



## 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
Jeff Anlauf, Vice-Chair .....	Member-at-Large
Hank Killion.....	Member-at-Large

### MINUTES

**June 1, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.**

1. Call to Order:

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

**County Attorney, Janette Knowlton** assisted with nominating a Chair, Pro-Tem.

Ms. Knowlton opened the floor for nominations for the chair, Pro-Tem:

**Mr. Wibbeler** made a motion to nominate Don McCormick, seconded by **Ms. Lang**; there were no other nominations.

Ms. Knowlton opened the floor for voting Mr. McCormick as Chair, Pro-Tem, for today's meeting. The motion carried; with 3-yays and 1-nay (Mr. McCormick).

2. Pledge of Allegiance

**Commissioner Deutsch** 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.

(Stas Matias – Absent, Jeff Anlauf – Absent and Hank Killion – Absent)

### Present

Don McCormick

Nichole Beyer

Robert Wibbeler

Wendy Lang

4. Approval of Minutes

- Approve the Minutes from May 4, 2023

**Ms. Lang** made a motion to approve the May 4, 2023, minutes, seconded by **Mr. Wibbeler** the motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

None offered.

7. New Business

- Discuss places of interest for a group field trip

**Ms. Lang** inquired if they are permitted too as we discussed. **County Attorney Knowlton** explained that advisory boards are permitted to do field trips provided there is no discussion of matters that will come back before the board. She recommends noticing it as a regular meeting, brief minutes will be taken and that they drive separately. However, driving together can happen and transportation must be provided for public for in case they want to attend. If a county vehicle is taken, there would need to be a meeting place established in case if any of the public would like to attend.

8. Old Business

- Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager
  - Water Quality

**Mr. Moody** gave a brief update about a recent CHNEP Policy Meeting. Where Charlotte County and Polk County were invited to discuss One Water strategies. They have started an eternal kick off meeting to discuss the One Water plan on Monday. Brainstorming sessions with engineering consultants have started. They have signed an agreement with DEP to acquire equipment that the aquatic preserves will manage for monitoring water quality that is currently at the east wall.

**Mr. Moody** explained that he is working on a process of building up stakeholder groups in different subject matters to provide feedback on how we can work with civic groups and private entities to advance One Water concepts. He's currently talking to the developers, and he would like to start talking to the Realtors of the industry. He's also been in communication with Community Development. He's open to any recommendations of folks that would be good or groups that would be good to reach out too. To start building that stakeholder feedback group.

There was a small discussion about ways to reduce water usage and ways to reach audiences with education of different resources to help with water quality.

- Riviera Marina

**Mr. Moody** commented that the civil lawsuits is finally clearing up and the sale of the property is set to close in the next couple of weeks. His understanding is the owners of the restaurant are the ones that are inquiring the

land and are eager to clean up the land. The new owners are the ones who hired a contractor to go in and start the initial clean up before the civil lawsuits began. There was a pause on clean up between the year and half due to the now current owners taking a break of spending their money without the settlement being settled.

- **Matt Logan - Public Works**
- South Beach (Knight-Don Pedro Island) Renourishment
- Stump Pass navigation channel project
- Mitigation reef
- Terminal Groin placement on Stump Pass

**Mr. Logan** commented that they are still working through the FEMA process. They are also working on this year annual beach management funding trying to get the application to go through the internal process. They are monitoring the beaches and making sure they know where the hot spots and losses are. Now it's just getting funding in place so they can do the repair work.

For the Engineering Projects **Mr. Logan** directed everyone to the MSBU Report created by Zach Patchell.

- Parks and Natural Resources Update
  - Shore Birds

**Susie Derheimer, Natural Resources**, commented that there is an active Least Terns Colony on Stump Pass, that's already producing chicks. As of last week:

#### Stump Pass

- 53 Nest
- 3 chicks
- 92 Adult Least Terns
- 3 Wilson's Plovers chicks – 1 hatched

#### Boaca Grande

- 50+ nest of Least Terns
- 23 Least Terns chicks
- 5 nest of Black Skimmers

#### Bird Island

- 1 American Oystercatcher nest

#### Palm Island

- Lost a Least Terns colony due to Coyote predation

- Turtles

**Ms. Derheimer** passed out Sea Turtle Nesting Trends chart informing the board of the Number of Marine Turtle Nests Recorded.

- 473 nest – this time last year
- 616 nest – this year
- 5 – loggerhead
- 12 – greens
- 1 Kemps Ridley nest on Stump Pass

**Ms. Derheimer** mentioned that not all beaches are seeing these numbers like Southwest Florida. She also gave an update about the turtle light displays. Unfortunately, Barnacles on Boca Grande the display was gone, and she's not sure what happened. Gulf Coast Hardware and Ace still have their displays. Overall, this has been a success and they are going to continue with the displays.

**Mr. Wibbeler** inquired if the source of the bulbs local; who makes them? Ms. Derheimer replied they Mr. Wibbeler are not made local and that's part of the issue. We provide a list of vendors, but the issue is that a lot of the distributors only sell in large quantity, which can discourage people because of cost. Also, a lot of the distributors are not on the local hardware vendors list.

- DV Reports

**Ms. Scudera** gave an update on the DV report.

- 17 open cases
- 14 ready for removal
- 9 removed
- 4 relocated

## 9. Correspondence and Communication

**Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned that Mr. Anlauf has raised the issue regarding some of the verbiage in the original documents that are involved with permitting and the approval or conditions for opening up the Manchester water way by removing the Lock. Commissioner Deutsch comments there is a section that says the canals can be restored to its original depth at one point. He has been in communication with Mr. Anlauf with looking into ways they could possibly open the Lock.

**Commissioner Deutsch** asked the members if there was someplace that would be of value to this group to think about going and talk about that field trip.

**Ms. Lang** inquired with staff for any suggestions for a place to take a field trip and what the group could benefit from the most.

**Mr. Wibbeler** inquired if there is any mechanism that we have to receive public comment about our beaches and shores? With Memorial Day just passing, did we get any feedback?

**Commissioner Deutsch** says that if there is a group that has an interest and is on the Board of County Commissions agenda to come in and express their concern about something, that interest comes and goes. Usually only a handful shows interest and show up.

**Mr. McCormick** expressed that the Manchester Waterway provides some interesting problems and concerns and thinks it would a good place to take a look. **Mr. Logan** explained the problem with that one is access, and we don't have a big enough boat to house everyone. Ms. Knowlton expressed that a video could be shown instead.

**Mr. McCormick** suggested the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. **Ms. Scudera** mentioned that if they would like to see Stump Pass, it would be best to visit it June of 2024. Viewing of the groin, renourishment, active shorebird/seabird nesting and sea turtles. That would be a great field trip to cover all those bases, if you wait till September or October nothing will be out there.

**Mr. McCormick** suggested to make a note that in June of 2024 the board would like to go out to Stump Pass and take a look.

**Mr. McCormick** asked **Mr. Moody** if he knows anything about the claim project that was recently permitted on the east wall? **Mr. Moody** replied the Building Claims Initiative is one the two habitat restoration initiatives that were funded by the state in the last session. They have wrapped up permitting and if they haven't already to start doing the seeding, it's 5 or 10 acres stretch. It's right along the east wall around the Charlotte Harbor Environmental center in that general area. Where they will be seeding it with native claims species that is a 10 year lease that they have FDAP to actually mange it, it's not for harvesting. The whole idea is to let this propagate and act as a seedbank for increase populations spreading out. They are doing another one on the Lee county side, they might be in permitting process.

**Mr. Moody** also updated the board that when it comes to the floating reefs DEP has sent out an official notice that they do require permits.

10. Public Comments

None offered.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None offered.

12. Member Comments

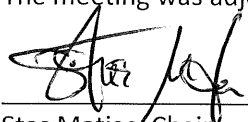
None Offered.

13. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, September 7th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106 Port Charlotte unless otherwise announced.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

  
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Stas Matias, Chair