



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

Murdock Administration Building, 18500 Murdock Circle,
Building B, Room B-106, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

<u>Board Members:</u>	<u>District:</u>
Don McCormick.....	District 2
Nichole Beyer	District 3
Robert Wibbeler.....	District 1
Wendy Lang	District 5
Stas Matias, Chair	District 4
Vacant.....	Member-at-Large
Hank Killion.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

January 4, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order:

Stas Matias called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Moody asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call / Determination of a Quorum

Upon Secretary Bennett calling the roll call, it was noted a quorum was present. Nichole Beyer was absent.

Present

Stas Matias
Don McCormick
Robert Wibbeler
Hank Killion
Wendy Lang
Stephen R. Deutsch

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from December 7th, 2023.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the December 7th, 2023, minutes, seconded by **Mr. Killion** the motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

Damian Ochab, SMSKA, commented about the severe erosion on Manasota Key beach. There is a development on Beach Rd, 2730 Beach Rd, that has been approved by the board and DEP to go ahead. It is 4 stories high and there are two different plans with one showing a pool that is parallel to the beach. Which could effect turtles. He wanted to understand Natural Resources on that development. There is a concern about the beach and the erosion and the turtles. We are not against development we were just wanting understanding of what action will take place to secure the beach front.

7. New Business

- Presentation by Michael Poff

Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc., gave a presentation on the following:

- 2020 Manasota Key Beach Restoration
- 2020 South Beach Nourishment
- 2021 Mitigation Reef
- 2022 Erosion Control Project (aka Stump Pass Navigation Channel and Beach Nourishment)
- Hurricane Impacts / Recovery Projects

The presentation is linked here: [Michael Poff presentation](#).

Mr. Poff answered **Mr. Ochab's** question about installing Wave Attenuation Devices (WADS) onto the shoreline. During the beach project they looked into this as an alternative. Their question was; once the sand gets on the beach how do we keep it on the beach? There're different ways to do so; breakwaters, WADS and use of coastal structures. When you're having a hard time coming up with the funding and getting everyone to abide in the funding of the sand yet alone to start building structures down at the beach. He encouraged for the renourishment to be completed and then look at what can be improved on. We need to let the beach settle with a period of time before we install any type of structure. It's a challenge that is very expensive. We will keep talking about it and once this platform is solid then maybe it will be time to look into WADs or something similar.

Wendy Lang asked **Mr. Poff** if he knows what Sanibel Island or Captiva Island is going to do after their current project? **Mr. Poff** replied that Captiva uses offshore sand and only do truck hauls to address any kind of emergency. Captiva is next week putting out to bid for their renourishment of their project. They are trying to put about 400,000 yards on their beach. Sanibel doesn't have a managed beach program. The beach adjacent to blind pass is a beneficial use like Stump Pass. The storm cause immense spreading of the sand, every little path between the homes any boardwalk path got spread out. They are doing a truck haul of 400,000 tons of sand to Sanibel. No one has ever done that volume before. They don't have an Erosion Control Line (ECL), they don't have a beach project. They were able to get a FEMA emergency Berm and they are doing that. In Lee County – He's the consultant for Estero Island and Lovers Key Beach in Bonita; we are doing some truck haul projects that are eligible for FEMA funding to address the immediate need and then they are both planning on dredge projects this year.

Commissioner Deutsch asked if there is anything like a mini groin system that could be installed to the Port Charlotte Beach Complex? That could provide for a safe and effect boat ramp that could help reduce the dredging every two or three years that we do. **Mr. Poff** replied that they did a study, where they looked at all the different alternatives available to us and theirs a seagrass bed that comes really close to the shoreline. Which makes it difficult to reclaim the beach, because the beach erodes, and you put a little sand back the grasses creep forward. They came up with different strategies and the recommended plan was to come up with a WAD that has to be flexible and be able to be modified to allow for the launching. We came up with a floating break water that's anchored.

Mr. McCormick commented that **Mr. Poff** had a couple of take a ways. He mentioned that once all this is in place, adding sand is the least of the problem and cheaper by the yard. He also commented that **Mr. Poff** mentioned it's possible to get permitting to widen the beach on this next go around. **Mr. McCormick** asked **Mr. Poff** should this committee be recommending that we go for the maximum width affordable to the county? **Mr. Poff** replied I don't think that needs to happen today. He thinks the new plan will come back with the presentation of the next ten years. At that point the options will be laid out in front of you and that would be the time for the committee to weigh in on it and make a recommendation. There's not enough information at this time for a recommendation to be placed.

Mr. Matias commented that he was wondering along the same lines as a committee what can we do to help with the beaches and appreciates Mr. Poff's input.

8. Old Business

- **Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager**
 - Water Quality

Mr. Moody commented the workshop in December was all water quality. What was discussed was the boards thoughts on terms of next steps to addressing pollution issues, and the ongoing juvenile tarpon and snook habitat conservation. If you have interest to hear what was discussed it was recorded and is available online to review. At the end of the month, we are having a One water town hall. The agenda should be posted tomorrow or no later than Wednesday. It's going to be at the Event Center starting at 9am, Wednesday, January 31st. We plan on running till about 2 or 3 pm with a lunch break. To give a preview of what to expect this will be all county speaking as it relates to Water Management and Water Quality. This is to give the public a forum to understand everything that the county does all in one place and to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback. All of this will feed into the development of the One Water plan. Which will be a guiding document that will provide the next steps and how we address water management and water quality.

Commissioner Deutsch commented that a citizen asked him; on Manasota Key is in the Englewood water district, which is driven by Sarasota County. How can we engage with water issues in Charlotte County with service when were involved with another county. **Mr. Moody** responded that this will be discussed at the Town Hall meeting. It's not just Englewood Water district it's also the City of Punta Gorda. We have these individual independent entities in the water district that we as a county don't have direct jurisdiction or control over. To answer the question part of that is through coordination. We coordinate often with the City of Punta Gorda. We know what the others are doing and we have joint meetings that we have with commissioners and city councils. With Englewood we are doing water quality sampling and monitoring in areas that they service. We make that data available and where we potentially see issues. We do this with North Port and Punta Gorda.

- Riviera Marina

Mr. Matias commented that **Secretary Bennett** took photos of Riviera Marina and there's a night an day difference of the Marina and it's looking great.

- Derelict Vessel Update Report

Elizabeth Eastes gave the board the DV update:

- 7 open cases
- 14 vessels are ready for removal
- 19 have been removed
- 5 relocated

Ms. Estates commented that she did her best to work with local law enforcement marine patrol program. They have been very helpful with giving her updates with the spread sheet and also FWC. They both have been great and on top of the removal process.

Mr. Killion asked what happens when the boats are removed? **Ms. Estates** replied if they are removed by FWC or deemed a Derelict Vessel they have gone through the entire process, the 21-day waiting, they are required by FL statue to be destroyed. Photographs of the destroying process have to be sent to Florida Motor Vehicles.

Ms. Estates mentioned that we do have 5 that have been relocated, those were At Risk vessels of being deemed derelict. The owners have taken it upon themselves to get them up to compliance, up to code and the owner has relocated the boat themselves. Those are in complete compliance with our state and local ordinance.

Commissioner Deutsch asked do we have to handle a Documented Vessel differently than a state registered vessel? **Ms. Estates** replied she can not say with 100% certainty. She has read all the FL Statues for all of the Derelict and abandoned vessels, and she has not seen any distinction between the two.

Ms. Estates responded to **Mr. Ochab's** comment about the development on Beach Road; we have recently become aware of it. Our department that has been going through the DRC process over in permitting. We are aware of it and we do have concerns.

9. Correspondence and Communication

None offered.

10. Public Comments

Damian Ochab, SMSKA, commented that on Mr. Poff's presentation there was a picture on the south end where he had before and after and current photographs. The comment is if the sand is coming in November once cleared with FEMA, what's not seen in that picture is where the Erosion Control Line (ECL) is. There has been issues with the public because what is left of the beach is all private beaches. The question is we are talking about bringing sand in hot spots; will public funded sand be put on private property? Or are you going to do just hot spots where it enhances the public portion of the beach, since this is state or federal funded money? Mr. Poff replied where we do not have construction easements and theirs no ECL, we will not place sand. If we have a permitted template and we have an ECL part of the sand will go on private property because we are allowed by the permit and the ECL. Because you wouldn't want to fill the template and not fill back to the structure line or due line because there would be a huge gulley. It would have to be on those properties that gave the construction easements and the ECL.

Karina Schmitt, lives in area, commented that she just moved into the area and the first thing she noticed was the water quality in the faucets. She was wondering if someone could explain what's going on. She lives in South Gulf Cove and the water came out brown and smelly. Commissioner Deutsch recommended for her to give Mr. Moody her contact info and he could look further into it. There was a discussion that maybe the line needs to be flushed by the county.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None offered.

12. Member Comments

Mr. Matias mentioned that he noticed the July meeting falls on Fourth of July. **Secretary Bennett** commented typically you all vote to not meet in July and August.

13. Election of Officer

- Chair

Commissioner Deutsch entertained motions for a Chairman, A motion was made by **Ms. Lang** nominating **Mr. Matias**, seconded by **Mr. Wibbeler**; hearing no other nominations **Mr. McCormick** moved to close the nomination, seconded by **Ms. Lang**; hearing no objections the motion passed unanimously.

- Vice-Chair

Commissioner Deutsch asked for a nomination for Vice-Chair; A motion was made by **Mr. McCormick** nominating **Ms. Lang**, seconded by **Mr. Killion**; hearing no other nominations **Mr. McCormick** moved to close the nomination, seconded by **Mr. Killion**; hearing no objections the motion passed unanimously.

14. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, February 1st, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106 Port Charlotte unless otherwise announced.

16. Adjournment

Motion by **Mr. McCormick** to close the meeting; seconded by **Mr. Killion**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.



Stas Matias, Chair