MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
February 5, 2026, 2:00 PM
Plantation Heritage Park
1100 S Fig Tree Lane
Plantation, FL 33317

I CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Vice Chair Barry Webber.

II ROLL CALL: Roll was called; a quorum was present.

Members:

Jerry Baer	John Fiore	Jo Stanley
Cliff Berry	Peter Grady	Clive Taylor
Penny Cutt (via Teams)	Julie Greenfield (via Teams)	Barry Webber
	David Ide	

Staff:
Jay Sanford, Staff Liaison, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division
Lisa Totten, Administrative Assistant, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division

Guests: Patience Cohn, Marine Industries Association
Robert Franks, Marine Advisory Board, City of Fort Lauderdale

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Clive Taylor made the motion to approve the December 4, 2025, meeting minutes and Cliff Berry seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

VI OLD BUSINESS:

VII NEW BUSINESS:

Weekly Manatee Survey: Jay Sanford reported on the most recent manatee survey and related observations. He gave the current numbers, saying that the last count recorded 136 manatees in the county, with a peak of 195 for the season, and stated that they will see where the numbers end up on the next count.

EMLEG: Mr. Sanford presented the EMLEG FY 26/27 Application Submission Overview and noted that Broward Sherriff's Office (BSO) has requested an increase to $54.00 per hour. The

other agencies did not ask for an increase from the $52 per hour rate. Mr. Sanford also noted that the city of Hollywood has put in an additional application for two sets of night vision goggles and he reminded the members that this was previously done for BSO. Mr. Sanford explained that the city of Wilton Manors submitted an EMLEG application requesting funding for a new 115-horsepower outboard motor for their patrol boat. He noted that the committee generally does not fund boats or motors anymore and that this particular item could be removed later via a line-item veto when they reach the voting stage, which he indicated typically happens at the April meeting. He added that historically they have encouraged agencies seeking boats or motors to apply to FIND instead.

Mr. Sanford explained that the $24,000 listed at the top of the Broward County funding request is intended to fully fund classes for everyone, whether they specifically request them or not. He noted that the Broward Sheriff's Office did not ask for training funds but had already sent someone in the current fiscal year to an air boat course, so the committee allocates training money to them with the expectation that it will be used. He mentioned that Hillsboro only requested two classes even though they are normally funded for three, and that the training for this year would be a basic course rather than the advanced course funded last year, focusing on basic boat handling for new officers and officers who work the grant.

Mr. Sanford then reviewed the EMLEG FY 24/25 Project Payments and Balances, he outlined the EMLEG Grant Review Schedule, including the overview, presentations, member reports, and final presentations. He also mentioned that the EMLEG City totals from FY 94-25 are included in the packet.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: NONE

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: Mr. Taylor mentioned that the city of Dania Beach does not currently have a MAB.

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: NONE.

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: Penny Cutt reported that the Pompano Beach marine advisory board was continuing to discuss requiring charter boats using Alsdorf Park to register with the city, so that charter operators who pick up and drop off there would be covered under a formal registration system tied to city liability and related protections. Mr. Sanford added that, according to the board chair, jet ski rental operators were being removed from the site and that charter use would be limited to designated areas for brief pick-up and drop-off rather than allowing boats to tie up for extended periods. Ms. Cutt also said they are continuing to discuss how to create an area along Alsdorf Park on the FIND side, along the Intracoastal, that could be used for barge loading. She explained that the intent is for this barge-loading area to have limited access and limited, scheduled hours, and to be formalized in a way that prevents it from interfering with or limiting the public's use. Mr. Sanford noted that the county already has a small, fenced area there used for barge work related to Deerfield Island and that additional barge loading in that area could provide a safe option for construction companies on the north side, as long as barges could be moved out of the way.

XII MAB REPORTS: During comments from the city of Fort Lauderdale marine advisory board, Robert Franks stated that barge loading has become an increasingly acute issue as more seawall construction occurs, explaining that contractors generally must go down to the Dania cut-off canal to load and then travel back up the river because there is no practical place farther upriver to load a barge, and he said locations farther up the river need to be identified for this purpose. Patience Cohn emphasized the growing need for safe, designated barge loading sites to support marine construction and expressed support for formally planning such locations, including along the river and near Dania cut-off canal. Mr. Sanford added that the Port does allow barge loading but that it is difficult due to security and often cost prohibitive, and he referred to property near the Dania cut-off canal and power line area that has long been viewed as a strong candidate for development as a barge loading site, given road access and adequate waterway width, even though barges would still need to pass through the Port by water.

Mr. Franks reported that charter boats are an issue, explaining that small charter vessels serving the sandbar often pick up passengers wherever they can and create problems when they remain in place for long periods or leave trash. David Ide noted that some charter operations were using local parks, such as Lewis Landing, where customers park throughout the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Sanford stated that commercial operators are required to have both a license and parking.

Mr. Franks mentions the crowding on the river and the need for enforcement of existing ordinances and additional code enforcement personnel. Mr. Sanford and other members discuss the impact of new docks and sea walls on river navigation as well as the challenges of enforcing existing regulations. Mr. Franks also reported that, over the past couple of years, the board has been active in obtaining a bathymetric survey of the river, and he credited Ms. Cohn and Jonathan for being the main impetus behind that effort. He explained that the bathymetric chart shows where the channel is and where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' channel lines are located. Mr. Franks said that the City of Fort Lauderdale's GIS staff then used this bathymetric information to map the property lines along the river and to draw lines showing what is 25 feet from the property line and what is 25% and 30% from the property lines, creating a full set of contour lines for the river so they can clearly see existing conditions before proposing any changes. He stated that this information is available online as two related datasets: the bathymetric survey itself and the city's GIS survey with the contour and setback lines. Ms. Cohn added that many property owners believe they own out to the water, while in fact the water management authorities hold easements along much of the waterfront. Mr. Franks stated that this information is available to the public and Mr. Sanford requested the links so that it could be shared with interested members.

XIII LIAISON'S REPORT: Mr. Sanford reminded members of the attendance requirements, explaining that members may miss up to four meetings per year but not more than three in a row. He announced that the Broward County Waterway Cleanup is scheduled for March 7, 2026. Mr. Sanford also reported that Broward County is applying to FWC for grants related to the West Broward boat ramp, which was previously funded from BBIP, and the Markham Park boat ramp, which the committee had previously funded for repair and replacement on the freshwater side. He asked whether the committee would be willing to provide letters of recommendation in support of these grant applications to which Peter Grady made a

motion for staff to write the letters of support. The motion was seconded by David Ide and was approved unanimously.

XIV MAC MEMBER COMMENTS: Cliff Berry reported that he visited Deerfield Island Park during his review of the BBIP grant application, and described the island park as a jewel of the county and a hidden gem. Mr. Berry recommended that anyone who has not been there should visit. Mr. Sanford concurred, and explained that a boardwalk on the island was built with FIND funding and that, following its installation, the county improved access by purchasing mulch, bringing in crushed gravel as a base, and installing rubber walkways that now connect the entire island and the boardwalk in a loop, making the site ADA accessible. He also noted that the island feels remote despite its proximity to surrounding development, described the presence of a shuttle and a partnership with the Guy Harvey Foundation and the City of Deerfield Beach to build a center at Sullivan Park, and said they are developing an educational curriculum to allow school groups to visit. He mentioned features such as a butterfly garden and the ongoing work to remove Australian pine and other invasive species, as well as the presence of ospreys and sharks in the lagoon. Chair Fiore asked about providing additional docking so that larger boats could access the island, and Mr. Sanford explained that that project would be going to FIND for funding and likely also come before this committee. He explained that the plan includes widening one of the harbor entrances, replacing interior finger piers and steep ramps with a lateral dock and longer gangway, and adding a gangway and dock outside the harbor to serve as the primary shuttle access point, along with a new ferry boat that can accommodate school groups.

Chair Fiore inquired about the future of Secret Woods Nature Center and its potential reopening. Mr. Sanford noted the challenges of obtaining FEMA funding, which is necessary for the park's reopening.

XX ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 PM by Chair Fiore.