



Non-Motorized Boats Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

Embassy Suites
4350 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, 33410

October 26, 2016, 8 am

Present:

Non-Motorized Boats Working Group Members (NMBWG): Richard Allsopp, James Barker, Gwen Beatty, Rebecca Bragg, Daniel Clark, Brice Crossley, James Hill, Peggy Phillips, Jorge Salas, Tommy Thompson, and Mark Wilson

FWC Staff: Major Richard Moore, Major Rob Rowe, Captain Thomas Shipp, Lieutenant Mike Haney, Lieutenant Seth Wagner, David Arnold, Precious Boatwright, Brandy Elliot, Lee Grove, Phil Horning, Brian Rehwinkel, and Bill Sargent

Public: Trent Anthony, Charlotte Hand, John Lorenz, Peggy Mathews, Gary Sisco, and Bruce Wright

Absent:

NMBWG: Mike Getchell, William Griswold, Wilbur Hugli, and Phillis Rosetti-Mercer

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW

Major Moore opened the meeting congratulating the group on the inroads they have made thus far and discussing next steps. NMBWG members agreed that FWC staff would compile the draft recommendations put forth by the group for consensus before it is presented to the Boating Advisory Council (BAC). Major Moore also informed those in attendance he would be retiring March 2, 2017. He introduced his successor Major Rob Rowe. Major Rowe gave a brief history of his time at FWC. Mr. Arnold reviewed the agenda and the NMBWG introduced themselves.

REPORT ON ACCESS AND SAFETY SURVEY

Bill Sargent reviewed the survey results from the Access/Safety survey. He provided an overview of the NMBWG's "Strongly Advocate, In the Middle, and Strongly Oppose" responses to the 78 issues resulting from previous group discussions on Access and Safety. A handout ranking the responses was provided to the working group.

CONFIRMATION OF MAJOR ACCESS AND SAFETY-RELATED ISSUES

David Arnold reviewed and confirmed the responses provided by the NMBWG. The group agreed Access Items 1–14 were priorities. It was agreed that issues 1.2 (Department of Transportation concerns and designs) and 2.1 (DOT has redesigned bridges, placed restrictions, because of homeland security or a lack of awareness) would be combined.

Military users can go off base was added to 1.3 (military concerns). The group felt it was important to differentiate between liveries and concessionaires in Issue 3.5 and their impact on each other. The group felt Items 16 (3.4 Lack of consistency) and 22 (8.4 Sharing motorized boat facilities) was moved up as priority Access issues. A suggested solution for Access issues, generated after much discussion, was to create NMB councils to assist in rule making at regional levels.

The Safety rankings of Items 1–12 were accepted as priorities. Items 14 (1.5 Lack knowledge of rules of road), 24 (9 Correct display of regulation signs at access areas), and 27 (18 Lack knowledge about location) were discussed as going hand-in-hand and needing to move up on the priority ranking of Safety issues.

Possible approaches to safety issues that were identified by the working group included:

- Campaign approach
- In the Wilderness
- NMB educational materials
- Life jackets
- Be seen
- Get more knowledge
- Checklist for NMB
- Tethers for paddleboards

DEVELOPING TEAM THOUGHTS ABOUT EDUCATION

Discussion points:

- Boat Smart book
 - Useful tool
 - Needs enhancement to non-motorized information
- Education should point out rules
- Education from a marketing approach
- Education and training are two different things
- Promote safe practices

Education recommendations:

- Enhance Boat Smart book by adding additional non-motorized boating information
- Add new kiosk and supplement existing ones
- Coordination of existing tools
- Create central information location
- Need for information funnel
- Promote education through public awareness/direct campaign
- Consistent message from all state entities
- Offer a safety class completion decal
- Increase education at point of sale
- Industry needs to step-up and spread the word
- Consider on water safety training/courses
- Modify existing grants to include education signage
- Add safety information to Blue Way web sites

Other issues not pertaining directly to Access, Education or Safety

- How to get NMB interests considered by government
- To BAC – help get representation
- FWC does not have dedicated staff

WRAP UP AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A draft of Access recommendations to the BAC will be provided to the working group for review before the next meeting. The next NMBWG meeting will be held February 1 and 2, 2017. It will be located in Orlando, Florida. User pay/user benefit will be discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

DRAFT