MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
October 1, 2026, 2:00 PM
Nova Southeastern Oceanographic Center
8000 N Ocean Dr
Dania Beach, FL 33004

I CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM by Chair John Fiore.

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

Members:

Afeefa Abdool-Ghany	Josh Dotoli	Joseph Martinet
Jerry Baer	John Fiore	Jo Stanley (via Teams)
Cliff Berry	Peter Grady (via Teams)	Barry Webber
Penny Cutt	Julie Greenfield (via Teams)	

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

Guests: Jonathan Thompson, Halmos College, NSU Florida
JR Kerfoot, Halmos College, NSU Florida
Lt. Zachary Dudas, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Michel Therrien, Broward County, Environmental Management Group

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: J.R. Kerfoot, Chair of the Marine Environmental Sciences Group at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), presented an overview of research at the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences Oceanographic Center. Jonathan Thompson, Associate Dean for Research, welcomed the Committee. Mr. Kerfoot described the approximately 86,000-square-foot research facility and its undergraduate and graduate programs in marine biology, environmental science, and oceanography. He highlighted work on deep-sea ecosystems and fisheries, including research following an oil spill and identification of previously undocumented fish species, as well as shark genetics and tagging, sea turtle nesting surveys, and community education.

Mr. Kerfoot reviewed NSU's coral reef research and restoration activities, including coral relocation, propagation, larval settlement studies, and onshore and offshore nurseries. He also discussed research involving seagrass habitats, marine contaminants and water chemistry, manatees, coastal currents, remote sensing, environmental DNA (eDNA), and marine food webs. Mr. Kerfoot described the Marine Environmental Education Center which provides educational programs and opportunities to learn about sea turtles.

During questions, members discussed the spread of the invasive seagrass Halophila stipulacea, shark populations and attacks, changes in reef predator and parrotfish populations, and the relationship between scientific findings and fisheries regulations. Mr. Kerfoot described potential

use of hyperspectral imagery to monitor invasive seagrass and explained the challenges of studying complex marine ecosystems and translating research into policy. Chair Fiore also asked about the proposed sand bypass project at Port Everglades. Mr. Kerfoot stated that his staff had not specifically studied that project, but it could be considered for future research. Members thanked NSU for hosting the meeting and the informative presentation.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Barry Webber made the motion to approve September 3, 2026, meeting minutes and Josh Dotoli seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

VI OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII NEW BUSINESS:

2027/2028 BBIP Grant Application by Broward County for Deerfield Island Marina Basin Dock, Phase II

Jay Sanford reviewed Broward County's Phase II application requesting $700,000 in Broward Boating Improvement Program (BBIP) funds for the Deerfield Island marina basin dock, with an additional $700,000 anticipated from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). The proposed project would reconfigure the marina basin with approximately 120 feet of linear dock, remove existing finger docks, and widen the basin entrance. Mr. Sanford stated that the project was likely a couple of years away and would receive a more detailed presentation and Committee review at the next meeting, with an opportunity for a member to visit Deerfield Island. Penny Cutt stated that she would recuse herself from this application, and Mr. Sanford indicated that a conflict form would be provided. No vote was taken on the marina basin application.

2027/2028 BBIP Grant Application by Broward County for Deerfield Island ADA Dock, Phase II

Mr. Sanford requested expedited review of the Phase II ADA dock application, explaining that a larger ferry boat had been purchased but could not use the existing marina basin. The project would install an 8-foot-by-36-foot floating dock, a 6-foot-by-30-foot gangway, and pilings, using an existing dock to be repurposed from another location. One side would accommodate the ferry and the other would serve recreational boaters, providing accessible access to Deerfield Island and supporting student field trips in partnership with the Guy Harvey Foundation and the City of Deerfield Beach. Mr. Sanford explained that funds approved for an earlier version of the dock had not been transferred into the budget and that project costs had risen to more than $400,000. County capital matching funds were in place, with approximately $212,993 requested from BBIP.

Cliff Berry made a motion to expedite the ADA dock application so that it could be considered at this meeting, and Barry Webber seconded. The motion carried. Mr. Sanford reported that permits and necessary variances had been obtained, bids were already in hand, and construction was expected to take approximately six to nine months once funded. Expedited consideration would allow the request to be included in the first FY 2027 budget supplemental before the existing bid expired. Mr. Sanford reviewed the application scoring criteria, including accessibility, navigable waters, recreational and educational use, and environmental / ecological benefits. Members scored

the application at an average of 94.78, above the required threshold of 70, allowing the project to be recommended for County funding. Ms. Cutt clarified that she did not need to recuse herself from the ADA dock application.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: NONE

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: Jerry Baer reported that the Hollywood Marine Advisory Board had recently resumed meeting after approximately six months without a meeting. The board now had sufficient membership to meet and had selected officers. Mr. Baer stated that he expected to become a board member, pending formal approval.

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: Penny Cutt stated that she did not attend the most recent Pompano Beach MAB meeting.

XII LIAISON'S REPORT: Mr. Sanford reviewed Committee attendance requirements, noting that four absences in a year or three consecutive absences can result in removal. He advised that two appointments were scheduled for consideration on the October 6, 2026, County Commission agenda, including Kelvin Haynes reappointment and a prospective member from Pompano Beach. He encouraged recruitment of additional members, particularly people familiar with freshwater boating.

Mr. Sanford reported meeting with a boater regarding potential improvements to the ramps at Everglades Holiday Park. He noted that the Committee had allocated approximately $2.7 million in BBIP funds toward the park's $13 million renovation, which included three double-width boat ramps with floating docks. Although the ramps are well equipped, he had received concerns about trailers or vehicles striking curbs and welcomed suggestions for improvements. Mr. Sanford reminded members that the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (FLIBS) would be held October 28 through November 1, 2026, encouraged support for the event, and noted that boat registration revenues help fund BBIP projects.

XIII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS: Cliff Berry inquired about docks and a waterfront structure near the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Sanford explained that BBIP had participated in funding three aluminum docks but not the concrete dock nearest the FEC bridge. He clarified that the railed structure is currently an observation platform rather than a dock for boaters; it was funded by FIND and the City of Fort Lauderdale. Conversion to boating use would depend on available capacity under the County's manatee protection plan.

Chair Fiore asked about the status of the manatee protection plan. Mr. Sanford reported that, according to Marine Industries, there was County Commission support for revisiting the plan and potentially reallocating allowable slips among its geographic zones. He explained that restrictions in the southern zone, south of Sunrise Boulevard, had limited opportunities for new boating facilities, even though capacity remained in northern areas. Members discussed how potential reallocation and redevelopment could affect future boating access.

XIV ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM by Chair Fiore.