



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>
Coty Keller, Chair	District 4
Don McCormick, Vice-Chair	District 2
Ellen Decker.....	District 3
Patrick Jurek.....	District 1
Wendy Lang.....	District 5
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Ed Hill.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

February 4, 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.
Mr. Keller and Ellen Decker were absent

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from January 7, 2021

A motion was made by Wendy Lang - minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

None offered.

7. New Business

None Offered.

8. Old Business:

- Claire Jubb, Assistant County Administrator
 - Water Quality Manager
 - SW Resiliency Compact update

Claire Jubb, Assistant County Administrator provided a written report.

- Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.
 - Manasota Key Beach Restoration Project
 - South Beach (Knight-Don Pedro Island) Renourishment
 - Stump Pass navigation channel project
 - Mitigation reef

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

- South Beach (Knight-Don Pedro Island) Renourishment

Mr. Logan states we are going to be including the north end of Knight-Don Pedro Island in the Stump Pass project that is being planned for fiscal year 2022. We are starting the process right now of getting that project initiated.

- Stump Pass navigation channel project

Mr. Logan commented that this project has held very well. It shifted further south and they are working on it. The channel has been holding at a near minus 5 foot mean low waters.

- Mitigation reef

Mr. Logan stated they are about 87% complete. Since the hurricane season has ended, they have been able to make up for lost time. Currently they are working on the South reef. Transects and surveys are being done. They are making sure that everything is done correctly. By checking into gaps and height of the stones. They had a change order completed to extend the contract time for all of the weather days that have encountered. While they did get a time extension, they are anticipating they will be done by the end of the month.

Commissioner Deutsch commented when they were first actively involved with the design and implementation of Stump Pass, one of the projections of the bases for aggressively moving ahead with support was the dollar savings that we would have in relationship to dredging. He asked if possible before the next commissioners meeting for Mr. Logan to provide dredging cost savings. Not only was this groin supposed to lengthen the period of time, it was also supposed to reduce the amount of material.

Ed Hill, Member at large, asked where are the rocks coming from? Mr. Logan answered, the rocks are coming from a quarry in the center of the state. The barges are being loaded in Tampa. A lot of the weather delays are due to rough seas and not being able to leave Tampa.

Damian Ochab, SMSKA, asked for clarification about change orders in regard to shifting grant money from one area into the funds.

Mr. Logan said the beach management funding program is very complicated. They work on this every year. DEP has always worked in our favor. Every year we apply to receive grant funds from the State. This is our cautionary

program. Typically, when we do a beach project, we get anywhere from 34-36 % cost share from the State. The only place where we get 100 % of construction paid is Stump Pass state park. What Damian is speaking of, is we had several change orders to our grant funds/agreements. One was to shift money that was not utilized and put it into a different line item. That way the money wasn't lost. The State said, since a lot of activity is going on, we will shift those funds. It's your money, we'll continue. The one Damian is referencing, there was a special program that FEMA and the department of emergency management provided. This was post Irma, they came out and said they are going to cost share. They will give us 100%, by showing them what happened. In doing that, they anticipated that FEMA was going to payout at a certain percentage. All throughout the project bi-weekly meetings were with FEMA and Coastal Engineering. At the end of it, they were able to receive a higher percentage. Since the program that they had said to dedicate a certain amount of money towards there project, because that FEMA portion came in higher, there was still a dollar figure that the Dept of emergency management had supplied to us. It was dedicated to us. Instead of them taking it back, they said we have maxed out the amount with the Department of Emergency Management. Instead of them taking that money back, they kept the money in the contract and created a section for construction. This money can now be applied to the Don-Pedro knight island.

- **Parks and Natural Resources – Jamie Scudera**
 - **Sea Turtles, Shore Birds and Sea Birds**

Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources showed the members the updated shore bird area postings that will be posted. New signs were also created about lights on the beach at night and will be posted from the beginning until the end of sea turtle nesting season.

Commissioner Deutsch commented that he understands that due to the pandemic with less population on the beach, the wildlife numbers have increased. He asked Jamie if she could give them some idea on the numbers for the shore birds and sea turtles in the past year as a result of what we have been dealing with.

Ms. Scudera replied that the numbers have stayed steady. They haven't seen a significant increase, because with the COVID people did want to be outside. Staff reported during the summer there were far more people on the beach than previous years.

There was some discussion about the dogs on the beach and how it's still an issue and seems to have increased in numbers. Also, some discussion on how educational information about dogs on the beach is delivered to the public.

- **Derelict/Abandon Vessels**

Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources, informed the members that:

- 5 were removed with 1 still on the water, waiting for tide to be removed
- 5 are ready for removal
- 3 have been cited by law enforcement
- 5 are open cases

9. Correspondence and Communication

Don McCormick stated that he has signed the two letters that was generated in our January meeting, they will be dropped off to the commissioners today. The letters were:

- [Registration tags being color coded](#)
- [Requesting to the state the definition to certain terms listed on the Florida Statue's 705 and 823](#)

10. Public Comments

Damian Ochab, SMSKA commented on Monday they will be installing 23 under the dock mini reefs. With the help of a company called Oceans Habitat. This is a floating non-permanent structure, that with each unit will be cleaning 30 thousand gallons a day. They attract big fish in the middle of the structure which then also attracts fish. At the same time this is all cleaning waters.

Mr. Hill, asked how much does each unit cost?

Mr. Ochab answered that each unit cost \$297 + installation + tax, but the installation and taxes were free due to Oceans Habitat being nonprofit and them filling out their application before 12/31/2020.

Mr. Ochab gave an update about a surveying company coming in to establish the demarcation of the Erosion Control Line on the beaches. The Association is paying for this because both the county and the state declined to bring someone in. They are doing this for an education to the public to have better understanding what is private property on the beach.

Mr. Ochab stated this isn't really something for this committee, more for parks and recreation. However, at around midnight, they see cars parked in the beach parking lot. They've inquired with the Sheriff's dept for some enforcement for removal and their response is that they cannot enforce parking rules after 9 pm. He then asked, how do you enforce overnight parking, if the Sheriff's dept cannot enforce after 9pm? He requested for specific times to be posted on the signs.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None.

12. Member Comments

Jeff Anlauf, Member-at-Large, said he wasn't sure if it is the responsibility of this committee or not, but people complain about boats going too fast. In the Manchester area, there are boats going too fast. Can this committee to get the boats to slow down?

Commissioner Deutsch said when you first get into the lock, they are supposed to slow down. Try to get the boat number and get a picture. The Sheriff's office has a marine unit.

14. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, March 4, 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 9:53 a.m.


Coty Keller, Chair

VICE CHAIRMAN



January 8, 2021

Honorable Bill Truex
Chair
Board of Charlotte County Commissioners
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Dear Commissioner, Truex:

At its monthly meeting held on January 7, 2021 the Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the County Commissioners the following:

* Restore the color coding to the annual registration stickers placed on vessels. This would facilitate law enforcement personnel identifying vessels with expired registrations.

* Undertake a campaign of Public Service Announcements that highlights the necessity of returning the tab on vessel registrations when a change of ownership takes place.

In our meeting we heard testimony from representatives of the Sheriff's Department, Sergeant William Maymon, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Officer's Jeff Goggin and Adam Brown. Roger DeBruler of the County Staff provided valuable insight, too. It became evident that the process of dealing with abandoned or poorly secured vessel is prolonged by difficulties encountered in tracing the ownership of vessels.

We strongly believe that the two recommendations we are making will make the task of enforcement proceed in a shorter time frame and thereby protect our water quality from environmental threats posed by sunken or abandoned vessels.

Sincerely,



Don McCormick
Vice-Chairman



January 8, 2021

Honorable Bill Truex
Chair
Board of Charlotte County Commissioners
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Dear Commissioner, Truex:

At its monthly meeting held on January 7, 2021 the Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the County Commissioners the following:

Florida Statute 705 and Statute 823 which deal with Abandoned and Derelict Property contain a significant number of terms that are frequently subject to interpretation. As an example, the word 'storage' is undefined. As a consequence, citations for improper storage of a vessel are rarely if ever given out because the likely outcome in a court room would be dismissal of the charge.

Our recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners is to instruct the County Staff to prepare suggested definitions that Law Enforcement personnel can cite explicitly for the BCC to present to our legislative delegation next fall.

Roger DeBruler of the County Staff would be a valuable person to involve in this process.

Sincerely,


Don McCormick
Vice-Chairman