

**MINUTES**  
**Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, March 7, 2013, 9:00 A.M.**  
**Charlotte County Building Construction Service Conference Room**  
**18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948**

Chairman Clif Kewley called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Clifford Kewley, District V, Chairman  
Jack Landis, Member-at-Large, Vice Chairman  
Tommy Brock, District III  
David Nellis, District II  
Rich Parchen, District IV  
Robert Pierce, FL Shore & Beach Preservation Assn.  
Dick Whitney, District I

**Members Absent/Excused**

None

**Staff Present**

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, District 4  
Pamela J. Alexander, Recording Secretary  
Charles Mopps – Community Development, Engineering  
Lynette Auger, Program Coordinator - Natural Resources  
Marty Simone, Financial Consultant – Fiscal  
Jason Stoltzfus, FEMA Program Liaison - Administration

**Guests Present**

Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants  
Dr. Auer, Resident of Palm Island

On motion by Jack Landis, seconded by Bob Pierce and carried unanimously, the Minutes from February 7, 2013 were approved as corrected with the following corrections: The Vote on the Motion on Page 2 should have included that Bob Pierce voted in favor and not against, making the vote 3 in favor and 4 against; under the report from Jack Landis on the field trip Mark Kincaid, and not Michael Poff, was the

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representative from Coastal Engineering Consultants; and, the next meeting is listed as April 4, 2013 and should read March 7, 2013.

### **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

None

### **Chairman Comments**

Chairman Clif Kewley encouraged County staff and other professionals to beware of the negative impact of using acronyms during discussions and presentations. It was discovered that the Clerk had failed to send the list that is utilized by MAC. She will provide it after this meeting is over.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Deutsch reported that the Commissioners have been out in the community and having discussions regarding the 10-year Management Plan and the response, with very few exceptions has been positive. This was particularly evident at the Town Hall meeting held at the Tringali Center on Wednesday evening, March 6, 2013. He is anxious to review the models and get the recommendations to the BCC as soon as possible.

In addition, he has received information regarding difficulties in replacing the H-Pile Safe Water Navigation Aid at Stump Pass. He read a portion of his letter to the Director of WCIND requesting assistance regarding this issue. The County has attempted to facilitate safe navigation in this area by installing lighted buoys, however they keep disappearing. He advised that he had received a response that this issue will be investigated.

Commissioner Deutsch also commented that he had spoken with Bob Hill of Gasparilla Island, who expressed his concern about the possible effects any structure installation at Stump Pass on Gasparilla Island. The Commissioner told Mr. Hall that he did not feel that at that distance (6-7 miles away) there would only be minimal effects. Michael Poff of Coastal Engineering Consultants agreed.

The Commissioner also stated that there was positive feedback from Ken Lovejoy's recent radio show, where he and Charles Mopps were guests.

### **Old Business**

Charles Mopps, Coastal Projects Manager, along with Commissioner Deutsch, provided information on the County's stance in regard to a Pilot Project of placing dredge material from around a residential dock on adjacent vacant lots. The Commissioner advised that he had posed a question to the legal department but had not yet gotten a response. Mr. Mopps advised that placing this spoil **not** only violates County Ordinances, but also

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violates the FEMA rules, which keep our flood insurance fees so low. There was extensive discussion on the topic. In response to comments from member, Dick Whitney, Commissioner Deutsch agreed take copies of the materials he cited from the April 6, 2011 meeting to the County Attorney and bring a response to a future meeting.

*Dick Whitney made a motion that the BSAC table further hearings on the proposal to place spoils material on private lots until having heard a response from Commissioner Deutsch. Jack Landis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.*

Bob Pierce announced that he had invited Dr. Auer, a resident of Palm Island, to attend the meeting. Most of those in attendance had viewed Stump Pass from Dr. Auer's balcony during the March 9, 2012 Field Trip. The Dr. has some concerns about the erosion on the NW corner of the Island after the previous work was completed and what impacts may result from any similar future work.

Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants provided an update on Stump Pass and the 10-Year Management Plan. His initial comment was to remind all that this is a public meeting and all are invited to attend. Any structures installed at Stump Pass should not cause any undue beach erosion on Gasparilla Island. The work which was performed under a previous permit was done in an effort to mimic Mother Nature. Mr. Poff discussed the amounts of sand that had been removed and placed on adjacent beaches over the years. The State permitting process has become more favorable.

Mr. Poff requested the assistance Bob Pierce and Jack Landis in spreading the word to the groups in the Palm Island area.

There was discussion regarding the benefit to the State Park and the costs and related benefits involved.

There was additional discussion of this being a joint State/County project. Mr. Poff cautioned that this could result in the county losing some control over the portions of the project that do not directly involve the Park property. In addition, Jason Stoltzfus noted that there is no FEMA funding for State projects. The County is eligible because we have done the work on the park property.

Commissioner Deutsch indicated that he had broached the subject with his counterpart in Sarasota County to determine if they may be an additional source of funding.

Dr. Auer provided input regarding the status of the North end of Palm Island following the most recent dredging project and TS Debby along with his concerns about how the new project will affect this area. Michael Poff advised that the major project is

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scheduled to commence sometime in 2015. If the funding comes through from FEMA, the renourishment required as a result of TS Debby may begin sooner.

David Nellis reminded all that the Deputy County Attorney had reported that the County had no liability for private property following TS Debby.

Jason Stoltzfus, FEMA Program Liaison, provided an update on the County's outstanding FEMA funding requests. He is still working through the process to obtain funding for the damage caused by TS Debby. FEMA will pay to restore County-owned property, in this case, the beaches, to pre-storm conditions. Mr. Stoltzfus was originally concerned that the request would be denied due to the costs; however, it was denied because of a misinterpretation of policies and procedures. State representatives will be meeting with FEMA representatives in an effort to determine how to best address the issue. He is of the opinion that funding will be provided but not for some time. He will provide an additional update for the next meeting. FEMA rules do not allow holding the funds for future projects. However, theoretically, the funding may arrive near the time of the commencement of the Stump Pass project. Mr. Stoltzfus left the meeting immediately following his presentation.

4. Marty Simone, Financial Consultant for Charlotte County provided a detailed explanation of Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) and Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) funding mechanisms. While residents in an MSBU pay a set amount, residents in an MSTU pay based upon property value. Those in the MSBU pay both. There is information on the County website which contains this information. Collections total about \$1 million per year. Additional \$50,000 is received from West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Funds: \$50,000 from Boater Improvement Funds (BIF); and, \$150,000 from bed tax. There are administrative and monitoring costs charged each year, along with \$50,000 to the State Park, therefore, a reasonable estimate would be \$700,000 per year is in reserve. As of the beginning of the current fiscal year (October 1, 2012), there is approximately \$5.7 million in the bank. Mr. Simone left the meeting after his presentation.

Commissioner Deutsch left the meeting at approximately 10:53 am.

**New Business**

None

**Public Comments**

None

**Staff Comments**

None

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## **Member Comments**

David Nellis provided the following information regarding his autobiographical sketch and his BSAC philosophies. He was born in Brandon and was in the second graduating class from USF in Tampa. He has several degrees, including a PhD in Wildlife Ecology and one in environmental law. He worked in wildlife refuges in the US Virgin Islands for 30 years, where he was responsible for many “firsts” including writing legislation to establish the first state park in the Virgin Islands. He has also published six books on natural resources associated with coastal areas.

Mr. Nellis stated that he is outspoken at these meetings. Based upon his extensive experience while visiting many coastal areas around the world, man’s effort to remediate nature’s effects on coastline fails a majority of the time. When they are successful, it is because there is continuous input/maintenance. He feels that we may be negligent by not looking at the whole picture. Barrier islands are really no more than sandbars which could be wiped off the map in future years through sea level rise and/or future storms. As a group, we should try to consider this when planning for the future.

Jack Landis asked for an update of the mooring field proposal. Andy Stevens would be the contact on that issue.

Chairman Kewley reminded everyone that Lorah Steiner, Tourism Development Director, will be attending our meetings when her schedule allows.

Tommy Brock left the meeting at approximately 11:26 a.m.

## **Next Meetings**

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the BCS Conference Room.

There was discussion regarding a possible joint meeting in the future, when Coastal Engineering presents their proposals.

There was some discussion about inviting the members of both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the MAC to the May meeting, when Coastal Engineering presents their proposals. This may necessitate relocating a meeting, if the response indicates the current conference room will be too small.

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On motion by Bob Pierce, seconded by Jack Landis and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander  
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on April 4, 2013

Clifford Kewley, Chairman

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