

**BOATING ACCESS TASK FORCE**  
**AUGUST 4, 2005**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**Members Present:**

Susan Latvala	Board of County Commissioners
Stephen M. Spratt	Pinellas County Administrator
Bill Stokes	Sierra Club, Alliance for Livable Pinellas
Judy Geiger	Central Marine
Bruce Stott	Interested Boater
John Landon	Landon, Moree & Associates, Inc.
Doug Speeler	Speeler Enterprises
Barbara Fidler	City of Dunedin (for Mayor Doglione)
Andy Nickolson	Citizen
Dennis Frain	City of Gulfport
Bill Morris	Clearwater Harbormaster
Frank Dame	Florida Boaters Guide
Capt. Dave Marsicano	City of Madeira Beach
Mike Whelan	City of St. Pete Beach
Kara Bauer	City of Safety Harbor
Heidi Lovett	Marine Research Advisory Group

**Members Absent:**

Jake Stowers	Assistant County Administrator
Jay Powers	Navron Corp.
David Dunbar	People's Bank
Jim Reid	Homeport Marina
Capt. Doug Metko	Florida Guides Association
Mark La-Prade	Thunder Marine
Capt. Dave Markett	Florida Guides Association
Will Wilkins	Clearwater Real Estate Group
Tim Nachman	Commercial Fisherman
Walter Miller	City of St. Petersburg
Cathy Hayduke	City of Treasure Island
Steve Hickok	Yacht Services
Bill Sargent	Florida Fish and Wildlife

**Also Present:**

Don Crowell	Assistant County Attorney
Paul Cozzie	Pinellas County Park Department
Liz Freeman	Pinellas County Planning Department
Chelsea Ross	Pinellas County Planning Department
Glenn Bailey	Pinellas County Planning Department
Gene Quinn	Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management
Eric Fehrmann	Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management
Dwayne Somers	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office - 10750 Ulmerton Road Largo
Deputy Bret Mowatt	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office - 10750 Ulmerton Road
Sidney Crawford	P.O. Box 576, Ozona, FL
Mike MacDonald	Clearwater Audubon - 2342 Penbrook Drive, Clearwater, FL 33764
Dudley Scott	325 Barbara Circle, Belleair, FL 33756
Mark Pickard	2670 Woodring Drive, Clearwater, FL
Cory Martens	10580 68 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Seminole, FL 33772
Richard Selleg	3824 Cattail Marsh Ct, #252

**Also Present (Continued):**

Stephen Siebert	2100 Mangrum Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698
Ralph Wolfe	Gray-White Club
Bruce Stott	Boater - 10975 109th Street North, Largo, FL 33778
Kenny Linn	7 Elgin Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Rich McCormick	605 Orange Street South, Palm Harbor, FL 34684
Eileen Koch	7 Elgin Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Dorothy Binccetti	7 Elgin Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Herbert Schmidt	7 Dunedin Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Carey and Cyrilla Bolster	9 Haig Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Don & Barbara Birdie	9 Haig Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Joe Fenola	8 Haig Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Mari C Jackson	9 Forbes Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Rosemary Minzenberger	9 Forbes Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Margaret L LesMay	9 Forbes Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Anne R. Valiani	9 Haig Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Lorraine McConnell	9 Haig Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Gina R. Warren	9 Forbes Place #109, Dunedin, FL 34698
Roy Edwards	600 By Pass #217, Clearwater, FL 33764
Nancy Sullivan	9 Forbes Place #701, Dunedin, FL 34698
Ed Sullivan	9 Forbes Place #701, Dunedin, FL 34698
Bill Allbright	F Council of Yacht Clubs - 9 Ambleside Drive, Belleair, FL 33756
Claudia Allbright	Carlovel Yacht Club - 9 Ambleside Drive, Belleair, FL 33756
Tove Mcfistoole	340 Causeway Boulevard #210, Dunedin, FL 34698
Rick Hoving	11730 Shipwatach Drive #804, Largo, FL 33774
Jane Williams	217 N. Hillcrest
Pat Spanke	9 Forbes Place #511, Dunedin, FL 34698
Bill Spanke	9 Forbes Place #511, Dunedin, FL 34698
Susan Traub	Clearwater Audubon - 3248 Masters Drive
Ben Dauterman	1137 Keene Road, Largo, FL 33771
Linda Taylor	929 Bay Esplande, Clearwater, FL 33767
Paul Trule	1583 Budligh Street, Clearwater
Paul Warren	Isla Del Sol Yacht Club - 6000 Sun Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL
Terrie Weeks	Clearwater Marine Aquarium - 249 Windward Passage, Clw, FL 33767
Lauren Waters	Delta Seven Inc. - P.O. Box 3241, St. Petersburg, FL 33731
Ron Olds	2985 Mayfair Court, Clearwater, FL 33761
Dick Qualls	9 Forbes Place #110, Dunedin, FL 34698
Marion Qualls	9 Forbes Place #110, Dunedin, FL 34698
Eugene Proulx	118 7th Street, Belleair Beach, FL
Peter Kuasnicka	Boca Ciega Yacht Club - 8191 Boca Ciega Dr, St. Pete Bch FL 33706
Paul and Steve Engelhardt	4600 140th Avenue North, Clearwater, FL
Edward R. Maguire	9 Forbes Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Eileen R. Hodgson	9 Forbes Place, Dunedin, FL 34698
Robert K. Reed	4948 Hites Wine Road, El Portal, CA 95318
Mike and Luana Moran	340 Causeway Boulevard #101, Dunedin, FL 34698
Jerry Johnson	9 Haig Place #601, Dunedin, FL 34698
Sally Dacy	7 Elgin Place #601, Dunedin, FL 34698
Carolyn Kuntz	Pinellas County Planning Department/Recorder

### **Introductions and Re-Cap**

Commissioner Susan Latvala called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. She thanked everyone for the time they have given to the Task Force. Her intent is to bring closure soon to the discussions, with recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. She suggested there probably needs to be one more meeting of the Task Force, at which time, they would disband and an Intergovernmental Coordinating Advisory Group would be formed to work on individual projects that come forward. The purpose of the Task Force was not to select sites but to look at policy structures that could be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners and the municipalities.

Chairman Latvala noted Mr. Spratt needed to leave soon and that she was changing the order of the agenda to accommodate him so he could discuss his items.

### **Status – Letters of Interest to Marina Owners**

Chairman Latvala referred to the draft letter to marina owners and operators included in the packet. This letter had been previously discussed and, with the members' concurrence, the letter would be sent tomorrow.

Steve Spratt indicated the Task Force had suggested the letter. Its purpose is to let owners of property that might be converted from a water use to another use know the County's interest in talking to them first. There has been a lot of media coverage regarding the Task Force's work and the County is beginning to receive phone calls regarding discussions of marina property. The letter would ensure all businesses located on the water serving this type of need are aware of the County's interest. This is a new type of venture for Pinellas County since we currently run boat ramps, and have not pursued full marina operations; however, there is the need for this type of public service. He is prepared to evaluate every possible opportunity for the County to take ownership of a marina if it's in the County's best business interest. Part of the evaluation would include whether there is a positive cash flow, does not draw on general revenue or other park programs. The County's costs are usually lower, and the County doesn't have to pay property taxes and usually insurance costs are lower. The ultimate decision would be with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Mr. Spratt has kept the BCC apprised of the Task Force's progress and there is no objection to sending the letter.

With the Task Force's concurrence, the letter will be mailed tomorrow.

Chairman Latvala told those in the audience that those interested in speaking would be allowed to speak up to three minutes at the end of the meeting.

### **Funding and Funding Partnerships**

Mr. Spratt reviewed the possible various funding sources as follows:

- ❖ The "Penny for Pinellas" is the largest stream of flexible capital funding; however, due to the increased costs for construction, there is not a lot of reserve funding available with the current authorization. The third extension of the Penny is planned to go to a voter referendum in 2007, which would allow the opportunity to issue "bond/tax anticipation notes" in anticipation of the revenue that would be available at the end of the current authorization. If the voters approve the extension, this could be looked at in 2007.

- ❖ “Low Interest Loans” could allow the County to borrow funds in the short term to acquire marina facilities and pay back the loan using the revenue stream from the marinas. The County has cash reserves that would allow the County to acquire a facility and enter into a financing transition to buy it.
- ❖ “General Obligation Bonds” are in use by Palm Beach County and others where they have pledged ad valorem tax revenues to repay bonds; however, this requires voter approval. The BCC has historically avoided general obligation bonds because the Commission is fiscally conservative.
- ❖ “Environmental Enterprise Zones” are typically set up to give preferential tax treatment to certain activities that serve a public purpose; however, this is constrained by State law.
- ❖ “Tax Increment Financing” is a creative way where a district is established and tax revenue growth from the properties are applied to acquiring properties; however, this is speculative as to how much the tax revenue would grow.
- ❖ “Partnerships”, which is where the County could share the cost of providing the services, could possibly be part of the discussions in acquiring marina property. Expediting permitting, technical assistance, and construction are fairly easy things to work with but they would not help with acquisitions and, in addition, there are permitting constraints by other agencies involved in the process.

Chairman Latvala stated the BCC would like a recommendation from the Task Force on these various options.

Ms. Lovett suggested looking at the Stauffer Superfund site as a candidate for an Environmental Enterprise Zone and possibly as a partnership. Mr. Spratt responded it is on the list of options, there are environmental restrictions on the property, and tax exemptions are regulated by the State.

Mr. Speeler requested that information be supplied for the next meeting regarding the profitability of marinas if operated by the County. Mr. Spratt responded that the marinas he was involved in were very profitable except the Pelican Harbor Marina ( in the Miami area) broke even because it was inland.

***Mr. Landon moved, Mr. Speeler seconded, and motion carried to forward the funding option recommendations to the BCC as outlined by Mr. Spratt.***

- **Expand Hours of Operation at Ramps**

Paul Cozzie, Park Department Director, indicated all ramps, except the ramps at John Chesnut Park and Lake Seminole Park, were already open 24 hours. The two exceptions are the freshwater ramps; however, the Park Department would be willing to look at keeping those ramps open longer if there was an interest.

Chairman Latvala queried the cities’ on their hours of operation. The following responses were received: Mr. Whelan – St. Pete Beach: open from 5:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.; Commissioner Bauer - Safety Harbor is open 24 hours/7 days a week/365 days a year except for an occasional special event; Bill Morris – Clearwater is open 24 hours and charges for parking 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Dennis Frain – Gulfport is open 24 hours and charge.

- **Status of Sites Under Investigation by County**

Chairman Latvala noted they have received positive press coverage and they have received phone calls from marina owners, cities, and others.

Mr. Cozzie and Mr. Fehrmann briefly provided a status of the following sites:

- ❖ *War Veteran’s County Park* – There are plans for future expanded parking of fifty-four 50-foot

additional spaces, with construction to begin in November with a completion of the end of January. Also under consideration, south of the restroom building, the possibility of additional parking spaces to tie into the possibility of additional (two) lanes at the boat ramp.

- ❖ *Travatine Island (County Property)* – This is located on the intracoastal up from Bay Pines near Park Boulevard. This is a spoil island, with part of it owned by the Inland Navigation Waterway Authority and the balance owned by Pinellas County. The upland area is comprised mostly of invasive species and there are partnership opportunities. This area would require access from Park Boulevard (engineering analysis) to the island and would have permitting issues. This would be an expensive project but could be feasible.
  - ❖ *Hurricane Hole* – This is located near the Veteran’s Hospital and St. Petersburg College owns a lot of the land. Most of the land is vacant and Madeira Beach Middle School is located nearby. Staff performed depth profiles and found the water is four to five feet deep during very low tide, including the channel. There are opportunities in partnership with the College. Development would not pose a lot of problems since there is plenty of room, a lot of uplands, and would not require a lot of permitting issues. The channel would need to be improved due to safety reasons. A seawall is already constructed. There are mooring opportunities for mooring, a marina, and boat ramps depending on the outcome of the studies. Chairman Latvala added that she has had preliminary discussions with Dr. Kuttler and they are planning to meet soon.
  - ❖ *Turtle Club/Airport Leased Property* – Staff will run water profiles next week. There are some issues regarding security and the existing uses; however, the Airport is interested, so discussions will continue. Mr. Nickolson noted a water pollution study had been performed for this area and he would get a copy for staff. Pinellas County owns the submerged lands.
  - ❖ *Honeymoon Island (State Park)* – A lot of study is still needed for this site since there are still a lot of unanswered questions. Staff has met with the State and they have provided a list that staff needs to respond to. Staff is in the very beginning stages to determine the feasibility. No decisions have been made.
  - ❖ *Stauffer Superfund Site* – Staff has met with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Stauffer about the County’s intent for the property. They have asked the County to come back with a conceptual plan and make a formal proposal. Engineers were at the property last week and are in the process of putting together a conceptual plan. EPA is completing their engineering work by the end of this year and requesting to see the County’s proposal by then. This is a large piece of property, with deep water access, which would be excellent for a marina, a high-and-dry, and public boat ramp. The plan would include the above, in addition to park amenities. This would be an expensive project but a worthwhile project. There are others interested in developing the property; however, EPA is not interested in who will pay the most but are looking at who has a use and program that would allow EPA to comfortably turn the property over to them.
  - ❖ *Sand Key Park* – This would be a feasible project but very difficult based on the amount of land that would be required for the slopes and parking. Staff is still looking at it but issues include the logistics and the basin design that would be required to not block the access path but allow staging areas. In addition, there are three owners: the City of Clearwater owns along the jetty, the State owns a large portion along the shoreline, and Pinellas County.
- **Boater Etiquette and Education**  
Chairman Latvala noted some facilities are experiencing boat rage and education and etiquette ideas are something that could be done quickly.

Mr. Cozzie noted information from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conversation Commission was included in the agenda package to make people aware of boater etiquette ideas. Staff is putting together a public information program that would include brochures and signage at the boat ramp areas to educate people. As part of this program, the boat ramp areas will be looked at to check the feasibility of putting in courtesy (or queuing) docks to help with loading and unloading passengers. He asked for other suggestions.

Frank Dame indicated the U.S. Power Squadrons and the Coast Guard Auxiliary offer free public boating education courses and suggested dovetailing boat ramp etiquette into that course. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the Clearwater Power Squadron and he would bring this information to their attention. He suggested staff contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary to see if they would also be interested.

Bill Morris suggested the inclusion of a staging area before going into the water. He questioned if this could be incorporated at Bay Pines. Mr. Cozzie responded it was possible, especially the south area, there might be opportunities to change the circulation to allow queuing.

Mr. Stott queried about the possibility of additional parking spaces for War Veterans, Mr. Cozzie responded that was possible.

Chairman Latvala questioned if this is in the works or if staff needed Task Force action. Mr. Cozzie responded staff should have something available by the fall and noted the problem is getting bad at several ramps with the Belleair ramp having the most problem.

- **Policy Decisions and Need for County/Municipal Partnership**

Don Crowell, County Attorney's Office, reviewed the following policy decisions. He noted there is a need for a County/municipal partnership. There are a lot of things the County can do on a countywide basis but are limited by the cities' ability to opt out.

- ❖ *Moratorium* – Monroe County recently adopted an interim moratorium on development ordinance, which allows 270 days to study the effects of changing from water dependent uses to condominiums or other uses and what the County could do to stem the flow in that direction and preserve the access for their citizens. Monroe County is different than Pinellas County in that they have a large unincorporated area and only 4 incorporated areas (which are not included in the ordinance) while Pinellas County has 1/3 of the County unincorporated and 24 municipalities. A large portion of the waterfront areas being converted from marinas to condominiums or other uses is within the incorporated areas. Also, a moratorium is only temporary (otherwise it would result in a constitutional taking) so it is only a stop/gap measure and, if Pinellas County passed a countywide ordinance for a moratorium, it would only be for the unincorporated area unless the cities chose to participate. Chairman Latvala indicated staff has been talking to the cities but she wasn't sure this was worth the effort it would take, in addition to the time that it would take to enact it and the fact that it's only temporary. This would be kept on the back burner.
- ❖ *Tax Deferral Ordinance* – This would require a buy-in from the cities to be effective. This is not a true deferral since it would continue to accrue interest and there is a limit on the amount that can be deferred. The County could implement an ordinance for the unincorporated area; however, the cities would have to elect to implement their own ordinance since taxing authority is not countywide. It was noted there would have to be a collaborative relationship between the County and the cities to be effective. Mr. Speeler indicated two municipalities have expressed an interest in this option and the County needs to provide a vehicle and guidance for these cities. Chairman Latvala noted this was a new law passed this year and that any municipality has the option of implementing a tax deferral ordinance for their area. **Based upon consensus, Chairman Latvala directed staff to bring back a proposed ordinance that could be utilized.**
- ❖ *No Net Loss Policy* – This would require substantial participation by the cities and the County to be effective since the majority of waterfront property is located within the municipalities. It was suggested the County draft language that could be used as a model. Ms. Freeman responded that draft language was included in the package. **Based upon consensus, it was agreed to move forward with**

- ❖ **the draft language and get the information to the cities.** Mr. Crowell noted this would require an amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan. It was indicated this policy is intended to preserve waterfront usage or to provide/create it somewhere else. It was noted this would probably have opposition by the development community but would have a better chance of being implemented than a moratorium. It was stated by Mr. Landon that amendments to the Comprehensive Plan can only occur every six months and that the deadline is August 25, which is very soon. Staff would investigate whether this would be an exemption to the six-month requirement. **There was a consensus that everyone concurred with moving forward as soon as possible.**
- ❖ *Waterfront Overlay* - This would be part of the County's Comprehensive Plan and would need buy-in from the municipalities to be effective otherwise the developers would go to another jurisdiction that did not have this requirement. Chairman Latvala indicated the City of Tarpon Springs has requested the County's assistance on an overlay for their working waterfront district. Ms. Freeman noted the property owners would have to buy-in to this concept and want it applied to their property.
- ❖ *Purchase Development Rights* – Mr. Crowell noted this was a possibility but was a policy issue. The local government could condemn property, especially in light of the recent Supreme Court decision; however, the BCC has gone on record that they don't agree with this. Chairman Latvala noted that marina owners could approach the County about buying the development rights and the marina could stay in business; however, the development rights would be very expensive.

Mr. Crowell acknowledged the Planning Department staff for their assistance with the above options.

It was queried how the Task Force's message could be taken to the municipalities. Chairman Latvala responded that, once the Task Force made their recommendations, she would take them to the Board of County Commissioners, the Mayors' Council, the Pinellas Planning Council, and then call together the elected officials and staff. She noted Steve Spratt meets monthly with the city managers.

Mr. Nickolson suggested County staff get together with the smaller cities that don't have staff and then make a presentation to their Commission/Council. Chairman Latvala felt this was a good idea.

Mr. Speeler noted there are cities that own marina facilities and want to expand and those that have areas they are considering dedicating for a marina, a high and dry, etc.

Ms. Lovett queried if the Task Force had set goals regarding the optimal number of wet slips, boat ramps, marinas, etc., so they know what they are trying to achieve. Chairman Latvala responded the Task Force was formed quickly to stop the loss of these types of waterfront usage and have policies in place but the Task Force should. She indicated they have an inventory but it was noted this is constantly changing. Mr. Whelan noted they had recently reassessed what their levels of service are and what they expect it to be for their community. Mr. Speeler indicated they don't have the data to make those types of projections but they are working on it.

- **Public/Private Partnerships to Expedite Boat Facility Construction and Expansion**

Mr. Crowell indicated the County's economic development powers as they relate to the Florida Statutes are very broad and they could go forward with a public/private partnership for the best interest of tourism. This would have to be based on the appropriate findings and a study for justification. Mr. Crowell believed the DRI exception doesn't apply to anything the County has control over. To the extent the County is involved in the DRI process, the hurdles to the private developer may be lessened to some extent but other agencies are involved in the permitting process. The County could modify their processes to help since the

BCC would be receptive to streamlining to the extent possible. Mr. Crowel thought the focus of the Task Force was to preserve the existing marinas, boat ramps, high and dry facilities, etc.

Mr. Landon stated marinas are not expanding because of the DRI limitation with the average cost for staff time between \$.5 million to \$1 million because of the amount of paperwork involved. The Legislature helped with publicly-owned marinas since it expedited some of the process within the House Bill but did nothing for the private marina owner regarding expansion. The County could produce a marina siting plan by using another county's plan as a model. This would trigger an exemption for Pinellas County marinas from the DRI process. There would still be a lot of regulations involved due to the other agencies' requirements as part of the DRI process. Mr. Crowell asked what counties have a marina siting plan. Mr. Landon responded he could get the information from the DEP website. Ms. Freeman noted staff looked at this two years ago and, at that time, the conclusion was that there was not a straight forward benefit to the County of adopting a boating facility siting plan, as it was not clear it was worth the additional regulations and data required, but it is something that could be looked at again. Mr. Landon requested the facts regarding this be placed on the next agenda. **Chairman Latvala directed a report be on the next agenda.**

Chairman Latvala indicated that the County could expedite permits they are responsible for and that Mr. Stowers is discussing this with staff. She suggested anyone who has an issue to call staff.

Mr. Landon questioned the second bullet regarding expediting permits and why it would also include the private marina owners. Ms. Freeman responded staff was referring to language in the new legislation that expedites the permitting process for public marinas and that there could be opportunities for public/private partnerships, where the private developer could therefore benefit. Mr. Landon stated this should also apply to private marina owners and Chairman Latvala responded that was their intention.

Mr. Nicholson stated there is a major problem with the backlog regarding the permitting process. Some of the permits only require a staff technical review and don't require public hearings. He suggested that there be a requirement that backlogs are not allowed. **Chairman Latvala responded she would get this message to Mr. Stowers.** She then queried the other members if they also felt this was a serious problem of which they responded yes. Mr. Speeler indicated he applied for a public hearing last week on a minor project and it was between 90 – 120 days for a hearing. Mr. Landon approached Mr. Stowers to get a fast track permitting for 54 additional boats on trailers and he agreed to allow it to fast track through a walk-through process, which took over 2 ½ months and it is still not approved. **Chairman Latvala stated she would have Mr. Stowers and/or Mr. Davis comment at the next meeting.**

Chairman Latvala thanked Planning Department staff for all the backup information.

- **Intergovernmental Advisory Committee**

Chairman Latvala stated that, once the Task Force has completed their work, an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee would be established and would include representatives from the cities and the County. She then questioned the Task Force on the timeframe to complete their mission. By consensus, it was determined one more meeting would be necessary.

- **Next Meeting – Time and Location**

Following discussion regarding the next meeting, Commissioner Latvala concluded the next meeting would be Wednesday, September 14, 5:00 p.m., at the same place.

Mr. Stokes questioned if there was capital with the National Marinas Manufacturing Association to lobby municipalities to have zoning ordinances in place to have marinas zoned as marinas to preserve them. Mr. Speeler responded that the County and residents should have a one-on-one with the municipalities, which would be more effective. Commissioner Bauer responded the cities are under fire from their residents regarding the conversion of property to condominiums and pressure is being placed on the elected officials to stop this. She also clarified that their marinas are usually zoned as a public use.

Ms. Lovett questioned if the Community Trust Program could be utilized to maintain the integrity of waterfront usage. She noted Cortez in Bradenton has received funding to help preserve their waterfront in that manner. She noted there should be broader planning and look at what the marine environment can handle, such as Monroe County. There have been studies that look at user access and how the environment can be protected. She cautioned that everything needs to be packaged comprehensively looking at maintaining user access and preserving the capacity of the environment. **Chairman Latvala stated she would pass this information on to Mr. Stowers.**

- **Citizen Comments**

- Kenneth Linn, 7 Algin Place – spoke in opposition to further consideration of boat ramps on Honeymoon Island due to the impacts to the residents, the environment, and emergency vehicles. The number of vehicles, especially towing boats, would increase drastically if boat ramps were constructed. He suggested the County consider the northeast corner of the Dunedin Causeway. Chairman Latvala noted that area has been looked at and would only accommodate 20 vehicles. Mr. Speeler added that Dunedin Causeway is further down on the list of possible options due to the issues associated with it. Chairman Latvala clarified there have only been preliminary discussions with the State and they have requested a list of challenges that need to be overcome before a boat ramp could be constructed. This site would be very expensive, it would require road improvements, and there are a number of environmental impacts. A number of people have asked about boat ramps at this site and the north end of the County needs boat ramps; therefore, it is appropriate to perform an Environmental Impact Study for this site to see its feasibility.
- Steve Seibert –requested the above site be removed from the list. Chairman Latvala responded the Environmental Impact Study is not expensive, especially since staff is doing most of it, and that everyone needs to know the results of the study so there are valid reasons behind the ultimate decision. The study would be completed in a few months.
- Citizen – marina property owner in Martin County - **made a recommendation regarding the Martin County No Net Slip Loss model that Pinellas County consider looking at the total linear feet of dockage to maintain or replace and not tie it to a boat county. Mr. Nicholson suggested using the aerial space, the square feet of the boat space.**
- Citizen – concern that the Task Force hasn't spent time to quantify the problem (how many there are, how many is being lost, and how many is needed) especially since this is a problem for the entire State. She felt the public needed numbers and the information needs to be made available to the public. Chairman Latvala responded the Task Force had discussed what is being lost at their first meeting. Staff is working on the information but that type of information was not the intent of the Task Force. The focus behind the Task Force is to make policy recommendations to the BCC. That type of information is important and staff is in the process of compiling it. Once the Task Force's work is complete, work will continue on solving the problem. Once staff has the data, it would be made public.
- Mike MacDonald - Clearwater Audubon Society – they have included information for the record regarding their input. He noted there are a lot of issues the County is considering and that the Task Force recommendations need to be made available to the cities and to work with the cities on these recommendations. He noted it took his stepson 118 days to get a variance permit for a setback.

- Citizen – he noted that a certain amount of non-tax revenue is required as part of a development and suggested calling marinas blue space and make it acceptable. He noted on the East Coast, legislation is in place that requires existing marinas deemed for marina use to only be sold for a marina use and questions if Pinellas County could expedite the process by using them as an example. Chairman Latvala responded the problem is changing someone's land use, which would be considered taking away the rights of the marina owners, which would require the County to pay for that right. The other counties already have the land designation in place. The citizen suggested controlling how the developer is changing the use of the property. Regarding requiring marinas, or blue space, as part of the development, Mr. Crowell responded it would require changes to the state legislation, concurrency, and Land Development Regulations at the state level and whether it is rationally attributable to the development itself. Mr. Crowell indicated it would be a long, expensive battle. He noted schools, parks, etc., are currently part of the existing State legislation and that blue space would be in addition and there would be a lot of resistance.
- Citizen – spoke in opposition to Honeymoon Island, that it's not the right place for a boat ramp due to the dredging, wildlife, traffic patterns, and impact to emergency vehicles but the citizens support the Task Force's efforts. Chairman Latvala reiterated that the Task Force will not make a decision regarding boat ramps, marinas, etc., but are making policy recommendations to the BCC. An Environmental Impact Study is being performed on the site and that the site would be expensive and would probably not be environmentally appropriate.
- Citizen- queried if the projects are ranked according to desirability. Chairman Latvala responded no, that the Task Force is looking at all options.
- Cyrilla Bolster – commended the Task Force for making progress and that the tone is better this meeting than the last meeting. She felt that it had to due with staff, the letter being sent to marina owners, discussions with St. Petersburg College, and the positive feedback.
- Citizen – queried if the Seminole Boat Ramp was going to be put up for sale. Mr. Dame responded no but the marina (Clearwater Bay Marineways) next to it has been sold for condominiums.
- Citizen – queried about the marina that called staff. Chairman Latvala responded the County is currently in negotiations but one marina is not going to solve the problem. She noted the County is getting the word out they are interested in being involved.
- Mike MacDonald - Clearwater Audubon Society – the BCC is dealing with a lot of difficult issues and noted the County is setting a precedent that other areas could use in dealing with these same issues. Chairman Latvala thanked him for his comments and noted the County has a long of history of doing things rights.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.