



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

September 7, 2023, 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

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 noted a quorum was present.

(Wendy Lang– Absent)

Present

Don McCormick

Nichole Beyer

Robert Wibbeler

Stas Matias

Jeff Anlauf

Hank Killion

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from June 1st, 2023.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the June 1st, 2023, minutes, seconded by **Ms. Beyer** the motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

None offered.

7. New Business

- Discussion on attendance by Janette Knowlton.

County Attorney, Janette Knowlton gave a brief reminder on attendance. This is the last meeting of the fiscal year, and the rules provide that if you miss more than 3 meetings in a fiscal year you have tendered your resignation. She informed the members of where they currently are in their attendance and reminded them that this is the last meeting for the fiscal year.

Mr. Killion asked if there are any excused absences? **Ms. Knowlton** answered no, the Board of County Commissioners has done away with excused absences. Even if you got to a situation where you met your limit and you tendered your resignation because of hospitalization, you can always re-apply and explain to the board that you are back and ready to serve again.

8. Old Business

- Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager
 - Water Quality

Mr. Moody commented that water sampling is still proceeding as scheduled. They received great feedback about the dashboard and are currently updating it. They also received an intern with a background in database management, which is helping him being able to speed the process along. We are hoping to get that database up and running soon. We also have Clinton school of Biological Engineering, and several students are doing their capstone work in this area; to evaluate possible options of needing any nutrients in our canals and ponds. University of Florida wants to do some research in our canals. They are looking to do a multi-year study on trying to identify how nutrients cycling and exchange of nutrients in the systems define the hot spots. As part of that they want to do an outreach campaign they would be working with the residents who live on the canals to get some opinions on what the canal should be. This is not in stone they did have to apply to the national science foundation, we will see how that goes.

Mr. Moody showed the group some pictures that was taken along the east wall of Charlotte Harbor, close to the Pirate Harbor community. The pictures showed a large-scale mass of decaying of Zion bacteria and alleges. He then goes into detail on how this comes about and different strategies that they are discussing on finding a solution to address this.

Commissioner Deutsch asked if it is a danger to the environment? **Mr. Moody** explained that as this breaks down the oxygen in the water in the immediate area gets consumed. If the critters can get away before very little oxygen happens, they get away. For those who can't or don't get away end up suffocating due to lack of oxygen.

- Riviera Marina

Mr. Moody informed the board that the Marina has finally sold and clean up has been progressing. It looks dramatically better than it has in the past. DEP has been in contact with the new owners to figure out the next steps in the remediation. Addressing the potential existing pollution issues in the area.

- **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 outside of the Mitigation Reef which is coming up with the monitoring the Terminal Groin Placement that was installed in 2017. They are still monitoring it and with the storms over the years the data is a little skewed but are assuming that the terminal groin has performed up as planned.

They are currently working through the FEMA and State process with the beaches to get the funding in place from the impacts from Ian. It's a slow process and they are working through it. Coastal Engineering should be out surveying next week for this recent this storm. Which means they are going through the process all over again of accessing the impacts. It does look like we've had significant impacts at least down by the south stretch of our erosion control line on Manasota Key got server erosion. However, if you go down to Don Pedro, south beach, that stretch of beach looks wider. It's yet to be determined where the sand has moved, its going to be interesting to see how the sand shifted and where it went.

The beaches are being monitored and **Mr. Poff** and **Mr. Logan** are in constant communication as to the best way to tackle this. We're hoping to get FEMA funding and State funding secured so we can do a smaller scale truck hull project next year. It has yet to be determined.

Mr. Matias asked did we have more storm surge with this storm than the last one? **Mr. Logan** replied we had significant storm surge, we had 8-10ft seas pounding the south end of Manasota Key it actually over topped. Where down by the state park sand was all over the roads; this was a significant event in terms of the erosion on the beach. That was simply because during Hurricane Ian it was predominantly offshore winds. It was rough out there, but it was blowing away from the coastline. The storm effects have to all be determined through a survey and Mr. Poff is working on turning that around as quick as possible. We are hoping next month we'll have a little clearer picture of what we are looking on as far as the impacts.

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

Mr. Matias asked on the Gulf Cove Waterway it says they are on hold right now, when it's saying the next coming weeks; are we looking to get information in October or towards the end of year? **Mr. Logan** replied that he's not sure of the timing but is aware of the significant impacts due to Hurricane Ian with all the wash outs with the roadways. I know he has received the post Ian information. He thinks it's the matter of reanalyzing given the volume of information; he can ask Zach for the timing because he is not certain.

Mr. Matias inquired on Northwest Port Charlotte. It says that it was pushed to December 4th due to Hurricane Ian delays and in the need of canal debris removal; how are we with the removal? **Mr. Logan** responded with the breakdown of the debris removal. We initiated it and our contractor decided not to renew his contract. The state then took it over, they were going doing an excellent job and had to stop due to being told to stop by their superiors. We were left on hold and are working through the process. They have our annual contract, and we are investing external funding source right now to try and get a final determination on if any additional funding can be given to finish up. We do have a contractor on hold right now waiting for him to get out and finish it up. We are about 50% completed. The state did go through and identify some large targets, they were quick to respond and get those. We had assistance from the east coast doing side scans sonar's and identifying stuff. The state did get a lot of it done. One of the problems we had was the state at some point said no more vegetative

debris. Then they were going down canals and picking up construction debris. Now we have to go back and recover some of the ground that they covered just to get out the vegetative debris.

Mr. Logan also mentioned the Manchester cut through project that we have been working on for awhile now. We are finalizing and working on capturing all the information that the Commissioners requested in their discussion. We are looking to bring that information back before the board. After many discussions we are favoring bringing this forward as a base approach with a phase 1 being brought to the board. Where it will give us a natural stopping point for each phase where we'd have to come and present the next phase to board. That will help with the cost and also help determine after phase 1 if we should move forward.

- Parks and Natural Resources Update
 - Shore Birds

Susie Derheimer, Natural Resources, commented that our shore bird and sea bird nesting was completed before the storm hit. We did not lose any. We've had a better season this summer with our bird nestings. We had some successful fledges on Stump Pass and on Boca. We still didn't have successful nesting and any hatching on Palm Island, due to predation. We did have some successful nesting on Palm Island they nested however they didn't make it.

Ms. Derheimer expressed that this summer they got to do a sea turtle release on Englewood Beach. A subadult female washed up on Stump Pass and was on death's door. Florida Aquarium rehabilitated her and released her in the same area. They then worked with us, and Coastal wildlife club sponsored to put a transmitter on her. She is being tracked and her name is Cara. She is doing great, and you can track her at conserveturtles.org website. They have done a lot of work with lighting and made some wall decals to put over light switches internally. That says "flip the switch helps sea turtles survive" that we will be distributing into bags and go door-to-door and hang them on. We have a lot of problems where people don't update their addresses on property appraisers, and we receive a lot of things back. We are working on being more hands on so they can have them. They have found light readers, that has specific film that you can hold up and can look through and if it turns a certain color the light is not approved sea turtle light. We want to get these in the hands of the beach front residents, that's another item we may add to our door-to-door bags.

- Turtles

Ms. Derheimer commented that we had a record number of sea turtle nesting this year along with the whole state of Florida. They started early and continued heavy. Not only a record number of the Logger head but also the green turtle nesting. At this point the numbers are preliminary yet and the adult nesting on the beach has stopped. We are just doing hatchings right now. We have over 2,000 nests that's not including Little Gasparilla Island, which we continue to not have a monitor. By the time the storm hit, the adults were no longer coming up but we had a lot of nests out there still. Anything that was low to medium on the beach got either inundated; meaning it actually washed over or got washed out. We had a green hatch the other day, the storm did affect the hatching and the number of nests. However, we do have record numbers and we still have nests that are hatching on the beach. This off season we are going to put it all together and next season we will have them ready.

- DV Reports

Ms. Scudera commented that she unfortunately doesn't have an update. Roger has been out of office for awhile and she's been handling triaging the issues as best as she can. She was informed by the sheriff's office the boat that's been sitting half sank at the Harbor Heights boat ramp was authorized to get removed. **Ms. Scudera** encourages everyone to please report any DV boats you may see out there to her or the sheriff's office.

9. Correspondence and Communication
None offered.

10. Public Comments
None offered.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants
None offered.

12. Member Comments

Mr. Anlauf mentioned that early in November the Civic Association of Manchester Waterway, will be holding another clean up that we do annually. Last year we picked up almost 2,000 pounds of garbage. After the clean up he will bring in some photos to show the group. **Mr. Anlauf** commented about **Mr. Moody's** presentation about the algae, he urges him to consider a mechanical solution of removing the algae, instead of chemical. **Mr. Moody** responded the application of anything to break this stuff down is not my preferred solution. To me this is something that I'm looking at where we've got heavy patching stuff that is directly impacting residents at their houses, and we need some resolution quickly.

Mr. McCormick commented that he spoke with a resident that lives off of Almar Dr, overlooking Buckley's Pass, and informed him that they pulled a 5 ft bull shark and a 7 ft Lemon Shark out of the pass. He encouraged the members to watch themselves.

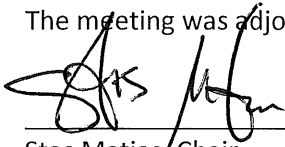
Mr. Matias mentioned that every July the realtors do a water cleanup throughout the state. As we get closer to that and if you need volunteers and put on a project prior to that, he can reach out to the association so we can get realtors to focus on some of these waterways. The typically go down the Peace River, when he does it in Fort Myers, they do estuaries. That's something we can keep in mind that we can get help, we usually get about 150 people out. Almost every year they grab about a ton of garbage. **Mr. Moody** suggested to get connected with Rhonda Harvey, she coordinates and organizes a lot of clean up all over. She'll know where's the best option to plug in and needs the most clean up.

13. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, October 5th, 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 10:04 a.m.



Stas Matias, Chair