

**MINUTES
MANCHESTER WATERWAY
MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT (MSBU)**

**ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

**10:00 a.m. – 10:36 a.m.
Centennial Park Recreation Center
1120 Centennial Blvd, Port Charlotte, Florida**

Members Present: Dennis Peck, Chair
Kevin Peregoy, Vice Chair
Lamont Whims

Members Absent: None

County Staff: Erica Hayes, Community Liaison
Michael Benjamin, Projects Manager

Guests: Sign in Sheet Attached

Call to Order / Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Changes to the Agenda / Motion to Approve Changes:

None

Citizen Input on Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit):

Leo Beer (resident; 18598 Arapahoe Circle) addressed the Board with two primary concerns:

- Navigation/shoaling near the Lewis Creek entrance area (referenced around Marker 22). Mr. Beard reported noticeable filling-in that has limited navigability during unusually low winter tides. He emphasized that this location is the primary access point in and out of the Manchester Waterway system and requested the Board consider it a priority area for dredging review.
- No-wake signage and enforcement. Mr. Beard noted that a no-wake/slow-speed sign previously mounted near a green marker (he believed Marker 19, number uncertain) was destroyed during Hurricane Ian and has not been replaced. He reported frequent high-speed traffic and significant wakes that may accelerate erosion and damage seawalls. He stated Marine Patrol enforcement is complaint-based and requested additional attention to signage and enforcement. Mr. Beard also noted he installed private signage on his property to encourage no-wake behavior and expressed interest in potentially serving as a Board member.

Approval of the Minutes:

The December 18, 2025, minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Update: Manchester Waterway Interior/Exterior Dredge Project: The County project manager reported that the signed purchase order was received back from APTIM Engineering on February 25, 2026, allowing the consultant to begin field survey work needed for design development. Board members were advised they may see surveying activity in the field within the next few weeks. APTIM will survey the interior system and provide recommendations on priority areas for dredging; the ultimate scope will be refined based on available budget and unit costs (per-cubic-yard dredging pricing was discussed generally).

- b. Bathymetric Survey/Marine Markers: Staff reported a coordination meeting occurred the prior day regarding marine markers. Staff will dispatch the County's sign/markings team (referenced as Robert and team) to locate missing markers and address markers in poor condition for repair or replacement. Staff noted prior marker survey work did not include GPS coordinates; APTIM will be asked to capture coordinates during the upcoming survey to improve placement accuracy and documentation. Clarification was provided that dredging work is procured by contract, while the County's internal sign/markings division installs and maintains marine markers/pilings.

New Business:

- a. Financial Reports: The FY26 quarter one actual expenditure and monthly funding reports were provided for review. The FY25 annual report was provided. The Board had no questions at this time.

Citizen Input on MSBU items (3 Minute Limit):

None

Advisory Board Open Discussion:

Board members discussed recent navigation conditions and noted:

- Some routes were passable for a vessel with approximately a five-foot draft around the holiday period; however, shoaling was observed in specific bends (including the S-bend/approach area) and the upcoming survey is expected to confirm conditions.
- The location of a missing marker near the island/bend area was discussed; the group referenced marker numbers including marker 20.


Schedule Meetings / Items for Next Agenda:

Future meetings are scheduled at 10:00 a.m., at the Centennial Park Recreation Center as follows:

- Thursday, May 7, 2026
- Thursday, August 27, 2026
- Thursday, November 19, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Submitted by Erica Hayes
Public Works Department


Chair Signature

5/7/26
Date

