

Minutes
Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 5, 2009
Charlotte County Administration Center
Room #207B

Members Present

Robert Pierce, Chairman
Dick Whitney, Vice Chair
Kevyn Schweim
John (Jack) Landis
Bill Weller
David Nellis

Staff Present

Commissioner Bob Starr
Missy L. Christie, Environmental Specialist
Andy Stevens, Env. & Ext. Services
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

Excused

Guests

Michael Poff, CEC
Dean Beckstead, Palm Island Resort
Wilma Katz, Coastal Wildlife Club
Bob Madden

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**
Chair Pierce called the February 5, 2009, **Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:00a.m. noting there was a quorum present.
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
A motion was presented by **Dick Whitney** to accept the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee minutes as written. The motion was seconded by **Bill Weller** and the minutes for **January 8, 2009**, were accepted.
- III. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**
Missy L. Christie announced three (3) items would be added under New Business.
- IV. **Chairman Comments**
Commemorative Tribute to Bruce McLean
Chair Pierce announced the passing of Bruce McLean and stated he and **Dick Whitney** attended the viewing as representatives for the Committee. **Commissioner Starr** felt it would be appropriate for a letter to be written from the Committee thanking his family for his many years of service. **Mr. Whitney** will compose a letter to be signed by members at the next meeting.
- V. **Commissioner Comments**
Chair Pierce voiced concerns he has regarding a lack of follow-up on

recommendations that are made to the Commission. **Commissioner Starr** addressed the issue and stated he will attend meetings regularly and update the Committee accordingly on the progress of their recommendations. He pledged to be an active liaison. **Missy L. Christie** stated she will also be supportive of **Commissioner Starr's** role.

Commissioner Starr shared ideas concerning the establishment of primitive camping areas on environmentally sensitive lands that are not presently being utilized. He stated this would be on a trial basis and would be observed as a possible way to generate revenue. Also discussed was the recent presentation from the Lemon Bay Conservancy regarding invasive monoculture. **Commissioner Starr** also suggested the Committee investigate an area he observed on Englewood Beach which he feels is an area of concern. **Chair Pierce** stated field trips will be planned to view some of the areas discussed.

Ms. Christie advised of confrontations she has encountered on the beach which she feels are the direct result of being a government employee, adding that education and awareness are the best aids for preventing hostilities. **Keryn Schweim** agreed and offered examples of problems he has encountered as a volunteer. Additional comments were offered by **Dean Beckstead** and **Chair Pierce**.

VI. Old Business

Beach Restoration

Michael Poff presented members with a PowerPoint presentation of the Charlotte County Erosion Control Project Update:

- Introduction
- Historical Recap
- Project Features Map
- 2003 Construction
- 2003 Ground Photographs - Manasota Key
- Knight Island – 2003
- 2006 Post-Storm Recovery
- Manasota Key State Park
- Knight Island Gulf Front
- 2009 Post-Storm Recovery & Maintenance Project
- Project Components
- Knight Island North – Erosion Analysis
- Funding Summary
- Future Plans
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgments

A question and answer period followed. **Mr. Poff** suggested re-visiting this issue following completion of the 2009 projects. An open discussion ensued.

(Commissioner Starr left the meeting at 10:50am)

Joint Meeting with Manasota Key Association

Jack Landis provided a brief update of his attempts to contact the President of the Association and suggested this topic be removed from future agendas.

VII. New Business

Contract Update

Andy Stevens advised the Stump Pass Dredging Project is moving forward and they are addressing several permitting issues, including turtle monitoring, that must be faced annually. He has contacted FWC and confirmed they are in the process of reviewing the annual reports.

Florida Paddling Trails

Ms. Christie announced they will be viewing areas next Thursday for primitive camping sites and have already assessed an area on Thornton Key that would be very accessible for kayaks. **Mr. Stevens** added information regarding the Draft Environmental Lands Ordinance that would allow camping in certain designated areas.

Pictorial Update of Stump Pass

Ms. Christie provided members with handouts and presented historical information regarding Stump Pass.

(Bill Weller left the meeting at 10:59am)

VIII. Action Items

Update on Dog Beach Consideration

This was tabled for the next meeting.

Support Letter to Parks & Recreation – Smoking Ordinance

Dick Whitney attended the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting and stated staff is preparing a No Smoking Ordinance for Charlotte County Park Beaches similar to the Ordinance that was done in Sarasota County. The Committee will be provided a copy by Parks and Recreation following review by the County Attorney and can take action on whether they wish to endorse it at that time.

VIII. Committee Reports

Dick Whitney reported further on Parks and Recreation stating there has not been any follow up regarding public access in South County as discussed at the last Joint Meeting, but confirmed this will be going forward in the future.

Mr. Whitney commented briefly on the upcoming Thornton Key visit and stated kayaks will be available for those wishing to attend.

Mr. Whitney also announced that, due to funding and design concerns, construction of the bike trail connecting 776 to Placida is not expected to begin until after September of 2009.

IX. Correspondence and Communication - None

X. Public Comments - None

XI. Staff Comments - None

XII. Member Comments

Chair Pierce led a discussion regarding the scheduling of the upcoming Field Trips and confirmed these trips will take the place of the next two (2) meetings. It was stated that the Mangroves in Charlotte Harbor will be visited on April 2nd with the last regular meeting before the summer hiatus being held on May 7th. Discussion continued with plans for a March Field Trip to view Stump Pass, Palm Island, and Englewood Beach.

Chair Pierce commented on the Committee vacancy for District III and suggested a member from the area of Don Pedro or Little Gasparilla would be ideal.

Discussion returned to the upcoming Field Trips.

Wilma Katz commented on information presented at the Statewide Sea Turtle Meeting. **Ms. Christy** advised she will be attending the FSPBA meeting in St. Petersburg later this month and stated another less technical meeting is scheduled for September. **Ms. Katz** informed members she and other conservationists have found these meetings very valuable. **Kevyn Schweim** stated he also plans to attend.

XIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting at 9:00am on Thursday, **March 5, 2009** and will be a Field Trip to Stump Pass, Palm Island, and Englewood Beach.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Pierce called the meeting to a close at 11:21a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary