



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept. *AE*

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2025007

CEER #2025007, titled derelict boats, was received by the County from Patrick J. Waters.

Citizen Statement:

Derelict boats are being removed at taxpayers expense. Derelict boats can also emit fuel and oils to our waterways and the County is paying for their removal not the boat owners.

Citizen Recommendation:

I recommend we offer a percentage of the removal costs to for lack of a better term bounty hunters that research and expose the boats owner and allow the County to make those people accountable for the removal and or costs.

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County's Boating & Waterways Program (B&W Program) coordinates the removal of derelict vessels in collaboration with on-water law enforcement, specifically the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The B&W Program has removed approximately 327 derelict and/or abandoned vessels from the County's waterways since 2007. The vast majority of these removals were funded through grants from partners like the Florida Inland Navigation District, FWC, and the Brevard Tourist Development Council (TDC). A collaborative County-wide DV Removal Project is currently underway, funded largely by hurricane response funds from the State (FWC) and grant funding from the TDC.

The removal process can be challenging and lengthy as Florida Statutes govern derelict and abandoned vessels, which must be officially designated as such by state or local law enforcement. Any alleged derelict or abandoned vessels must first be cleared by law enforcement before any County removals can take place. Only law enforcement

officers are allowed to take initial action on sunken vessels; the County or other local government entities cannot legally touch a vessel until a removal authorization letter is issued.

Owners of derelict vessels can be deemed responsible for their removal and associated costs. Law enforcement investigations are conducted to locate vessel owners and hold owners accountable. If located, legal action may be taken through the court system to prosecute owners.

Brevard County actively participates in regional and statewide waterway management workshops to stay informed of current regulations and management strategies for our expansive waterways. The County participates in regional monthly meetings with FWC and related region on-water law enforcement to discuss county-wide issues regarding long-term stored, hazardous, abandoned, and derelict vessels.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2025007, as it does not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter because Florida Statute governs derelict vessel designation and court-ordered costs are recovered when possible as detailed in the staff analysis.

CC: Frank Abbate, County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 4:21 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026007

Recommendation # 2026007

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026007 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Patrick J Waters
Address	5078 DUSON WAY, Rockledge FL 32955
Phone	(321) 266-9979
Email	patrick.waters01@yahoo.com
Alternate Email	patrick.waters01@yahoo.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026007
Recommendation Title	derelict boats
Areas Affected	Lagoon
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	derelict boats are being removed at taxpayers expense. Derelict boats can also emit fuel and oils to our waterways and the County is paying for their removal not the boat owners.
Recommendation	I recommend we offer a percentage of the removal costs to for lack of a better term bounty hunters that research and expose the boats owner and allow the County to make those people accountable for the removal and or costs.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.