

**Minutes**  
**Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, February 7, 2008**  
**Charlotte County Administration Center**  
**Room #207B**

**Members Present**

Robert Pierce, Chairman  
Dick Whitney, Vice Chair  
John (Jack) Landis  
Bruce McLean

**Staff Present**

Bonnie Stoner, Commissioner's Office  
Missy L. Christie, Environmental Specialist  
Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering  
Gayle Moore, Recording Secretary

**Members Excused**

David Nellis  
Bill Weller

**Guests**

Marie Garrett, Beach Restoration, Inc.  
Robert Madden, President – Manasota Key  
Camilla Spicer, Coastal Wildlife Club  
Wilma Katz, Coastal Wildlife Club  
Joe Mullen, Florida Paddle Trail Assoc.  
Edward Engel, Florida Paddle Trail Assoc.  
Randee LaSalle  
Kevyn Schweim

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**

The **Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee** meeting of February 7, 2008, began at 9:00am noting a quorum was present.

**II. Chairman Comments**

**Chair Pierce** advised there would be a change in the order of today's Agenda.

**III. Old Business**

**Michael Poff** advised that his company has submitted their 2008 Monitoring Scope to DEP; it was accepted by DEP and approved by Charlotte County on January 22, 2008. He reported on subsequent activities connected with this project and activities still to be completed in the spring. **Mr. Poff** also reported that his company was given a Scope of Work for the 2009 project in order to be proactive in the event of another active storm season and to be prepared for the possible need of beach renourishment or dredging.

**Chair Pierce** asked if this would lead into discussion of the removal of the Geo Tubes, based on the benefit or lack of benefit from this project. He asked, if the Tubes were removed, if that would lead to the pass being filled-in more quickly and thus dredging needed sooner. **Mr. Poff** agreed that if the tubes were removed, sand could be expected to move quickly down the beach. He noted that the rate of movement would be dependent to some extent on the weather patterns. This would be tracked very closely during the surveys in June in order to advise the Committee.

**Ms. Garrett** stated that her company has not received any notices, but said they would be meeting with the secretary's office, and would present their models showing the sand will migrate quickly once the tubes are removed and that erosion would follow. She also noted she would be bringing in a fourth party reviewer who would comment on conditions at Wiggins Pass and how dredging of the pass led to erosion.

**Chair Pierce** addressed the Committee, asking how they should proceed insofar as the Committee's recommendations were concerned. **Mr. Poff** stated there had been a teleconference, during which Ms. Garrett presented the fourth annual monitoring data and some additional analysis. Numerous people were present for this review, including Dr. Cliff Truitt, Coastal Technology Corporation, the independent reviewer who has issued the report indicating that the tubes have caused significant erosion. During that conversation, it was said the Secretary of DEP has reviewed the report and has agreed with its conclusions. Discussion followed among those present at the meeting regarding cause and effect of the erosion; there are many different opinions.

A lead engineer with DEP suggested that Beach Restoration, Inc. timely submit their formal reports so that DEP had an opportunity to review them; another of the DEP officials suggested that DEP meet with the property owner and Secretary Sole, and render an official opinion to Beach Restoration, Inc. so they know how to present those reports. **Mr. Poff** stated that there was indication that there is support at DEP and in the Parks system to have the tubes removed. He stated his recommendation would be to wait until the results of the next meeting are available and DEP's formal position is known. **Mr. Pierce** asked for details on the timeframe of these intended meetings and **Ms. Garrett** said that she would advise once the meeting date has been set. Further discussion ensued on the possible timeline for removal of the tubes and possible subsequent activities, such as mitigation, that might be required.

Responding to a question from the Chair, **Mr. Landis** noted that he had read the report and was not surprised at the result; he noted that he had originally opposed the project based on his prior experience on the Key. He wondered what the State Parks group would say on removal, since they will be losing considerable sand that they wanted. **Ms. Garrett** responded, referencing the Wiggins Pass presentation which showed significant resulting erosion in a similar situation, but she noted that this was still in the realm of conjecture.

**Chair Pierce** noted that he simply wanted to be sure Committee members knew what was going on with the tubes. **Mr. McLean** asked Ms. Garrett if lowering the tubes to two or three feet would make a difference. **Ms. Garrett** responded that it would make a considerable difference, and gave some background technical information in support of this opinion. Further discussion ensued on various technical issues of the tube placement and performance.

**Mr. Landis** asked how long the tube experiment was anticipated to last and how long it has been in progress. **Ms. Garrett** responded that the term was for three years, which has just about been met. However, she noted only half the experiment was in place for the first year and the rest was added in the second year; therefore, the full term would run to March/April of 2009. **Mr. Landis** commented that the experiment should run the full three year period, so that the appropriate conclusions

could be drawn. He then pointed out that once the tubes are removed, the sand will be in the pass. Finally, he asked what organization was the primary objector to lowering the tubes to the appropriate height.

**Mr. Poff** responded to the first of Mr. Landis's points, saying that the County has stated to DEP that they support the project and would like to see the three year experiment completed, predicated on two things: 1) that it does not adversely affect the beach project they have put in place and 2) that Beach Restoration Inc. honor their commitment to the County to be responsible for removing the tubes (if required) and mitigating any adverse impacts. **Ms. Garrett** responded to the last of Mr. Landis's points, stating that it was the State Parks Department that objected to lowering the tubes.

**Mr. Whitney** asked Ms. Garrett if anyone had considered just removing the last two tubes that had been installed and just leaving the shorter tubes. **Ms. Garrett** responded that it could be done, but then the argument could be made that the experiment had been changed while in progress. Further discussion ensued on this point.

**Chair Pierce** asked if the tubes were removed either in whole or in part, would the experiment then be considered to be a failure. **Ms. Garrett** responded that it would be possible to reach such a conclusion if all the facts were not documented, but they will be.

**Mr. Whitney** suggested calling for comments from some of the guests attending the meeting. **Randee LaSalle** commented on her concerns, noting that she was interested in learning the facts of the experiment and how it assisted in preserving and protecting the beaches. **Chair Pierce** responded that removal of the tubes would lead to loss of sand in that area, but might result in sand gains further south, so it was unsettled whether the overall effect would be negative. Further discussion ensued. **Mr. Landis** offered the historical view that erosion has reconfigured the beach many times over the years and he felt that the best thing for Charlotte County is for Venice and Sarasota to continue to renourish their beaches since that sand would end up here eventually. **Mr. Poff** offered his viewpoint that any experiment which yields information and results cannot be considered a failure. Discussion continued regarding the varying sand movement being dependent on the season of the year and the prevailing winds. **Mr. Poff** offered a brief explanation as to what will come next in the process stating he expects DEP to issue a Final Order in the next few weeks regarding their findings. The county then has the right to either sign the Final Order agreeing to the terms and conditions or to challenge it. **Chair Pierce** inquired about the type of mitigation that could be expected from the removal of the tubes and was told it might include the addition of sand as the contract calls for them to mitigate any adverse impact. Further comments were offered by **Wilma Katz** who stated she does not sense enough attention to what has already happened rather than what might happen and feels this is a severe problem. **Ms. Garrett** addressed Ms. Katz's concerns. Asked by **Ms. Katz** of his opinion on this matter, **Mr. Poff** advised he is

here to advocate the county's beach program and has taken an advisory position on this Committee adding he does not agree with either report at this time as they are

inconclusive as to the cause of the erosion at the south side of the tubes. **Ms. Katz** offered her opinion that, although graphs are fine for engineers, the reports needs to be worded for everyone understands. **Chair Pierce** clarified the Committee's concerns are for the beaches of Charlotte County and their purpose is not only to obtain information but to disseminate information in a way that can be understood. They welcome the public's questions and input. **Robert Madden** stated he has been a resident of Manasota Key for the past four years and is concerned about the water scalloping out into the woods near the tubes and is here to find out why this is occurring. He mentioned erosion problems in New Jersey and similar problems they have experienced. **Chair Pierce** commented on a report that suggested shorter tubes be installed leading down to the pass to try and trap the sand. **Ms. Garrett** confirmed this and added the immediate southern erosion is due primarily to several tubes being too high. This was pointed out to the state and a request was made to lower the tubes, but was denied. **Camilla Spicer** voiced her concerns regarding the large amount of habitat loss for threatened and endangered species in this area. **Ms. Garrett** advised of one bird nest that hatched successfully in the project area and of further documentation of turtle nesting.

**IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda - None**

**IV. Commissioner Comments**

**Bonnie Stoner** provided handouts from Commissioner Moore stating most of the information was already discussed at today's meeting. In addition, she advised the Commissioner was seeking the answer to several questions which have been answered in today's discussion and she will report back to him with this information.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was presented by **Jack Landis** to accept the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Dick Whitney**. The vote was called and the minutes for **December 6, 2007 and January 4, 2008** were unanimously accepted.

**VIII. Presentation**

**Missy L. Christie** reported on the Abandoned Vessel Program stating over thirteen (13) boats have been removed to date. Jet ski searches are underway and they are waiting on final approval for the use of helicopters as a means to search for boats in the deep mangrove areas. She added that boats tied to private docks, although unsightly, are not considered to be abandoned. **Mr. Landis** asked if any of the boat owners were able to be identified and was told that this program only applies to boats where no identification is possible. A question from the audience prompted a discussion on illegal mooring. A suggestion was made for the Port Charlotte Kayak Club to be consulted regarding information they may have concerning abandoned vessels seen in the back waters. **Ms. Christie** provided her email information for follow-up.

**IX. New Business**

**Edward Engle** introduced himself and fellow FPTA member, Joe Mullen and presented information regarding the newly formed Florida Paddling Trails Association stating it is a private organization and will be a non-profit corporation. This organization offers information on paddle trails as well as camping areas. It is

their goal to eventually have accessible camp sites around the state from Pensacola to the Georgia border. To accomplish this, the state has been divided into nine (9) regions and each region into segments. Charlotte County is in Region D, Segment 11. They are in the process of establishing a catalog of campsites and other lodging accommodations. The Trail Association is staffed entirely by volunteers and was created by State Legislature in 2005 and is under the office of Greenway and Trails. A brief description of the Mission Statement was also provided. **Mr. Engle** stated it was his hope the Committee could offer suggestions and/or contacts for accomplishing their goal. **Mr. Whitney** stated he met yesterday with Laura Kleiss Hoeft, the Director of Parks and Recreation who is very interested in meeting with Mr. Engle to discuss same. **Ms. Christie** suggested contacting the Marine Advisory Committee and the Venice Englewood Kayak Group. **Mr. Landis** questioned the potential liability for landowners and the responsibility for clean up and was told the liability is addressed in paperwork and Trail Keepers are responsible for the stewardship and maintenance of the sites. In addition, most of the private campsites are only usable by trail members and are not open to the general public. Contact information was provided.

***ACTION: Dick Whitney made a motion that the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee make a recommendation to the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners commending the efforts of the volunteers of the Florida Paddling Trails Association who actively promote eco-tourism in Charlotte County and also makes the public aware of the natural beauties of the Charlotte County waterways. Following a discussion, it was decided to table this motion until the next meeting.***

**X. Action Items**

Discussing Goals and Objectives, **Chair Pierce** called attention to the letter from Commissioner D'Aprile to Commissioner Moore included in member's packets and requested members review the letter for discussion at the next meeting.

**XI. Committee Reports**

**Mr. Landis** reported on Manasota Key advising of a recent meeting of the South Manasota Key Association. They are very interested in either holding a joint meeting or scheduling a future presentation by BSAC and Michael Poff .

Reporting on Parks and Recreation, **Mr. Landis** stating he attended a field trip yesterday for an inspection at several locations in the County. Erosion was noted at Port Charlotte Beach in front of the break water. Permitting is in process and beach renourishment will be approved shortly. Erosion was also noted at Bay Shore Park. **Mr. Landis** made known that due to budgetary constraints, certain services that have been provided in the past at Port Charlotte Beach are no longer available. This includes trash and beach maintenance. He feels that a monitoring program should be considered to avoid beach neglect. He suggested asking Laura Kleiss Hoeft to speak on this subject at a future meeting. A discussion ensued regarding budget changes. **Ms. Stoner** added that a Focus Group will be formed with appointments assigned by the Commissioners and pointed out that community input is needed. **Ms. Garrett** advised Sarasota County is having a town function solely to raise funds for beach maintenance and suggested this might be something Charlotte County would want to consider.

**XII. Correspondence and Communication**

**Chair Pierce** called attention to the letter of appreciation sent to former Chair, Keith Buechel.

**Ms. Christie** offered information on the upcoming Community Forum, "Seeing Red along the Gulf Coast" cosponsored by START and the Sierra Club. She advised she will be attending and will provide an update at the next meeting.

**XIII. Staff Comments- None**

**XIV. Member Comments**

**Mr. Nellis** had concerns regarding the lack of recycling cans on the beaches at Manasota Key Park. He stated he has written to Commissioners on numerous occasions advising of this need and has suggested a non-profit organization be allowed to place their containers on the beach and perhaps benefit from the resale of the aluminum. **Mr. Whitney** felt this was an excellent idea and agreed there needs to be more active citizen participation with beach maintenance. He offered to speak to Laura Kleiss-Hoeft and suggested Mr. Nellis also contact her directly. **Ms. Christy** offered additional contact information to assist Mr. Nellis.

**XV. Public Comments**

**Randee LaSalle** advised she is involved with numerous volunteer activities and only recently became aware of BSAC but will have someone in attendance at future meetings. She also thanked Jane Starr for providing her with the appropriate documents and meeting information. **Chair Pierce** spoke of an opening on the Committee and confirmed the vacancy is being publicly advertised. **Ms. LaSalle** then spoke on a recent email between Commissioner D'Aprile and Commissioner Moore regarding the Committee's purpose and stated they would like to be involved and make their voice heard. She made mention of the suggestion to report to the Commissioners every two or three months to keep them educated as well as motivated. **Chair Pierce** responded by saying the Commissioner's input was only recently received and their suggestions will be pursued.

**XVI. Next Meeting**

**March 6, 2008** at 9:00a.m.in Conference Room 207B.

**XVII. Adjournment**

**Chair Pierce** called the meeting to a close at 11: 00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr

Recording Secretary...