



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

Murdock Administration Building, 18500 Murdock Circle,
Building B, Room B-106, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

<u>BOARD MEMEBERS</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
Wendy Lang, Chair	District 5
Robert Wibbeler, Vice Chair	Member-at-Large
Gregory Garvey	District 1
Robert Hancik	District 2
Ralph Lombardo	District 3
Jay Lorange	District 4
Hank Killion	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

April 2, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Lang, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Robert Wibbeler, Vice Chair, led those in attendance for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL / DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Per Melissa Mason calling roll, it was determined that a quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:

Wendy Lang
Robert Wibbeler
Gregory Garvey
Robert Hancik
Ralph Lombardo
Hank Killion

County Staff Present:

Brandon Moody, Water Quality & Resiliency Manager
Matt Logan, Coastal Projects Manager

Jamie Scudera, Environmental Specialist
Elizabeth Eastes, Environmental Specialist
Alexandria Grant, Natural Resources
Zachary Zampella, Natural Resources
Melissa Mason, Recording Secretary / Senior Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Damian Ochab – SMSKA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes from [March 5th, 2026](#), approved.
Motion moved by **Member, Lombardo**: Seconded by **Member, Killion**: Motion carried unanimously.

5. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- a. None.

6. CITIZEN INPUT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Funding for Beach Nourishment Project Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 10:00 am

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Introduction of New Member, Jay Lorange

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. WATER QUALITY

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager provided updates on:

- i. State-Mandated Flood and Storm Surge Vulnerability Assessment (2040 – 2070)
There was a discussion on:
 - Areas of assessment (county facilities, schools, hospitals, roads, etc.).
 - Final public meeting scheduled for mid-May.
 - Highest-risk infrastructure includes schools and older county facilities.
 - Assessment eligibility for grants supporting resiliency projects.
 - Plans expected to go before the Commissioners on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.
 - Numerous grant-related projects underway, including:
 - Water elevation and flood-monitoring network
 - Countywide stormwater and compound flood modeling
 - Collaboration with University of Florida on a flood modeling project
- ii. Seagrass Pilot Project
There was a discussion on:
 - Positive reports demonstrate improved water clarity and habitat health in local waterways.

- Volunteer opportunity.

b. PUBLIC WORKS

Matt Logan, Public Works Manager provided updates on:

- i. Beach Project initiatives: Manasota Keys, Don Pedro/Knight Island
 - Ongoing FEMA claims with state and local funding efforts.
- ii. Re-establishment of the MSBU necessary for project funding
 - Outside agency to implement strategy to be presented to the Board.
 - Future public meetings with Fiscal Department will be present.
- iii. FEMA Claims
 - Manasota Keys.
 - COBRA Zones affecting federal funding eligibility for Don Pedro.

There was a discussion on:

- Hiring of own Coastal Engineering company and how it will affect funding.
- Ongoing Coastal Storm Risk Management Study with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expected to produce a tentatively selected plan in May.
 - Engineer Report to be issued in June/July.
 - Qualifies for federal projects three (3) years in.
- Significant beach erosion and its effects on the beach community.
- Sand Recovery Operation Storm Recovery Project in lagoon areas.
- Needs for native vegetations and additional sand recovery efforts.

c. PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Alexandria Grant, Environmental Specialist and Zachary Zampella, Environmental Specialist provides update:

- i. Shorebird season underway; one killdeer nest reported.
- ii. Sea turtle goodie bags distribute underway to beachfront homeowners.
- iii. New brochures, window clings, and educational materials distributed.
- iv. Eagles: successful season including a rare, fledged triplet nest.

There was a discussion on:

- Significant beach erosion noted; some areas difficult to navigate during high tide.
- Concern expressed about availability of turtle-friendly bulbs at local hardware stores.

Elizabeth Eastes, Environmental Specialist presented the Derelict Vessel Report, (refer to handout):

- i. 6 open derelict vessel cases
- ii. 3 vessels ready for removal (in FWC bidding process)

There was a discussion on:

- Law enforcement handling of owner identification by state statute.
- Process variations of registration status and prior ownership trail.

- Post-identification: a 21-day formal process follows before removal can occur.
- Significant improvement since recent storm years.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

- a. None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Concerns raised about South Manasota Key Resorts property
 - Reported overlay code violations.
 - Traffic concerns: parking concerns and vehicle count near the roundabout during sea turtle nesting.
 - Speed sign installation.
 - Noncompliance with food trucks.
 - Emergency seawall work performed prior to permit approval.
- b. Debris on beaches
 - Removal requires Florida DEP permits.
 - DEP currently not allowing machinery over revetments.
 - Specific areas are difficult to clean due to restrictions.
- c. Boat Race Issues
 - Coordinate boat race dates to avoid overlapping with sea turtle season.
 - Past races held in November; now scheduled earlier (Oct 8-11 per public website).
 - Suggestion for BSAC to send a formal letter to County Commissioners for recommendations.

11. COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OR CONSULTANTS

- a. **Shaun Cullinan, Planning and Zoning Official**, expresses that DEP approval will always be needed for storm-related debris removal and repairs.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. **BSAC Committee Members** extend welcome to new member Jay Lorange.
- b. **Chair, Lang** will draft a letter regarding boat race.

13. SUNSHINE LAW

- a. New Member, Jay Lorange, to view required videos.

14. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

The Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee Regular Meeting will be held at:
 Murdock Administration Center, Room B-106
 18500 Murdock Circle

Port Charlotte, FL, 33948

***unless otherwise announced.

15. ADJOURNED

Motion moved by Vice -**Chair, Wibbeler**: Seconded by **Member, Killion**: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 A.M.



Chair, Wendy Lang