

**Minutes**  
**Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, April 2, 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

**Excused**

**Staff Present**

Commissioner Bob Starr  
Andy Stevens, Env. & Ext. Services  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**Guests**

Michael Poff, CEC  
Chad Lach, Park Manager  
Tommy Brock  
Wilma Katsz  
Camilla Spicer  
Robert Madden

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**  
**Chair Pierce** called the April 2, 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 **Jack Landis** to accept the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee minutes as written. The motion was seconded by **Dick Whitney** and the minutes for **February 5, 2009 and March 5, 2009** were unanimously accepted.
- III. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda** - *None*
- IV. **Chairman Comments**  
**Chair Pierce** advised there would be a change in the order of the agenda.
- V. **Commissioner Comments**  
**Commissioner Starr** stated the Stump Pass dredging has a dedicated funding source and he did not see the budget impact affecting this project. It was his feeling that more effort should be applied in establishing ways to improve the health of the Harbor through natural processes and Hurricane Charley was mentioned as an example. He further suggested the Committee respond if the opportunity should arise to voice an opinion in the future.

**Jack Landis** commented on flushing at Lemon Bay and **Chair Pierce** spoke on the importance of beach renourishment. **David Nellis** provided an alternative view regarding the dredging of Stump Pass and possible legal problems that could occur. **Michael Poff** presented information regarding funding and stated the current permits will expire in 2013. Additional decisions will need to be made by the Commission following the release of the budget in July. **Commissioner Starr** asked if the opportunity is still available to go before Congress and apply for a Federal Bill to renourish the beaches. **Mr. Poff** addressed the inquiry and confirmed a formal re-authorization would need to be requested from Congress although he did not think it would result in success as funding may not be available. **Commissioner Starr** suggested the Committee write a letter for him to provide to the appropriate Representative. He voiced his opinion that this would be a worthwhile project and offered his assistance as needed. **Mr. Poff** added that it could be ten years or more before activity would occur on a federal project and mentioned a project that was conducted by Sarasota County at Midnight Pass. Further discussion will be tabled for the next meeting.

**Chair Pierce** inquired about steps following the dredging in the fall of 2009 and was told a series of workshops will be held to gather public input before presenting a recommendation before the Board. Timelines were discussed.

**Jack Landis** inquired about rumors that County Staff would be taking over the MSTU and MSBU activities. **Commissioner Starr** responded by saying he has asked Administration to provide him with additional information before a final decision is made. If funding is available, he would like to see a paving schedule with completion of roads within three years.

**Tommy Brock** stated he is a long time resident and is very concerned with discussion he is hearing regarding the Pass. He commented on conditions in Lemon Bay prior to the 1990 dredging and the negative affect this had on tourism. **Mr. Poff** addressed questions regarding funding and **Commissioner Starr** added additional comments.

**Chair Pierce** inquired about the County's decision to go paperless. **Commissioner Starr** responded and acknowledged this action will save hundreds of dollars. He suggested documents also be made available for download from the County website.

**Chair Pierce** advised three applicants have applied for the District III vacancy. **Commissioner Starr** explained the selection process and stated he will follow-up with his office with regarding applications.

## **VI. New Business**

*Englewood Beach – Options such as planting vegetation for dune restoration*

**Chair Pierce** provided an update of the Committee's recent Field Trip and their observation of the dune system on Englewood Beach. It was stated two areas were perceived to be in trouble and suggestions were offered for possible ways to correct the problem. **Commissioner Starr** led a discussion with regard to walkovers and access

areas and stated he would need to inspect the area. **Tommy Brock** remarked that he has seen good results with the use of sea grapes as an alternative to sea oats.

***ACTION: A Motion was presented by Jack Landis and seconded by Bill Weller that the two dune areas observed on Englewood Beach be closed with little or no costs by using a sand fence, letting it fill in with sand, and planting appropriate vegetation. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.***

*(Commissioner Starr and Kevyn Schweim left the meeting at 10:00am)*

**VII. Action Items** – None

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**Jack Landis** asked for a brief update regarding the Joint Advisory meeting as it pertained to BSAC. An open discussion followed.

**Dick Whitney** discussed the Blueways Trails and visits by volunteer groups to Thornton Key and other areas being considered for primitive camping sites. **Andy Stevens** spoke further regarding the permitting process as indicated in the draft ordinance and stated this will be going before the Board soon. **Chad Lach** confirmed primitive camping in State Parks is presently only allowed on Cayo Costa in Lee County.

**IX. Old Business**

*Update on Stump Pass Dredging and Beach Restoration*

**Michael Poff** provided additional information and stated the application is still in review by the Tallahassee Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems and he anticipates this being processed in a timely manner. He stated these are long term permits and any activity that occurs will have to receive a re-review and a notice to proceed from the State. He went on to advise on Beach Tilling that has been conducted and stated a waiver was given for the State Park on Manasota Key. **Mr. Poff** provided an update on Shore Bird nesting and sightings and discussed Easement documentation that the county recently requested. **Tommy Brock** added additional comments and discussion continued. **Chair Pierce** suggested scheduling a meeting in August to discuss the dredging project further. **Mr. Poff** agreed to provide updates.

**Chair Pierce** inquired about signs posted at Manasota Beach by property owners to block beach access. **Tommy Brock** commented on liability issues and stated he has had two robberies at his residence and trouble with beachgoers invading his privacy.

*(Bill Weller left the meeting at 10:40am)*

**Mr. Poff** commented that private beach signs could adversely affect the opportunity to receive state funding as projects are judged on the ability for public access to beaches. **Chair Pierce** will provide a copy of the response he received from the County Attorney on the issue at a future meeting. Discussion continued regarding erosion control lines.

**X. Correspondence and Communication** - None

**XI. Public Comments**

**Robert Madden** offered additional comments regarding beach erosion at North Manasota Key and a lack of public access.

**Tommy Brock** inquired about a possible replacement project for the geo-tubes that were recently removed from Stump Pass. **Michael Poff** and **Jack Landis** responded.

**XII. Staff Comments - None**

**XIII. Member Comments**

**David Nellis** inquired about the Field Trip to compare natural mangroves with man-made mangroves and was told it will be rescheduled. Following a discussion, **Andy Stevens** stated he would speak with Betty Staugler about the possibility of arranging a trip for next month.

**XIV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **May 7, 2009**, at 9:00a.m. Confirmation of a scheduled Field Trip will be forthcoming.

**XV. Adjournment**

**Chair Pierce** called the meeting to a close at 11:03a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr  
Recording Secretary