

Minutes
Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 6, 2008
Charlotte County Administration Center
Room #207B

Members Present

Robert Pierce, Chairman
Bruce C. McLean
John (Jack) Landis
David Nellis
Bill Weller

Staff Present

Commissioner Tom D'Aprile
Missy L. Christie, Environmental Specialist
Matt Logan, Public Works
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

Members Excused

Dick Whitney, Vice Chair

Guests

Marie Garrett, Beach Restoration, Inc.
Kevyn Schweim, Coastal Wildlife Club
Ranee LaSalle, Coastal Wildlife Club
Robert E. Madden, Manasota Key
Camilla Spicer, Coastal Wildlife Club
Wilma Katz, Coastal Wildlife Club

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

The **Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee** meeting of March 6, 2008, began at 9:05am noting a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Pierce requested the content of future minutes to be condensed into a shorter format. A motion was then presented by **Bruce McLean** to accept the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee minutes with corrections. This was seconded and the minutes for **February 7, 2008** were unanimously accepted.

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Chair Pierce announced Michael Poff is not in attendance and the item under Old Business will be tabled for next month.

IV. Chairman Comments - None

V. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner D'Aprile offered his interpretation on the Geo Tube experiment. A discussion took place regarding the controversy of this issue.

(David Nellis arrived at 9:15am)

Ms. Garrett made known that Beach Restoration, Inc. is appealing the Order for removal of the tubes and gave a brief description of the hearing process. She stated the tubes will not be removed until this process is complete and suggested the County should also file an extension. A discussion ensued.

ACTION: Commissioner D'Aprile will provide a meeting synopsis to the Board regarding the GEO tubes and will suggest a meeting be scheduled for discussion. In addition, he agreed to contact Tallahassee to obtain more information regarding the source of objection to this project.

(Commissioner D'Aprile left the meeting at 9:47am)

Ms. Garrett offered to share documentation from past meetings and suggested it might be helpful to have a representative from this committee in attendance at the mitigation hearing in Tallahassee.

VI. Old Business - None

VII. New Business

Ms. Christie provided an update on the Community Forum on Coastal Issues adding that it was very well attended. Members were then presented with a DVD presentation – “Higher Ground – The battle to save Florida Beaches.”

VII. Action Items

The discussion of Commissioner Moore’s memo will be tabled for the next meeting.

VIII. Committee Reports - None

IX. Correspondence and Communication

The draft letter commending the Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail was reviewed by members and approved.

X. Staff Comments

Ms. Christie reported on the Stump Pass mitigation site and advised a 4 acre site has been cleared.

XI. Public Comments

Camilla Spicer voiced concerns about lights that are about to be installed near Port Charlotte Beach and the possible effect on sea turtles. **Ms. Christie** directed her to contact Parks and Recreation.

Capt. Ron Blago, Chairman for the Marine Advisory Committee, inquired about the future effect of GEO Tubes on Stump Pass. Discussion continued regarding the GEO Tubes and **Capt. Blago** offered the Marine Advisory Committee’s assistance if needed.

Randy LaSalle voiced her frustrations regarding Stump Pass and advised she is concerned there might be a conflict of interest regarding the GEO Tubes. She does not want to see a loss of shoreline or to have bird and turtle habitats affected and said, according to the contract, the experiment could be terminated at anytime if damage is noted. After reviewing scientific evidence and the information provided, she is in favor of removing the tubes.

Keven Schwin agreed there would be drastic changes if the tubes were removed, but noted significant adverse impacts are already occurring and agreed that, according to the original agreement, they should be removed. He also questioned how a miscalculation in the elevation of the tubes could have occurred and was surprised more importance was not applied when they were installed.

Wilma Katz inquired about the procedure to remove the tubes and was told a work plan is in place by the County but, due to the appeal process, this action will be put on hold.

Robert Madden inquired about sea bird nesting and clearing at the pass and advised of a pilot program that will begin at Englewood Beach with regard to recycling.

XII. Member Comments

Chair Pierce instructed members to review the Member List for corrections.

In answer to **Mr. Nellis'** question as to why Beach Restoration, Inc. filed the appeal and not Charlotte County, **Ms. Garrett** said the language is written to include parties who would be adversely affected.

XIII. Next Meeting

April 3, 2008, at 9:00a.m. in Conference Room 207B.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Pierce called the meeting to a close at 10:57am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary

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