

Minutes
Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 3, 2008
Charlotte County Administration Center
Room #207B

Members Present

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

Staff Present

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

Guests

Kevyn Schweim, Coastal Wildlife Club
Jeffrey Jacobson, Rum Cove
Robert E. Madden, Manasota Key
Camilla Spicer, Coastal Wildlife Club
Wilma Katz, Coastal Wildlife Club
W. Zahures
Dennis Smith, EES – NRD
Jason Thompson, EES – NRD
Lee Kennett, Manasota Key
Dean Beckstead, Palm Island
Jamie Beckstead, Palm Island

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

The **Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee** meeting of **April 3, 2008**, began at 9:03am, noting a quorum was present.

II. Additions/Deletions to Agenda - None

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was then presented by **Jack Landis** to accept the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee minutes as written. This was seconded by **Vice-Chair Whitney** and the minutes for **March 6, 2008** were unanimously accepted.

IV. Chairman Comments

Chair Pierce inquired about light installation at Port Charlotte Beach. **Missy L. Christie** advised it was her understanding shields are being installed facing residents as turtles nesting is not an issue in this area and suggested contacting Parks and Recreation for clarification. **Vice-Chair Whitney** will investigate and provide members with an update.

V. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner D'Aprile identified steps he has taken to obtain answers and information regarding the GEO Tubes. He reported that requests to reposition the tubes were denied and the County has been ordered to have them removed. Discussion ensued. **Michael Poff** provided additional information and confirmed Beach Restoration, Inc. met with officials in Tallahassee but did not file an appeal. **Commissioner D'Aprile** continued with an overview of his position on the tubes saying he felt they were working on the north side of the Pass and their removal at this time would be detrimental to sea turtles. **David Nellis** felt that although there is no factual basis for removal, the decision has already been made and should be accepted. **Commissioner D'Aprile** voiced his discontent with the final decision. **Mr. Poff** confirmed the removal will be performed by Beach

Restoration, Inc. in accordance with their contract and will need to be completed before May 30, 2008. Discussion continued regarding the removal process and the protection that will be provided to plants and nesting wildlife. **Mr. Nellis** questioned the time frame for removal stating that previous guidelines indicated the shoreline was not to be disturbed during the month of May. Options were discussed on ways to proceed. Chair Pierce invited public input and **Camilla Spicer** advised it was her understanding Beach Restoration, Inc. has withdrawn their proposal for a similar project on the east coast. Discussion ensued. It was agreed the Committee would go on record with their position.

ACTION: A motion was presented by Bruce McLean that the Committee compose a letter presenting their position regarding the GEO Tubes and that said letter be brought back for consideration at the next meeting. Seconded by Jack Landis, the vote was unanimous.

Following a discussion, it was decided a special meeting will be held in one week to conclude this issue. Members were instructed to forward their ideas to Ms. Christie who will compile a draft letter. **Mr. Poff** added that views are also reflected in the meeting minutes.

Chair Pierce advised that Vice-Chair Whitney will be acting Chair at the next regular meeting.

VI. Presentation

Dean Beckstead provided an update regarding the Environmental Lands Referendum approved last year and distributed handouts regarding the Thornton Key Environmental Land Purchase. It is his hope the Committee will recommend to the Commission the continuation of the program and an approval for this purchase. **Chair Pierce** felt it important all be aware of this program as part of the shores in West County would be incorporated into the Florida Paddling Trails network system. Discussion continued regarding property location and characteristics.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Poff advised beach tilling has been completed on the beach fills of Manasota Key and Knight Don Pedro and better readings are being obtained due to the contractor's improved system.

VIII. New Business

Ms. Christie presented members with a short DVD presentation on Shorebirds. This is also being shown on CCTV-20 and appears on the county website. Copies are available for anyone interested. Due to an audio problem the presentation will be shown again next month.

(Commissioner D'Aprile left the meeting at 10:11am)

Discussion of Stump Pass Dredging

Chair Pierce introduced this next item of business and opened the floor for suggestions. **Jeffrey Jacobson** provided members with handouts and discussed concerns he has about the stagnant lagoon in the summer and the intrusion and mechanics of loud noise as a result of the dredging process. Discussion continued regarding the best timing for dredging. It was decided, in the absence of an active hurricane season, that aiming for the fall of 2009 would be most favorable to all concerned. It was stated that in addition to noise levels, the smell and degradation of the shoreline were also problems that needed to be addressed. Restrictions to mitigate the negative impacts as well as using alternative methods to dredge the Pass were discussed.

(Bill Weller left the meeting at 10:27am)

Ms. Christie added that in addition to possible weather conditions, other circumstances affecting a September dredging would include the inability to relocate sea turtle and shorebird nests that are still on the beach during this time.

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Whitney and seconded by Jack Landis. Following a discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn. The motion was amended and presented again by Vice-Chair Whitney, seconded by Jack Landis that the Charlotte County Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee encourage the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners to schedule the next phase of the Charlotte County Erosion Control Project at Stump Pass to commence in the fall of 2009, hurricane, weather, and nesting conditions permitting. Consideration should also be given to designing specifications which would mitigate disruption to adjacent property owners. The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Pierce inquired about an off shore sand source used by Sarasota County. Mr. Poff will review previous studies and provide input at a future meeting. A discussion ensued regarding mitigation and the restoration of sand following GEO Tube removal. Mr. Poff responded to questions regarding beach restoration and permit modifications. Chair Pierce inquired about a joint meeting with Manasota Key and was told it has not yet been scheduled.

VII. Action Items - None

VIII. Committee Reports - None

IX. Correspondence and Communication

Items will be discussed when the Committee reconvenes on April 10, 2008.

X. Staff Comments - None

XI. Public Comments

An unidentified member of the audience inquired further about permit modifications.

Another member of the audience asked if the Committee has considered recommending changes to the Comprehensive Plan regarding future population density along the coastline. Mr. Nellis offered his views and added he felt it a mistake to treat coastal barrier islands as fixed real estate due to the constant change in the shoreline. Chair Pierce advised he does not feel the Committee has taken a stand on this issue although it is something that could be discussed at a later date.

A question regarding property assessments along the beach prompted further discussion.

XII. Member Comments - None

XIII. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 9:00am, in Room 207B.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Pierce called the meeting to a close at 11:05am with plans to reconvene Thursday, April 10, 2008, at 9:00am, in Room 207B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr

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April 3, 2008

Recording Secretary...