

**BURNT STORE ISLES  
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Brewster, Chairman  
Norman Ashworth, Joseph Gil, Leslie Totten  
Frank Wiechec

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor  
Rick Keeney, Public Works Director  
Tracy Quintana, Administrative Assistance

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, September 14, 2010 - 1:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Regular Meeting - June 8, 2010
  - Mr. Wiechec MOVED, Mr. Ashworth SECONDED, approval of the June 8, 2010 minutes.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CANAL MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORTS**

- A. Permits Authorized by City Staff - Installation of Docks, Lifts, Outpilings, etc.
  - Mr. Randy Brodersen, reported two permits had been issued in June 2010 and one permit had been issued in July 2010.
- B. Budget Utilization Report
  - Mr. Brodersen reviewed the Budget Utilization Reports (BUR's) for the months of June 2010 and July 2010, as delineated within the agenda material, offering to answer questions.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

- A. GIS Seawall Survey Update
  - Mr. Brodersen advised the field work for the Geographical Information System (GIS) seawall evaluation assessment in Burnt Store Isles (BSI) was complete awaiting inspection.
  - Mr. Brewster questioned if more seawall replacements were to be done this fiscal year.
  - Mr. Brodersen replied affirmatively. He then stated some of the equipment to be used in the GIS identifying process had been delivered with the remaining equipment expected within the next few weeks.
  - Mr. Brewster questioned the accessibility of the GIS to the committee.
  - Mr. Brodersen stated accessibility had not yet been determined.
  - Mr. Totten opined the color overlays on the GIS map from 2007 were helpful.

- Mr. Brodersen stated the new maps would also have overlays, allowing comparisons between the 2007 maps and the 2010 maps to better identify progress and new deterioration.
- Mr. Gil confirmed inspections of all BSI seawalls had been completed.
- Mr. Brodersen handed out and displayed a map, as delineated within the agenda material, depicting the BSI Canal System. He pointed out the box at the bottom of the page outlining the BSI seawall assessment status as of July 16, 2010, explaining same.
- Mr. Gil questioned how often the GIS inspections would take place.
- Mr. Brodersen opined annually would be a good recommendation.
- Mr. Brewster suggested the inspections be done closer to winter when the tides were more consistent.
- Mr. Brodersen agreed.
- Mr. Totten asked if problems identified in the 2007 GIS mapping would be included in the 2010 GIS maps.
- Mr. Brodersen replied he would not be able to do a comparison until the new maps were completed and color coded on the computer. He went on to say during the current surveying, interesting observations were being made pertaining to the possible effects of the weather i.e., sun or heat on seawalls and the growth of barnacles with different exposures.

**B. Waterfront Property Owner's Manual**

- Mr. Brodersen introduced Ms. Tracy Quintana, offering to answer questions regarding the Waterfront Property Owner's Manual, as delineated within the agenda material.
- Mr. Wiechec asked what the linear spacing was between deadmen.
- Mr. Brodersen replied approximately eighteen feet.
- Mr. Brewster suggested changing the verbiage in the manual regarding the requirement to have 6' of clear ground behind the seawalls to match the Code of Ordinances.
- Mr. Wiechec confirmed the Code Compliance Division was responsible for enforcement of ordinances pertaining to canal issues.
- Mr. Totten voiced concern with grass being dropped into the canals during lawn maintenance, asking if the manual could advise homeowners to address the issue with their lawn maintenance provider.
- Ms. Quintana responded staff would review and possibly add verbiage reflecting the above suggestions.
- Mr. Gil confirmed compliance was ultimately the property owner's responsibility.
- Mr. Gil stated he wrote an article for the BSI Homeowners Association Newsletter

regarding work being done on seawalls and seawall caps and the prospective responsibilities between the contractor and homeowner regarding same. He offered to forward the article to staff.

- Ms. Quintana stated a new pamphlet was being created regarding the waterways in Punta Gorda which would be added to the City's website, distributed to various associations, boat clubs, City Offices and included in the City's new homeowners information packets. She requested the Committee review the proposed Strategic Plan and forward any comments or suggestions to staff or the City Manager's office.

#### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Mr. Brewster displayed an overhead of a bathometric survey previously done, as delineated within the agenda material. He pointed out the navigable channel was not necessarily in the center of the canal and opined many boaters assumed the channel to be in the center, creating a possible navigational hazard. He questioned if the dredging contractor determined where the actual channel was located and the process regarding same.
- Mr. Brodersen replied a hard rock bottom could have played a role in determining the channel location. He added the City could maintenance dredge the silt at any time to maintain the established channel, but the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) did not allow removal of large rocks from the bottom of canals.
- Mr. Rick Keeney clarified the mangrove trimming was the first step in keeping the navigable channel wide enough for safe passage, adding if that did not alleviate the problem, step two would be to maintenance dredge. He advised removal of a few rocks or removal of any silt to re-establish the required five foot depth of the channel was acceptable, but reshaping or redesigning of the bottom of the canal would require a lengthy permitting process through DEP. He offered to start the permit application process at any time if requested.
- Mr. Brodersen reminded the Committee to inform staff of any spot dredging needed in BSI while the barge was still in the area. He stated Environmental Technologies Incorporated (ETI) would soon be trimming mangroves in the area, requesting the Committee inform staff of any new problem areas.
- Mr. Wiechec asked whose responsibility it was to maintain mangroves on private property.
- Mr. Brodersen replied it was the homeowner's responsibility, expressing the importance of homeowners following State mangrove trimming regulations.
- Mr. Gil opined the problem was mangroves growing on a vacant lot on a bend of a canal where they obstructed vision.

- Mr. Keeney advised the DEP had issued the City a blanket permit allowing removal of 15 mangroves per year to alleviate those types of safety issues.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:10 PM

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Gary Brewster, Chairman

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Perri Turner, Recording Secretary