving Industry) and Mark Leslie (Boating Public).

Meeting Summary

The Council adopted the April 7, 2006 meeting summary.

2007 Meeting Schedule

Council members approved April 13 in Tallahassee and November 6 in Orlando for the 2007 meetings.

Boating Improvement Grant Award Results

Peggy Mathews provided information for the grant requests received and awarded.

Non-Motorized Vessels' Subcommittee Report

Lisa Neal provided the Non-Motorized Vessels' Subcommittee report to the group. The subcommittee met several times to look at the issue of registering non-motorized vessels.

Most discussion related to registration of non-motorized –

WHY REGISTER?

Increased funding

Identify the community of users

Statistics

Tracking stolen vessels  
Law enforcement rescue

#### WHY NOT REGISTER?

Cost of collection  
Not in support  
Burden on owners  
Added cost to liveries  
Little environmental impact

The September 2006 meeting summary is available at  
<http://myfwc.com/law/council/Docs/091406subcommitteesummary.pdf>.

MOTION: If the BAC considers a registration fee, it is recommended that it be a three year fee (provided time period does not affect Wallop Breaux funding) and that revenues be broken into specific categories including FWC and non-motorized vessel infrastructure uses. Motion by Ray. Second by Griswold.

*Amendment to add livery break (multi-user discount) Motion by Griswold. Second by Mathews. Vote on amendment. Motion voted down.*

MOTION: Amend previous motion approved by the BAC to include appropriate boater education for non-motorized vessels. Motion by Listowski. Second by Griswold.

Request staff to come to next meeting with a suggested amendments (bullets) to previously approved boating education initiative for non-motorized vessels proposal of what staff believes would be appropriate.

MOTION: The BAC recommends no registration of non-motorized vessels. (9 for, 5 opposed) Motion by Koelsch. Second by Bragg. Motion passed in opposition.

#### Update on Law Enforcement Pay

Jim Brown presented information regarding the law enforcement pay equity proposal. A handout is available explaining law enforcement officer retention, law enforcement pay parity, and special teams pay.

MOTION: Support pay equity proposal. Motion by Listowski. All approved.

#### Passenger Vessel Safety on Sole State Waters

Richard Moore, FWC Boating and Waterways, and Bill Gossard, NTSB, covered information regarding safety issues for vessels that carry passengers.

## 2006 Florida Recreational Boating Survey

Brian Rehwinkel presented information regarding the survey that was conducted to receive feedback from registered recreational boat owners. The results will be posted on the FWC web site.

## Seagrass Legislation

Kent Smith, FWC Habitat Species Conservation, presented information regarding seagrass legislation. Mr. Smith covered items such as the amount of seagrass area, propeller scarring, etc. He also showed pictures of damage to seagrass areas.

MOTION: Support the ongoing research initiative underway to protect seagrass from prop scarring with the addition of Lee County for any pilot program. Motion by Listowski. Second by Griswold.

Rich Jones requested an amendment to remove Lee County – Listowski and Griswold approved the amendment. All approved.

## Members' Areas of Emphasis

Colonel Jones gave the BAC members an opportunity to suggest topics to be addressed in 2007.

Frank Gernert – Education, licensure, or certification; no issue(s) relating to scuba diving.

Bob Gill – Waterfront access

Chuck Listowski – Vessels visiting Florida

Bill Griswold – Boater education; life jacket wear

Rich Jones – Derelict vessel removal funds; public access

Mark Leslie – Brevard County derelict vessel funds; live-aboards

Becky Bragg – Boater education in relation to tourism; may need to bring in Visit Florida; how outfitters are different from those that own just a few boats; confusion regarding the livery law

Joe Kennedy – Boater education

E.J. Seguna – Increase public awareness of our BAC (discussed at a previous meeting)

Peggy Mathews – Hurricane tax exemption needs to include boat supplies; access

Jennifer Castle Field – PFD requirements; boat yards and marinas dwindling; user fee for non-motorized vessels

Virginia Queen – Licensing, with exemptions; working waterfronts (there are very few commercial docks)

Ron Baker – 327.48 Coast Guard permit for races, marine parades, and regattas (the issue relates to manatee observers)

Emerging issues can be added as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.