

**Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, May 7, 2009**  
**Charlotte County Administration Center**  
**Room #106B**

**Members Present**

Gwin R. Whitney, Acting Chair  
Kevyn Schweim  
Bill Weller  
David Nellis  
Tommy Brock

**Staff Present**

Commissioner Bob Starr  
Betty Staugler, Sea Grant Agent  
Missy L. Christie, Env. & Ext. Services  
Sherry Montgomery, Public Information  
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

**Excused**

Robert Pierce, Chairman  
John (Jack) Landis

**Guests**

Michael Poff, CEC  
Wilma Katz  
Camilla Spicer  
Randee LaSalle

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

The meeting was slightly delayed due to a last minute change in the meeting location. **Vice Chair Whitney** called the May 7, 2009, **Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:20a.m. noting a quorum was present and announced he would be the Acting Chair today in Chairman Pierce's absence.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was presented by **Bill Weller** to accept the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee minutes as written. The motion was seconded by **David Nellis** and the minutes for **April 2, 2009** were unanimously accepted.

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

**IV. Vice-Chairman Comments - None**

**V. Commissioner Comments**

**Commissioner Starr** inquired about plans for a private tour as discussed at the last meeting. **Acting Chair Whitney** stated the plans were cancelled because a private meeting would be in violation of Florida Sunshine Law.

**Commissioner Starr** commented on his recent visit to Thornton Key and the thick infestation of pepper trees in the area. He feels plans need to be put into action to have them removed and stated canoe owners have begun the clean up process and Dean Beckstead has offered the use of his equipment if manpower could be provided. He

added that he felt this would be a beneficial project for the BSAC.

The next item discussed was the letter composed by Chair Pierce to the BCC regarding unapproved beach access. **Acting Chair Whitney** read the letter to members and **Commissioner Starr** confirmed it has been forwarded to Roger Baltz with a recommendation that a fence be installed in the area. He also suggested it might be a good idea to add additional sand. He felt this is important for the beach and cost would be minimal. **Missy Christie** commented that it is sea turtle season and work would need to be done in cooperation with the DEP and within regulations of the State. Another option would be to wait until October. **Commissioner Starr** accepted **Ms. Christie's** offer to check on permits and required regulations and added it might be better to wait until October. **Ms. Christie** responded to a question from **Tommy Brock** regarding the type of fencing that would be used. Discussion ensued.

**Acting Chair Whitney** presented the committee with a map of Dog Key and stated this would be an excellent piece of property for future purchase by the County. He noted valuable amenities such as beach and boat launching access, additional beach property and swimming.

## **VI. Old Business**

### *Update on Stump Pass Dredging and Beach Restoration*

**Michael Poff** presented members with an update on the Stump Pass dredging, stating they are getting ready for the annual monitoring surveys that are conducted during the month of June. Although there are no new status updates available as of yet, he is confident they will have FEMA funds available for the fall dredging. He will continue to pursue the Jacksonville District for a current status report and will present the information at the next meeting. Discussion continued regarding procedures and the best way to proceed. **Commissioner Starr** advised of a letter he received and inquired about revenue sharing. It was stated by **Mr. Poff** that the Federal process would result in nothing being done on the beaches for at least ten (10) years. He added that by becoming a Federal project, the County would not be eligible for FEMA Reimbursement after a storm. **Commissioner Starr** felt the biggest problem for the West Coast would be sand source as most of the sand sources are already exhausted. **Mr. Poff** mentioned offshore sand sources that could be considered. A question and answer period continued and **Mr. Poff** led a discussion regarding several projects in Florida that back pass sand, but added that although some permits have been granted, the decision is based on a case by case basis. Additional comments were offered by **Commissioner Starr** and discussion continued.

**Acting Chair Whitney** read a letter received from Debbie Flack regarding the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association. **Mr. Poff** recommended the Committee maintain an active status with Beach Watch. **Acting Chair Whitney** stepped out of his role as Acting Chair and spoke as a member of the Committee to express his strong personal view that Charlotte County's survival depends upon the people that come here for retirement and vacations to enjoy the climate and geographic position. He feels investment in this committee strengthens the county's position to generate funds for the

opportunity of maintaining our beaches and property values and believes the cost for this membership is a very reasonable investment under these circumstances.

***ACTION: A motion was made by Kevyn Schweim and seconded by Tommy Brock that the committee send a letter to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners encouraging re-evaluation of the decision to join the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association with appropriate reasons. A discussion followed. The vote was taken and the motion passed 3-1 (Bill Weller opposed – Acting Chair abstained).***

## **VII. New Business**

*Englewood Beach – Letter to Commissioners*  
Nothing further was noted.

*Mangrove Restoration PowerPoint Presentation – Betty Staugler*

**Betty Staugler** presented members with a Video presentation recently shown on NBC, Channel 2 on Mangrove Restoration and clarified the project was actually federally funded rather than state funded as stated on the video. Next, a PowerPoint presentation was presented to members regarding the Charlotte Harbor Community Based Mangrove Restoration Project:

- Mangrove Facts and their Importance
- Hurricane Charley's Path
- Shoreline Condition
- Cape Haze – Post Charley and Pre-Charley
- West Wall-Post Charley and Pre-Charley
- Mangrove Loss – Not related to Charley
- Restoration Candidate – Loss of Valuable Fish Corridor Habitat
- Corridors and Project Timelines
- FAF Community Based Restoration Project Goals
- Restoration Site Design
- Volunteer Training
- Starting with Propagules
- Propagule Collection Sites, Sorting, and Tracking
- Restoration Event
- Monitoring Site Setup and Locations
- Follow-up Monitoring and First Year Results
- Fringing Shoreline versus Total Plot
- All Propagules First Quarter
- Treatment versus Control
- Project Goals and Continued Efforts
- Mangrove Marauders

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

A question and answer period followed and **Ms. Staugler** addressed comments and concerns from members.

*FSBPA Beach Watch Membership – Michael Poff*

**Acting Chair Whitney** advised a special meeting has been tentatively scheduled for August 13, 2009, to review the status of the dredging project. **Mr. Poff** stated the surveys should be complete by this date and he would be able to report on current project conditions as well as State and FEMA funding. He will keep members updated throughout the summer and also suggested the possibility of holding a public conference call. **Acting Chair Whitney** asked for a show of hands of member who would be able to attend an August meeting.

**VIII. Action Items**

Nothing further was noted.

**IX. Committee Reports**

Nothing further was noted.

**X. Correspondence and Communication**

**Acting Chair Whitney** led a discussion regarding two letters that were sent to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners regarding dog issues on Charlotte County beaches. **Randee LaSalle** advised she sent one of the letters and added additional comments. She spoke further on the negative affects to tourism as a result of the dogs and efforts that are being put forth to correct this problem. **Bill Weller** mentioned the importance of education. **Ms. LaSalle** advised of an educational brochure that is now available and discussed the importance of enforcing the laws already in existence. It was confirmed, following a question from **Tommy Brock**, that appropriate signage is posted at the entrance to every public beach within the County.

*(Bill Weller left the meeting at 11:10am).*

**Acting Chair Whitney** stated he would like to ask one or two Committee members who live on the beach and are aware of the problems to form a subcommittee to meet with beach residents for the purpose of bringing a recommendation to the next meeting on how to best address this issue. It was stated this could not be done due to Florida Sunshine Law; however members could inquire independently as long as they do not discuss business outside of the meeting. **Wilma Katsz** felt information concerning local ordinances for Charlotte County, as well as neighboring counties, are not clear and felt this should be looked at further. **Acting Chair Whitney** responded that information concerning County Ordinances and other publications regarding dogs on beaches are available on the internet. It was his suggestion that this information be reviewed for discussion at the next meeting. **David Nellis** commented that he did not think a citation has ever been issued by law enforcement for having a dog on the beach. **Tommy Brock** agreed but felt education was the best course for property owners.

**XI. Public Comments**

Nothing further was noted.

**XII. Staff Comments**

Nothing further was noted.

**XIII. Member Comments**

Nothing further was noted.

**XIV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **August 13, 2009**, at 9:00a.m. in Room B-207.

**XV. Adjournment**

**Vice-Chair Whitney** called the meeting to a close at 11:16a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jane Starr*

Jane Starr  
Recording Secretary