

Pinellas County LRRC Meeting Minutes

Weedon Island Preserve

May 2, 2014: 1-3 PM

Members in Attendance: Bill Allbright, Elizabeth Fleming, Serra Herndon, Dave Kandz, Terri Skapik, Doug Speeler, Dave Travis, Katie Tripp

Members Absent: Janine Cianciolo, Mark LaPrade, Dave Markett, Charles White

Staff in Attendance: Carol Grynewicz, Dave Walker (Pinellas County Water and Navigation); Scott Calleson, Mike Sommers (FWC); Pete Plage (USFWS)

1. Approval of minutes from 4/22 meeting
 - a. Correction of spelling of Capt. Klein's name
 - b. Correction that Dave Travis, not Dave Kandz seconded Terri's nomination as chair
 - c. Bill Allbright made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Dave Travis
2. Scheduling future meetings
 - a. Bill Allbright proposed that the committee attempt to project out the areas it might be discussing at each meeting to aid in preparation and we may want to hold meetings closer to the area where zones are proposed on the days we are discussing them
 - b. The committee decided to schedule all future meetings noting that we could change the venues if desired
3. Acknowledgment of extra data/information provided by FWC
 - a. New maps should be posted on county site early next week
 - b. Dave Travis would have liked to see zones off the beaches- as part of the overview maps because not all boaters use the ICW
4. Questions for FWC and County
 - a. Dave Kandz inquired about the Pinellas County Sighting Network. Dave Walker explained that some of the online components are new. It used to be phone-based. Now citizens can enter their sightings themselves. County staff review the postings to make sure they are logical. Keep in mind these sightings represent areas where manatees AND people are (to report the sighting) so they are not as objective as the data provided by FWS. Dave Kandz asked if some of the information could be printed out for the group's consideration. Dave Walker said he would try to bring something to the next LRRC meeting.
5. Ideas for How to Approach Zone Reviews
 - a. Terri: started by looking for areas where coincidence (overlap) looked high
 - b. Bill Allbright: spend time with someone who is not on the committee if we would like their input/expertise

- c. Dave Travis: concerned that an area we designate for slow speed could then become a no entry or no motor zone at FWC's discretion
 - i. Scott Calleson explained that an entirely new LRRC process would be needed to amend any rules that result from this current process
 - d. Bill Allbright: What if FWC decided it wanted to remove zones?
 - i. Scott Calleson: Any changes require a new LRRC.
 - e. Elizabeth Fleming: began her review by looking for obvious areas of overlap. The question for her was what would be most effective/efficient so boaters would understand different zones because if boaters don't understand the posting, the zones won't be effective.
 - f. Terri Skapik: doesn't like shore to shore zones, prefers to keep a high speed corridor open
 - g. Bill Allbright mentioned the recent FWC changes to Boating Safety Zones
 - i. Dave Walker explained that FWC had taken back the lead on Boating Safety Zones for the ICW. Dave has a PowerPoint presentation that explains what was done and why. Many changes were to ensure that sign placement on the water matched the rules as written. These changes went into effect recently and some are not even posted yet on the water. All of the changes are reflected on the maps we were given depicting local zones- even the ones not yet posted on-water.
 - h. Doug Speeler asked to discuss the current manatee situation in Pinellas
 - i. Terri asked him to wait until Agenda item 8
 - i. Dave Walker: after the last LRRC meeting, he called staff from all of the cities to let them know about the info posted to the web, and inviting them to attend meetings to observe.
 - i. Scott Calleson mentioned he will probably go back to the Big-C in the next few months. If FWC does go forward with a proposal, he will reach out to the municipalities individually. There is still a long process after the LRRC completes its work. The LRRC's role is helping FWC decide on a starting point. We are at least 5 months out from a final decision from FWC.
 - j. Bill Allbright suggested projecting the zone maps on the screen to aid discussion
6. Discussion of North Areas
- a. N1- Spring Bayou Area
 - i. Katie and Elizabeth expressed support for Option 1
 - ii. Dave Travis and Terri liked Option 2 because they believed it is consistent with local rules and wouldn't raise confusion. Dave Kandz agreed.
 - iii. Terri mentioned that there is a local zone here but if it goes away, FWC zones provide a safety net
 - iv. Scott: existing local zones are more restrictive than either option proposed by FWC. Whatever is most restrictive (if there are multiple regulations) is what gets posted.) This is not being done in anticipation of any local zones being repealed.

- b. N2: Anclote River Mouth
 - i. Just take zone to the county line? If go to the county line now, 1/10 mile before you reach the next zone.
 - ii. Makes sense to regulate the whole thing, but our authority ends at the Pinellas County line
 - iii. Some opposition to doing part now and part later
 - iv. Suggestion that we recommend regulating to the Pasco County line and that the portion over the line get picked up when a Pasco LRRC is formed- committee agreed
 - v. The surveys that were flown went to the power plant discharge in Pasco
- c. N3: Memorial Causeway (North)
 - i. More discussion needed
 - ii. Terri was not sure the area on the east side was needed because it is often times too shallow for boats or manatees
 - 1. Scott mentioned that the aerial survey showed manatees in these areas
 - iii. A preliminary vote had 4 opposed, 3 in favor, and 1 abstention
- d. N4: Indian Rocks Causeway (North)
 - i. Doug suggested we use the mortality maps from FWC to help inform our decisions
 - ii. Terri suggested no regulation for the ICW (not even 25 mph); stick to existing safety zones- Option 2 but with ICW unregulated
 - iii. Elizabeth: introducing FWC zones increases enforcement potential. As Scott Calleson explained earlier, the boating safety zone changes that were made were invisible changes to boaters because the zones were not posted.
 - iv. Terri: Does the city have any rules about slow speed within the city limits? Are there any provisions in code?
 - v. Dave Travis mentioned an island off 20th where people water ski and jet ski
 - 1. The member of the public in attendance from Indian Rocks Beach mentioned that this activity irritates residents
 - vi. A preliminary vote showed 3 in support of Option 1, 4 in support of Option 2, and 1 abstention

7. Next Meeting

- a. Begin discussion of South zones; no voting