A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walter Blaser called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**Board Members Present:**
Chairman Walter Blaser  
Vice-Chairman Peter Van Etten  
Scott Kee  
Tom Miller  
Gary Bushey  
Jeff Vogt  
Cindy Albright  
Leon Sisson

**Board Members Absent:**  
Gary Bazemore (Excused)  
Billy McGuire

**Administrative Staff Present:**  
City Manager Bob Majka  
Director of Development Services Tony Caravella  
Director of Marketing and Economic Development Melissa Byron  
GIS Technician Wayne Carragino  
Police Sgt. Mike Miller  
Assistant to the City Clerk Crystal Taylor

Approve Minutes: May 9, 2013

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Van Etten and second by Mr. Vogt, the Board unanimously approved the May 9, 2013 minutes as presented.

B. CITY STAFF REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Police Department Representative**


   Sgt. Miller reported 38.75 volunteer marine patrol hours, 11.5 Police marine patrol hours, and no waterway citations to report.

2. **Dredge Program**  
   **Staff Representative: Wayne Carragino, GIS Technician**

   a) Waterway Work

   b) Status the 200 Channel Dredging Project

   c) Updating Waterways Chart to include the 400 Channel Dredging information

   Mr. Carragino reported continued maintenance of channel markers. Numerous repairs are being done. He also said that the City Engineer is working on the waterways map. He is working on the Western
boundary. Mr. Carragino passed out the FIND grant schedule and noted the meeting to be held at the Coutyard on June 21st, with our presentation scheduled at 10:10am. The presentation will be 10 minutes long, with five minutes of slides and five minutes of questions. He noted that there are close to 80 applicants for the grant. It is free to attend and Mr. Raj Verma will be speaking for the City.

3. Update on remarking the 0-99 Channel

4. Board Member Reports on Assigned Channel Deficiencies to Include Channels, Canals and Other

0-99 Channel - Mr. Kee
100 Channel - Mr. Van Etten
200 Channel - Mr. Bazemore
300 Channel - Mr. Bazemore
400 Channel - Mr. Blaser
500 Channel - Mr. Blaser/Mr. Miller
600 Channel - Mr. Miller

Mr. Kee reported no problems in the 0-99 channel. He noted seeing new signs and low water levels. Mr. Blaser agreed that it is very shallow, only three feet in some areas. Mr. Van Etten had nothing new to report on the 100 channel. Mr. Blaser noted it was acceptable when he went out. Mr. Miller had nothing to report for the 400, 500, or 600 channels. Mr. Carragino said there may be some signage missing. Mr. Blaser read Mr. Bazemore's report sent via email for channels 200 and 300. He stated that he saw otters. Mr. Blaser and other board members noted that otters have been around the area for a while. Some board members opined that the water clarity seems to be improving.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, ONGOING BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Update on repair projects at the City Ramps including the information kiosks (Ms. Albright)
- Denise Song, Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB)
- Joanie Regan, City of Cocoa Beach Stormwater Coordinator
- Melissa Byron, City of Cocoa Beach Director of Marketing and Economic Development

Mr. Tarber, Cocoa Beach resident, asked if the sand covering the boat ramp at Bicentennial Park could be removed. Mr. Vogt supported the request.

Mr. Vogt made a motion to send a memo to the City Manager, requesting to have the sand removed from the Bicentennial Park ramp. Upon a second by Mr. Kee, the Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Albright volunteered to draft the memo.

Ms. Albright summed up what the Board has been working toward in regard to signage. She noted the Board’s desire to involve KBB, Joanie Regan and the EEL program, and Melissa Byron with City Marketing to working on signage that will match the City image. Ms. Albright noted that the Board is aware that Ramp Road is part of the CRA, but they would like to see Bicentennial Park be consistent with Ramp Road Park.

Denise Song with KBB agreed with Ms. Albright, adding that they do not want to add more sign clutter. She noted that in speaking with Ms. Byron, it was decided that KBB will wait until the City has chosen their signs, and then will design theirs to match. She stated that KBB signs will always be separate and stand alone but they still want to look the same as the others in the City. Mr. Blaser added that the Board is looking for materials to put into the kiosks. Ms. Albright agreed that there are two parts to the signage they are looking for: 1) information in the kiosks that will educate people using the waterways, and 2) KBB Adopt-a-Shoreline program. She continued that the Board wants people to know about Adopt-a-Shore, and wants to recognize those who do adopt the shores. She noted that they also want to include all required signage in the kiosks. Ms. Song replied that the only educational
signage they look for is to remind people not to litter, but they do not require it. She said they used to put trash bags out for people and they could start doing that again.

Melissa Byron, Director of Marketing and Economic Development for the City of Cocoa Beach, talked about new City signage and beach entrance, stub-end signs. She explained that the CRA has retained the Patterson-Bach Firm to work on the Downtown area signage, which includes Ramp Road Park. A survey will go out soon and they will wait for the results. They also do not want people to think they are in a different City when they leave the Downtown area; everything should be complimentary. She noted the same goes for the other parks and ramps. She continued that they are looking for a clean setup with clear information for the parks and ramps. She encouraged the Board to collect the information, and then the City will work on the rest.

2. Special Presentation: Keep Brevard Beautiful Adopt-a-Shoreline Program - Denise Song, KBB

Ms. Albright asked Ms. Song to explain the Adopt-a-Shoreline program and how they can promote it. Ms. Song explained that they will be much more aggressive in educating people about the programs. They recently noticed how dirty the shorelines, even under water are. At the last shoreline clean-up, their dive team never went more than two feet out from the bridge and they removed seven truckloads of trash in four hours. She continued that they are encouraging companies to adopt the islands, and there will be more messaging coming out. She was not sure about putting a sign on a spoil island; they would need to come back and discuss that. As of now, the contracts are for a one-year adoption and the adopter agreed to clean the area at least once per quarter; though, most people do it once per month. She noted that the zoo and BCC want to be more involved.

Ms. Albright inquired if, as a county-wide program, the advertising is something they will take care of, so all the Board has to do is help get the word out. Ms. Song confirmed. She explained that they are talking to the kayakers, kite-boarders, beverage distributors, and anyone that directly or indirectly affects the shoreline. Ms. Albright suggested reaching out to the cruise lines, Bertram Yachts, and other big players in the area. Ms. Song replied that they have 186 teams that have adopted, and Disney Cruise Lines is one. She explained that some big names do not want their name out there. She explained that the program is only $50 and they give or lend all the supplies to do the clean up. She talked about more youth participation as of late, and their knowledge of the spoil islands.

In regard to signage, Ms. Song clarified that they prefer to compliment the area, which sometimes means no signage. They feel that, in nature, less is more. She said that they could put out a press release for recognition, if needed. They also post a lot on Facebook. She announced that there is a clean-up scheduled for July 5th, but they will do one on the 6th, too, after the fireworks on the 5th; she encouraged all to volunteer.

Ms. Byron added that they could include some kind of signage in the kiosks that thanks the individuals and groups who adopt the shores. Mr. Blaser was in favor of that idea.

Ms. Song shared that she received notice today that they won a grant for all parks to receive very attractive bottle and can recycling bins from Dr. Pepper and Snapple. They will also be featured at the ramps. They will be delivered in four to six weeks, and BCC will install them for free.

Mr. Day explained that the South Islands are under control and in a maintenance stage; the North Islands however, need help. The North Islands have significant areas of trash that need to be cleaned up. He noted that it is difficult to get to them except from Bicentennial, but there are areas of access and Mr. Chastain has offered his back yard to work from. Mr. Sisson inquired on the volume of garbage that needs to be hauled. Mr. Day estimated 10-15 large bags. He thought the City barge would be helpful. Ms. Song volunteered KBB to help coordinate that with anyone. She noted that Coastal Clean-up is in September, but they can do it before. They can schedule it for a couple Saturdays so Waste Management can bring a dumpster. Mr. Day suggested they do it from Dempsey,
as that is where the biggest problem is. Ms. Albright volunteered to coordinate it.

Mr. Chastain volunteered to coordinate an underwater team and help with North-side access. He noted that his business participates in the biannual clean-ups. He thanked the Board for working on the kiosks, and also welcomed a dock facility at the Country Club.

Mr. Sisson requested to be put on the KBB email list. Ms. Taylor will send Ms. Song the Board members’ email addresses.

3. Discuss site/feasibility review findings from the April 3, 2013 site review field trip in regard to the concept of adding boat slips at the Cocoa Beach Country Club. Make recommendation to Commission based on findings.

Mr. Bill Watson printed some new charts based on the recommendations made at the site visit on April 3, 2013. He noted that the new drawing did not include the finger piers, but they are included in the business plan. He summed up the recommendations as: a 20 foot pivoting ramp, floating dock, pilings, and incorporation of the finger piers. He noted the area to the north that the Board designated as a future site for a stationary dock. Mr. Vogt thanked Watson for his work. Mr. Watson volunteered to make changes if needed before the concept is forwarded to the Commission. He also clarified that the pricing included in the business plan came from a local wholesaler with a 25% markup, but he suggested checking with Mr. Carragino when figuring actual costs.

Mr. Watson also recommended Ms. Byron's participation. He and the Board members discussed some of the benefits to building a dock in that location.

Mr. Bob Majka, City Manager, explained that the next step is for the Board to recommend to the Commission that they start researching budgetary needs for the project, and consider this as part of the budget process for Fiscal Year 2014. Then, the Commission may choose whether they wish to fund it or not. The design ideas and cost estimates will give them somewhere to start.

Mr. Vogt made a motion to recommend to the City Commission that they consider the project. Mr. Van Etten seconded the motion. Mr. Vogt made an amendment to his motion to recommend to the City Commission via memorandum, that they undertake the dock project in their FY 2014 budgetary planning, and that the Waterways Board include the package from Mr. Watson with the recommendation.

The Board clarified what information they wanted to send to the Commission. They decided to stick with the information provided by Mr. Watson. Mr. Watson reminded them that permitting costs were not included in the estimated costs. He also let them know that he included in the business plan some websites that provide information on funding ideas.

The Board unanimously approved the amended motion and main motion to forward the recommendations and specifications to the City Commission. The City Clerk's office will draft and send the memo to the City Commission through the City Manager's office.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review changes to dredge and fill process:
   Draft Ordinance 1563-PB - Land Development Code (LDC) Text Amendment Chapter V, Article X, Dredge and Fill permits
   Staff Representative: Anthony Caravella, AICP, Director of Development Services

   Mr. Caravella briefly explained the revisions and noted that this item is courtesy-informational for this Board. Mr. Van Etten inquired of the driving factor behind dropping the Waterways Board from the approval process.
Mr. Caravella explained that most of the fills lately are backfills and seawalls and they wanted to streamline the process. The first draft modified internal issues, but this revision is for the exception. Mr. Blaser verified with Mr. Caravella that there will only be one permit now. Mr. Vogt and Mr. Miller inquired about the new maximum area for exemption of 2,000 feet or less. Mr. Caravella explained that it is enough to cover filling a lot for a single family home. Any activity greater than that will have to be reviewed.

Mr. Caravella volunteered to pass the Board's concerns along to the Commission. He reminded them that this item is only informational for this board, but noted that their input was welcome. Mr. Miller and Mr. Vogt inquired about ensuring standards if the WWAB will not see fill permits anymore for seawalls. Mr. Caravella explained that seawalls are not to extend more than one (1) foot into the waterway. They are only to restore one's own land; they should not encroach on the waterway width. Mr. Vogt asked if that is based on law or only City process. Mr. Caravella said that it is more City process or a standard practice of an acceptable encroachment of the waterway. Mr. Vogt pointed out that some people may violate it because it is not law. Mr. Caravella replied that any construction taking place not on one's own property is against the law. The one foot rule applies to walls that need to be reconstructed because of deterioration. The right of use rests with the trustee of the waterway which is the City of Cocoa Beach and that is codified.

Mr. Blaser asked what happens when the second seawall begins to deteriorate. Mr. Caravella explained that eventually they will begin to degrade the width of the canal and boaters' ability to navigate the channel. At this time, applications are done by conditions on a case-by-case basis, but he agreed that the issue will need to be addressed and codified later.

Mr. Vogt was concerned that with the WWAB losing authority in the process, checks and balances would be lost. Mr. Miller assured him that the streamlining is a positive thing because only a few applications have come through, and they have never said “no” because filling and protecting one's property is a good thing. He continued that the permitting should not be a difficult process.

2. Discuss the possibility/feasibility of re-opening a water ski area behind the City Golf Course

Mr. Blaser noted the City had a water sports area before, but it was taken away. He did look at some possible areas. Mr. Miller agreed that there seemed to be nowhere in the Cocoa Beach waterways that is available. The Board discussed the possibility of recovering some of the areas, but noted the entire area is a manatee protection zone, and they were unsure if any other Cities were able to recover any parts of their waterways.

Mr. Day gave a brief history of the situation. In 1987, the City had a conditional period for the area off the golf course requiring them to do aerial surveillance once, weekly around ski island. When they flew, it was never open because manatees were always spotted, so the Feds took it away. It is a state and federal zone. He was not aware of any other cities receiving an exemption. Commercial crabbers have permits to operate in manatee zones, but not water sport crafts.

Chairman Blaser said he will do some research to find out if any areas have been granted exemptions, and if so, how. Mr. Van Etten commented that the board would like to see the area open. He suggested the board keep this item on the agenda for next meeting. Mr. Kee mentioned an area north of 520, but said it is very small and has very little wind shelter. Mr. Blaser said they could suggest moving the zone lines but that would be difficult to get approved.

E. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

1. Board Articles for the Cocoa Beach News and Views

Ms. Albright reported that nothing has been sent, yet. She will submit something about boat safety and
speeding. Mr. Van Etten suggested finding some information to share from Florida Fish and Wildlife.

2. **Manatee Regulations Update**

   Mr. Blaser acknowledged that there are still issues. The mortality rate is up.

3. **Ms. Cindy Albright**

   a.) **Adopt-a-Shoreline Program**

   b.) **Keep Brevard Beautiful**

   This item was covered under Item C2.

4. **Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism (SEE) 2013 Annual Meeting in Cocoa Beach**

   Mr. Day briefly explained what SEE is about. They started in Southwest Florida, and certify ethical ecotourism. He noted that the event will feature some keynote speakers and one does not need to register to hear some of them. He suggested checking them out because some may offer information of interest to the City.

   At inquiry from Ms. Albright concerning whether someone would be present at the event who could report to the Board after, Mr. Chastain volunteered to bring back some information. He felt that SEE is important to the City.

   Mr. Day also suggested checking with the owner of Wildside Tours because she is SEE certified and could share some information with the Board.

F. **SET ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

   Chairman Blaser brought to attention an email correspondence from a citizen. He asked the Board to discuss how they could best answer the concerns and where they could find the requested information.

   The WWAB’s former chairman, Mr. Bob Day spoke. He explained that the St. John's Water Management mainly handles water quality issues, and those issues are not unique only to the Cocoa Beach Waterways; they affect the entire Banana and Indian rivers. Some clarity is coming back but it is still not great. He explained that most of the concerns in the letter are handled by other agencies and the Board should track how and when they are addressed and discuss them. The problem, he noted, is larger than the City of Cocoa Beach. He noted that stormwater is working on some things and the Board is aware of that, but this board does not handle those issues. It is not a regulatory board; it is an advisory board to the Commission that addresses issues handed down from the Commission.

   Mr. Miller reported that he saw a proposal in the paper for opening up pathways from the ocean to the banana river lagoon. He thought they should find a way to get information like that out to the public. In his opinion, the water quality has improved from 20 years ago. He noted increased wildlife in the area, citing more manatees and dolphins, otters, drum, and tarpon. Mr. Day pointed out that the City is not alone. The entire County is faced with TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) and reducing pollutants, but the City is in the process of meeting the goals. He said that no one is sure what caused the algae bloom, but up until the bloom the sea grass had been returning. The City has wet weather discharge and leaks from the well out at the waste water plant. Mr. Day was of the opinion that more inlets will transfer the problem to the ocean, noting that dilution is not the cure for pollution. He spoke favorably of the unique estuary system and unique creatures that can survive because of the lack of salinities.

   Mr. Sisson agreed that the Board should look for ways to find and disseminate more information to the public, especially on projects like seawater exchange. Mr. Day was not sure that there is any other information to be found on the subject at this time.
Mr. Chastain was of the opinion that Cocoa Beach is doing a good job compared with other areas in the County. He suggested sending inquiries to Ms. Cathy Hill of the St. Johns River Water Management. They could help with more public awareness.

Mr. Blaser was of the thought that the infrastructure of the City waste water pipes is not relevant to this board, and the subject should be remanded back to the City Manager.

Mr. Blaser made a motion to send a memo to the City Manager to request Staff to update the City Commission on the status of the sewer system and repairs to the system. Upon a second by Mr. Sisson, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Chairman Blaser noted a potential conflict with use of the Commission Room on the date of their next scheduled meeting, July 11th. With no pressing topics that need to be immediately addressed, the Board agreed by consensus to cancel the July 11th meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 8th.

G. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT MEETING DATE: July 11, 2013

Cancelled. Next meeting date: August 8, 2013.

Chairman Blaser adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.