

FEAB Minutes
July 8, 2016
3:00 pm
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL

Attendees: Mike Shelton, Gary Gover, Ron Allen, Jeanine Normand, Rick Frederick, Terry Hargroder and Shawn Graham

Honored Guests: Christian Miller, Auburn Extension; Valerie Hodgson, resident

City Representatives: Kim Burmeister, City of Fairhope Planning Department

City Council Members: None

Mike Shelton called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

May 2016 minutes were approved as written. There were no June 2016 minutes to approve as there was not a quorum for attendance at the June meeting.

Clean Marina Program:

Mike introduced Christian Miller, who works for the Auburn Extension program. He is the Clean Marina program representative for Alabama. Christian gave an overview of the Clean Marina Program, and handed out Clean Marina Program brochures (attached):

The Clean Marina Program covers MS and Alabama and is a Sea Grant Consortium program. There are only three certified Clean Marinas in Mobile / Baldwin area:

1. Dead Lake Marina (Delta)
2. Dog River Marina (Mobile)
3. Zekes (Orange Beach)

Orange Beach has adopted a policy, according to Christian, that all new marinas must be Clean Marina certified. One hurdle for many of our area marinas in obtaining Clean Marina certification is the presence of too much impermeable (paved) areas. Christian said the first step in obtaining Clean Marina certification would be for City / Harbor Board / FEAB to look at and assess the marina or marinas, according to the "checklist" provided (attached); draw up a list of corrections to be addressed; have City sign and submit the Clean Marina Pledge; take action to correct non-compliant items on the list so that the City has a passing grade; then Christian / Clean Marina team members will be invited to audit the marina/marinas to see if it passes.

Benefits for the City of Fairhope to obtain Clean Marina status would be:

1. Environmental Stewardship Recognition: marina will be promoted in all program publications and public displays.
2. Leader in Baldwin County since there is only one other marina in Baldwin County (Zekes)
3. Use of Clean Marina logo on letterhead (Harbor Board / City / Marina operators)
4. Certificate of Clean Marina Status
5. Clean Marina Flag to fly at the marina
6. News release once obtained
7. Free advertisement for the marina: business card will be provided for the Clean Marina website.

The City technically owns three marina areas:

1. Pier (City owned but managed by Gambino, leasee of pier restaurant)
2. Sea Cliff Drive leased marina/ boat yard (City owned but managed by Eastern Shore Marine, leasee)
3. Sea Cliff Drive marina boat slips (City owned and managed)

Kim mentioned that perhaps the Sea Cliff Drive marinas should be assessed separately, since they have different uses, but should be considered as one marina if applying for Clean Marina status.

Mike mentioned that the Clean Marina designation would be a good standard to be included in future leases with all City marinas as well.

Kim mentioned that the Clean Marina program fits in perfectly as a 2017 action plan for the Create a Clean Water Future program which the city has adopted. Also she said that, looking at the Clean Marina checklist, it looks like a lot of the punch list items could easily be achieved, or have already been achieved. One thing the City will need to have outlined by the FEAB before considering the pledge is: How much will retrofits cost and, in the case of leased areas, who will pay for any retrofits..the City or the leasee?

Gary said that much of the cost would likely be in-kind costs for the City of Fairhope (for providing the work/equipment).

Gary asked if there are grant opportunities, or BP monies available, for retrofitting existing marinas for Clean Water certification. Christian said there are some things in the works which have not been approved as of yet. But this may be possible in the future.

Mike said the retrofits might also be a good fit for 319 funding (storm water / Clean Water Act funding).

Mike said the first step will be obtaining permission from the Harbor Board & City for the FEAB to begin the initial assessment of the marinas, using the “checklist” as a guide. He will approach the Harbor Board / City for approval to proceed.

Bulkhead Projects

Gary said the Harbor Board is in the process of rebuilding bulk heads along Fly Creek (proposals and bids are underway). Project start date has been extended so that other options can be considered. He wondered why rock bags/ gabions are not being considered, since they promote living shorelines? Mike is not aware of these applications (gabions) being used in bulk head projects. Gary said Jade Consulting / Trey Jinright is spearheading the bulkhead projects and would be able to provide more information on what's being considered and why.

City Advisory Boards

Gary said that City advisory boards could do a better job of being more cohesive and working together. For instance, a lot of the work the FEAB does could be used by the Harbor Board, as some of the interests are the same.

Retreat at Fairhope Development

Ron obtained information on environmental assessments (performed by Goodwin Mills and Cawood) on file for the upcoming project on Fly Creek. He said the report indicated "underground storm water storage" and indicated that the overall run off would actually decrease on site after the development. Ron said the report contained water sampling data, monitoring station information, wetland assessments, etc. He passed around a few sheets of the report as an example. Mike said that it appeared the water sampling data was from the Alabama Water Watch program, and the data did not look complete. For instance some sampling dates had one or two parameters covered, and other dates had other parameters covered. He said that the complete water sampling data for these dates and areas can be found at the AWW website. Mike mentioned deficiencies with some underground storm water storage facilities, such as the one at the Bones and Babies medical plaza (Gayfer and U. S. Highway 98).

Drinking Water Quality Report

Gary asked where the City gets the drinking water samples for the Water Quality Report which is sent out yearly to residents. He said the City needs to get samples from older buildings in order to rule out possible lead contamination issues. Kim referred Gary to Dan McCrory, Water & Sewer Superintendent, for questions on this report.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.