



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
Nichole Beyer	District 3
Vacant	District 1
Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair.....	District 5
Stas Matias.....	District 4
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Vacant.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

March 3, 2022, 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.

Jeff Anlauf was absent.

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from January 6, 2022

Mr. Matias made a motion to approve the January 6, 2022, minutes, seconded by **Ms. Lang** the motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

Damian Ochab, SMSKA, spoke about All Clams on Deck. This caught his attention because it falls in line with what his members have been asking what we can do personally, as residents, to help with clearing the water. Especially the estuaries and the intercoastal. Another thing that caught his eye was their interest in the Charlotte Harbor. Their aim is to enhance estuarine resiliency by implementing large scale restoration initiatives for seagrass and clam populations. This hits all the marks that has been discussed in regard to getting cleaner waters in the area. From his understanding if you have cleaner waters you have better seagrass growth, which also helps clean the water. Apparently, in the past there was a lot of clam population in Charlotte Harbor, that's

been fished out. Now there are a lot of different groups that are talking clam restoration or bivalve restoration. He thought this would be a great place for this to be brought up and receive more information on.

Commissioner Deutsch asked if oysters do a better job at cleaning the water than clams? He mentioned awhile ago they used replenish some of the oyster areas around here, and he asked if it was still happening?

Tina Powell, Parks and Natural Resources Manager, answered that was through sea grant. She would have to get with the new sea grant agent and find out the status on that. That was something they were the primary driver of.

Commissioner Deutsch asked was there anything that this group and/or the commission can do? Through perusing grants or trying to actively move ahead.

Ms. Lang suggested for Jennifer Hecker, Executive Director of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) to be reached because she may have some funding to help out. They are currently looking for projects similar to this one. Maybe we could have her come and speak along with All Clams on Deck.

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager, commented there are multiple groups. **Commissioner Deutsch** asked why does the water look cleaner? **Mr. Moody** replied it appears clean to people because right now we are in the midst of the dry season. He expresses that people interpret water during the wet season as dirty because of they see a lot of botanic and organic matter coming down Peace and Myakka River, which is natural. We want to see that, if we see clear water during raining season then that's a time to worry. He has been in communication with other groups who are also interested in this. He informed the group that there is already a habitat suitability document for clam restoration, that is out there and was developed in partnership with CHNEP to help guide this. There are also meetings coming up amongst multiple agencies to talk about how this works. One of his concerns is if they are going to propose something for the county to fund, he wants to feel comfortable that the projects going to be done in away that we not only know how it's going to be done but we can track its success. So, we can evaluate how successful it is. There are meetings coming up to talk about this.

Mr. McCormick stated for the record we now have a Quorum, **Nichole Beyer** Arrived.

***Mr. Matias** made a motion to invite further contact with claims on deck and also to reach out to Jennifer Hecker to invite her to a future meeting to see if CHNEP has plans for our harbor, regarding Bivalves, seconded by **Ms. Lang**; the motion passed unanimously.*

Ms. Lang recommended for **Ms. Hecker** to give us a general synopsis of what's going on in CHNEP at this point in time.

7. New Business

None offered.

8. Old Business

- Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager
- Water Quality

Mr. Moody mentioned that the water quality summit is coming up on Monday, March 7th, 2022, at 9am -noon. There will be a large variety of speakers and the county will be speaking on what they are working on in relation to water quality. They will have Q and A sessions for the public. Questions can be submitted online on the One

Charlotte One Water website page. This will be filmed, not live streamed, but it will be rebroadcasted on CCTV.

Mr. Moody commented that RFP for the water quality monitoring program has been posted, expected to close March 24th. Hopefully that means we will have some negotiations in April. With a hope for boots on the ground by the time the wet season starts. That said during the summit we will have another opportunity to follow up from the information we had in January for more input on where we were purposing to monitor.

- SW Resiliency Compact update

Mr. Moody stated two grants were approved, one that will fund vulnerability survey that will be done for any participants in the compact. In other words, it's a model to predict areas that are going to be potentially impacted as a result of sea level rise and climate change. The second grant approved for a GAP analysis, which is a study to see what jurisdictions are doing as part of their resiliency efforts and if there are any gaps in those efforts. It's more of a study than it is a model.

- Riviera Marina

Shaun Cullinan, Zoning Official, expressed it has slowed and stopped. Due to some of the potentially outstanding ownership issues. There's not been any movement on the code case, we are preparing to go back to hearing, after the 180 days the magistrate gave for compliance. We are still within that time frame, but we are checking it regularly. As soon as that time is expired, we plan to take them back.

Commissioner Deutsch commented that it's stagnant in terms of our environmental concerns about boats in the water that shouldn't be.

- Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.
 - South Beach (Knight-Don Pedro Island) Renourishment
 - Stump Pass navigation channel project
 - Mitigation reef
 - Terminal Groin placement on Stump Pass

Matt Logan, Public Works spoke because **Mr. Poff** was not present.

Mr. Logan commented that Stump Pass dredging is going on right now. They have completed the placement of about 100,000 cubic yards on Stump Pass State Park. The past three days they have been mobilizing, pulling their equipment off the state park, to switch it over to the north tip of Palm Island. **Mr. Logan** has a meeting with them this afternoon and are hoping sometime today they will start pumping sand on Palm Island. Due to the weather, it's been a little delayed and their adjusted finish time they are projecting is April 17th.

- **Matt Logan/Zach Patchell, Public Works Engineering Projects Update Report**

Mr. Logan encouraged all to look at the MSBU update provided by Zach Patchell.

- **Derelict Vessel Update Report**

Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources, commented that:

- 20 total cases in various stages
- 3 Reoccurrence
- 4 open cases
- 2 have been removed

- 1 status in blue, owner took out of Charlotte County and took it to Lee County
- 3 are ready for removal, 2 of which were so large that the contractor wasn't able to do. Roger had to reach out to WCIND to their contractor to them removed
- 6 have been cited

Ms. Scudera mentioned that staff has sorted the shore bird monitoring, Feb. 15th. They have worked very hard this year, to prep Palm Island for the birds. Staff has sent over 2,300 post cards to the property owners throughout the entire county, for people who live on the beach or close to the beach. Goody bags have been created, for realtors, renters and new homeowners.

Beach cleaning – Biological debris discussion

Tina Powell, Parks and Natural Resources Manager, commented that she is here with info about the fish kill clean up opportunities or options for the next time we have Red Tide. As you know, we do not have the authority to clean the state-owned lands, which includes the renourished sand that was just put down. That is considered state owned. The grant we got this year was explicit that we could not do that with the state funding, and we do not have authorization. She worked with Public Works and Solid Waste to find out the options for homeowners who are on the beach. Talking with Richard Allen, Solid Waste Operations Manager, he said they could leave it in a plastic bag in their trash can, and waste management will pick it up. As long as it's not more than the weight limit. For a practically bad year, they do have the ability to get a secondary trashcan that would be just for fish. Richard didn't have any direction from Administration on how they would handle the potential additional cost, because you would have to pay for additional cans. He's not certain if that's something that the county would do, or what they would want to do. We wouldn't be able to determine until that time. That is going to be an opportunity that Waste Management can provide. How the logistics will work, they would have to determine at that time for that particular Red Tide kill.

Damion Ochab stated he visited Siesta Key Beach and found out that condo associations hire a private company to come and clean the beach. Could Manasota Key Beach ban together, with other condo associations, to do the clean up privately? Would they need a state permit? **Ms. Scudera** replied correct, a permit will be needed during sea turtle nesting season, and in general. **Mr. Ochab** would that be through Florida DEP? **Ms. Scudera**, yes.

9. Correspondence and Communication
None offered.

10. Public Comments

Mr. Ochab has mentioned at a couple of meetings about the issue on the south end of the island, as it relates to public vs. private property. This continues to be an issue and some confrontations have happened. He recently mentioned to one of the commissioners that an educational workshop is needed for explanation on the Mean High-Water Line (MHWL) vs Erosion Control Line (ECL). They went through the FL state DEP to get clarification on post and signs. On the south end there are a number of signs that say get off my beach, because people are saying it's private property all the way to the water's edge. He was told by DEP that mono post and signs are allowed on the beach with no regulations on what it says. Unfortunately, there are a lot of post-up on the beach. Good news is that the state statute states, if they are linked by chain or roping, is considered a structure and not a mono post, which those are not allowed. Bottom line is they need help in educating so we can get neighbors to agree to share the beach.

Commissioner Deutsch asked are we talking about dozens of people or hundreds of people, that are posting signs? **Mr. Ochab** answered its dozens, and they are by the public access points. **Commissioner Deutsch** replied

there is a grey area, so it will continue to be an issue. Suggested maybe a sign with direction of what areas are public for the visitors. **Mr. Ochab** answered that may help. He feels that some form of education though may help too. He will continue to talk to the state and is hoping that they will have something before summer.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None offered.

12. Member Comments

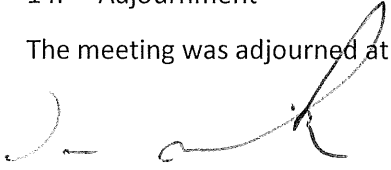
None offered.

13. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106 Port Charlotte unless otherwise announced.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.



Don McCormick, Chair