



# Non-Motorized Boats Working Group

## MEETING MINUTES

DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld  
10100 International Drive, Orlando, 32821

February 1 and 2, 2017, 8 am

### **FEBRUARY 1**

#### **Present:**

*Non-Motorized Boats Working Group Members (NMBWG):* Richard Allsopp, James Barker, Gwen Beatty, Rebecca Bragg, Brice Crossley, Mike Getchell, William Griswold, James Hill, Wilbur Hugli, Peggy Phillips, Jorge Salas, Tommy Thompson, and Mark Wilson

*FWC Staff:* Major Richard Moore, Major Rob Rowe, Captain Gary Klein, Captain Thomas Shipp, Lieutenant Seth Wagner, David Arnold, Precious Boatwright, Brandy Elliot, Phil Horning, Jerrie Lindsey, Brian Rehwinkel, and Bill Sargent

*Presenters:* Michael Miller and Mary Jo Monte-Kaser

*Public:* Sarahbeth Ackerman, Trent Anthony, Al Belmens, Mark Bullington, Robert Buzaki, Mike Conneen, Phil Galloway, Erica Johnson, Bill Kowalik, John Lorenz, Whitey Markle, Bill Peters, Adam Pollock, Donna Rumney, Gary Sisco, Kevin Spear, Cori Welbes, and Bruce Wright

#### **Absent:**

*NMBWG:* Daniel Clark and Phillis Rosetti-Mercer

### **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW**

Major Rowe welcomed everyone. Informed those in attendance this was the second to last meeting and not open to public comment as it is a meeting of the working group. He introduced staff present and turned it over to David Arnold. Mr. Arnold reviewed the agenda and meeting rules.

### **APPROACHES TO WORKING WITH NMBs – OHIO MODEL**

Michael Miller, Boating Law Administrator for Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft, provided an overview of their non-motorized program.

#### Key highlights:

- Two options for registering non-motorized boats for recreational purposes
  - Traditional – displaying registration numbers
  - Alternative – no displaying registration numbers
- 58% of the expended revenue goes toward operation cost and 48% is returned to boaters
- Canoe/kayak registrations equal about 28% of all registered boats
- Boaters enjoy free parking and boat launches

- Water Trails Program: Partners with local sponsors to establish a network of waterway trails to improve access as well as increase safety, awareness, and participation in paddlesports
- Scenic Rivers Program:
  - Facilitates the protection of 14 designated wild, scenic, and recreational river systems across the state
  - Includes 24 different stream segments totaling 800 river miles
  - The most recent river system designated was the Ashtabula River in October 2008
  - Responsible for the management of 2,314 acres of ODNR owned and protected “Scenic River Lands”
  - Responsible for 3,650 acres of private land protected under conservation easements
- There are 137 contractual statewide volunteers with ODNR Division of Watercraft who teach a variety of courses including sailing, canoeing, perform Stream Quality Monitoring, and assist with various fairs and festivals including boat shows and the division’s Natural Resources Park kayak pond at the state fair
- Canoe and kayak registrations have steadily increased for the last 15 years (doubling in the last eight); they account for one-third of all registered boats in the state

## **USER PERSPECTIVE – OHIO MODEL**

Ms. Mary Jo Monte-Kaser, President of the Ohio division of the US Canoe Association, spoke to the Working Group from the viewpoint of a non-motorized boater experiencing a user-pay/use-benefit program. Her organization partnered with a municipality and the state to build a boat ramp, parking area, and a riverfront park. They also cooperate with the state to attract citizens and visitors alike to the water to enjoy races, waterway trails, and nature tourism. Funds from the Parks and Watercraft Division also provide dedicated staff and help address water quality protection (through provision of pump outs).

## **OTHER STATE PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Captain Tom Shipp presented information on what the other states are doing.

Key highlights of states with current NMB Registration or Permit Systems and states considering User-Pay/User-Benefit Systems:

- 15 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands presently include NMBs in their recreational boating titling, registration, or permit systems
- 19 states are considering a registration or permit system
- Oregon and Washington have pending legislation to introduce a registration or permit system
- 14 states including Florida are not currently pursuing some form of fee

## **DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

Members discussed some of the pros and cons of a registration approach in Florida, and contrasted Florida’s history of promoting access to the water without registering all boats to the approaches being taken in other states. The Working Group evaluated whether or not all non-motorized boats should be registered in Florida and was not able to come to a consensus at this time.

User-Pay/User-Benefit (Smiles indict group agreement)

- Identify what users need or want in benefits ☺
- Pros and cons ☺
- Discuss public input ☺

- How to pay for infrastructure
- Identify vessels-safety and number out there ☺☺
- Who pays for trails, signs?
- Who pays for non-motorized search & rescue (SARs)?
  - Safety and education items to deal with SARs can be done with no money
  - Want firm numbers on non-motorized SARs
- Is SAR an issue?
- Identify where NMBs are already paying ☺
- Identify ways to provide benefits
- Address education ☺
- Clarify how education provided
- Mandate mandatory education
- Role of state, county, city in access
- Evaluate regulations as solutions
- Excise tax fee, etc.; ways to gather funds that's more acceptable than registration
- Clarify what payers get ☺
- Paddling community needs to be involved
- Continue to enhance public involvement; lack of input from the public is a problem
- There is a disconnect with user needs and how they are addressed; identify needs & make recommendations
- Be aware of trust issues (transparency)
- Possible funding sources
  - Vanity license plate for cars
  - Additional grants from the Inland Navigation Districts (both coasts); Water Management Districts, and the Department of Environmental Protection

#### How do NMBs currently pay?

- Taxes = benefits for FL
  - Sales
  - Property
  - Income
  - Fuel – car, motorboat (if you have one)
  - Bed
- Fees
  - Park entrance
  - Launch
- Fishing license

#### What regulatory solutions should be evaluated?

- Mandatory tethering – SUP
  - Determine life preservation benefit, exceptions
- ID vessel to owner
- Vendor registration/sales tax for NMB standards
- Livery laws need attention (get Becky's suggestion from recording)
  - Safety – education
- Positive floatation on vessels

#### What do NMBs get?

- Access
- Infrastructure

- Water signage
- Some education materials
- Law enforcement on the water
- Search and rescue

## **REVIEW OF ACCESS DRAFT**

The Working Group worked through previously stated issues of access significantly decreasing the previous list of issues and came to a consensus on what should be included in the draft to the Boating Advisory Council.

## **WRAP UP AND PLAN FOR THE NEXT DAY**

The agenda was reviewed for the following day. The drafts for education and safety will be discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

## **FEBRUARY 2**

### **Present:**

*Non-Motorized Boats Working Group Members (NMBWG):* Richard Allsopp, James Barker, Gwen Beatty, Rebecca Bragg, Brice Crossley, Mike Getchell, William Griswold, James Hill, Wilbur Hugli, Peggy Phillips, Jorge Salas, Tommy Thompson, and Mark Wilson

*FWC Staff:* Major Richard Moore, Major Rob Rowe, Captain Gary Klein, Captain Thomas Shipp, Lieutenant Seth Wagner, David Arnold, Precious Boatwright, Brandy Elliot, Phil Horning, Jerrie Lindsey, Brian Rehwinkel, and Bill Sargent

*Public:* Trent Anthony, John Lorenz, Gary Sisco, and Bruce Wright

### **Absent:**

*NMBWG:* Daniel Clark and Phillis Rosetti-Mercer

## **REVIEW OF SAFETY DRAFT AND EDUCATION DRAFT**

The Working Group worked through previously stated issues of safety and education. They sought to clarify and define the issues. They came to a consensus on what should be included in the draft to the Boating Advisory Council.

## **WRAP UP AND DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES, FUTURE WORK AND MEETING**

Staff will combine the information discussed on the four issues assigned by the Boating Advisory Council into draft form. The draft will be reviewed at the next meeting. The next NMBWG meeting will be held in Tallahassee on May 17, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 12 pm.