



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, Chair	District 2
Ellen Decker Vice-Chair	District 3
Patrick Jurek.....	District 1
Wendy Lang.....	District 5
Stas Matias.....	District 4
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Vacant.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

September 2, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order:

Don McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Don McCormick 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 determined a quorum was present.

Stas Matias was absent.

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from July 1, 2021

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve the July 1, 2021 minutes, seconded by **Mr. Jurek** the motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

None offered.

7. New Business

Commissioner Deutsch gave an update to the board members on the Riviera Marina which were:

- Has an open code case, to clean up the property
- The special magistrate gave an order for the property to come into compliance within 180 days

- It's under new ownership, that is working on cleaning up the property

Roger DeBruler, Environmental Specialist, informed the members the history of the property. DEP and Code Compliance are working to get this property under compliance.

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager, expressed his takeaway with this is two different groups within the DEP are now involved with this: the DEP Emergency Response team and the DEP Enforcement group. The DEP Emergency Response team have started to work together with the state to get the boats out as soon as possible. The DEP Emergency Response team doesn't have criminal enforcement abilities; however, the DEP Enforcement group does. One of the positive outcomes of this is that we now have strong established communications with both groups within the DEP and the Coast Guard.

Mr. Moody commented that the DEP contracts with the Coast Guard so any spills or observations within the water ways DEP contacts the Coast Guard to perform the initial inspection. Through this, we now have direct communication with DEP and the Coast Guard.

There was a discussion on liveboards and who is at fault here and what legal actions can be done.

Ms. Lang suggested for us to add this to our agenda.

Mr. McCormick recommended for the Riviera Marina to be added to our agenda monthly under Old Business.

Mr. Moody stated when he visited the Riviera Marina on August 10th, they did not observe liveboards on the property at that time. He also did not observe any evidence of active, leaking or discharge onto the land or onto the property at the time that he was there. There were a lot of containers of fluids that were present on the property. DEP was actively discussing with them during the visit to get movement on getting those removed as soon as possible. While it wasn't an active environmental hazard right then, it just takes one big storm to come through and create problems.

Commissioner Deutsch stated that vessels on the water are not to discharge waste into the water 9 nautical miles from the coastline. Instead, it's supposed to go into a holding tank. He explained that this is a complicated process with the overlapping between the local, state, and Federal jurisdictions. However, on the Riviera Marina it looks like they are all finally on the same page.

8. Old Business

- **Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager**

- Water Quality

Mr. Moody commented that they are deep in development on the water quality plan the current timeline for that April 1st of 2022, to get boots on the ground and get samples collected. The draft plan is starting to circulate through the different agencies to review and provide feedback. They are working on ways to reach out to the public and let them know about what is in the works to receive feedback.

Mr. Moody informed the board that we have been a little unfortunate as of late when it comes to Red Tide, with the west worldly winds blowing in the last couple of days and bringing with it the brown murky water and the smell. These conditions are being experienced up and down the SW coast canal system, complaining about the

same thing. The actual identified levels of Red Tide, via samples, have gone down in recent research. Pinellas and Sarasota county have been hit hard with Red Tide. Speaking with the people in the Manasota Key and Englewood area, they suggested to develop an information system or a one stop resource for people to better understand the conditions of the beaches. Currently there is information out there with information on the beaches, however, they are in multiple areas. You would have to know what sites to go to in order to piece it all together. He's currently looking into how to consolidate the information into one location.

Ms. Decker mentioned that the latest water quality presentation at Mote Marine by the Red Tide Institute, Dr. Cynthia Heil stated that one of the big problems is when the red tide kills the fish, as the fish decays, it also then feeds on that decaying fish; it's creating its own food. The fish clean up has been a big topic and thanked the County for cleaning up the dead fish on the public beach. The residents of Manasota Key are asking the County to continue to try to get state reimbursement. That way they a routine could be developed with a contractor to pick up the dead fish along the State shoreline.

Commissioner Deutsch updated Ms. Decker with news that Community Services and Public works are regularly cleaning up all the county property. The state is periodically cleaning up the state property when it gets to a certain level or point. We have had contact and are in contact with the state. We also have request from private beach residents wanting assistance removing the dead fish. At this point we can not do that, but we have put a special dumpster at Chadwick Cove.

Mr. Anlauf commented that in the Clearwater beach area they catch the fish out in the gulf before they reached the shore. That is something that can be done and maybe our county needs to talk to them about how they fund it and implemented it.

- **Shore Birds and Sea Birds**

Susie Derheimer stated they have wrapped up their Shore Bird and Sea Bird nesting season on August 31st. Stump Pass State park, we saw not only an increase in our Least Turn nesting; we had in a long time Black Skimmer colony that had successful nesting. At Stump Pass we had 50 documented Least Turn fledges, 31 Black Skimmer fledges. Our other successful colony was on the north area of Boca Grande, we had an excellent Least Turn colony there. There were 32 documented Least Turn fledges. There was a Black Skimmer colony that laid eggs but ended up being abandoned. On Bird Island we had our first documented successful American Oyster Catcher nest. The only issue we had with nesting was losing our colony on Palm Island this year. We had one Wilson Clover nest in Stump Pass state park that was successful. They believe they had a successful nest with a Wilson Clover on Boca Grande because they were able to find evidence of fledgling.

Susan Foley-Pieri gave an update on Sea Turtles. Sea Turtle season ends on October 31st. There is currently 1667 reported nest of which 1575 were Logger Head and 91 are Green Back and 1 Kemps Ridley. Its important to know that there is no permit holder on LGI this year and that would account for maybe a couple hundred more nest. In comparison to 2020 this year is greater and would be about the same as 2019 had we had the count from LGI. Zone 15 on Manasota Key which is the north section on Manasota Key that received the new sand was a hot spot for the sea turtles this year. We had 306 nest which averages more than all of Stump Pass state park.

Pat Jurek asked a few months ago you said you lost your volunteer on one of the Islands.

Ms. Foley-Pieri answered yes, on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI). There was never a volunteer this year. A couple people had taken the test and never past the test. We tried to reach out to the Coastal Wildlife Club (CWC) and

the FWC and it was determined there wasn't enough time this season to get the program working for them to go out to LGI.

○ **Derelict Vessel Update Report**

Roger Debruler, Environmental Specialist, commented to round out Riviera there are 4 boats outside of Riviera one of them did not get permission from the park out there, 3 sailboats however did. The officer is working on trying to find the owners of those 3 sailboats to get them removed. The Dancing Iguana which is the main ship that sunk outside of Alligator creek is scheduled to be removed.

9. Correspondence and Communication
None offered.

10. Public Comments
None offered.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants
None offered.

12. Member Comments

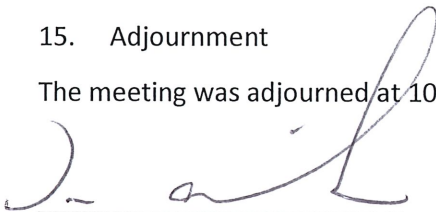
Ms. Decker thanked the Newspaper for their article on the United States Army Corps of Engineers who are being sued by US Sugar and Florida Crystals for keeping Lake Okeechobee levels lower, so they don't have to discharge on it so much. She feels we have really made advances in helping to protect the "feeding" of the red tide.

14. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106 Port Charlotte unless otherwise announced.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.



Don McCormick, Chair