

MINUTES
Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 4, 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 9:03 a.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked that all keep all the military personnel and others who are in South Korea and may be in grave danger at this time.

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
David Nellis, District II
Rich Parchen, District IV
Robert Pierce, FL Shore & Beach Preservation Assn.
Dick Whitney, District I

Members Excused

Tommy Brock, District III

Staff Present

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, District 4
Pamela J. Alexander, Recording Secretary
Charles Mopps – Community Development, Engineering
Lynette Auger, Program Coordinator - Natural Resources
Lorah Steiner, Tourism Development Director

Guests Present

Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants
Dr. Arthur Auer, Resident of Palm Island
Steve Reilly, Reporter – Englewood Sun Newspaper
Adam Beckstead – Palm Island Resort
Dean Beckstead – Palm Island Resort
Rick Brunette – Palm Island Resort
Jeffery Jacobson – Resident of Palm Island Resort

****Please note that one or more Charlotte County Commissioners may be in attendance at any meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee****

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Richard Parchen, seconded by Bob Pierce and carried unanimously, the Minutes from March 7, 2013 were approved with the minor correction of changing the word "no" to "not" on Page 2, in the last line under Old Business.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

None

Chairman Comments

Chairman Clif Kewley welcomed all who were in attendance.

It was suggested that all in attendance introduce themselves.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deutsch arrived at approximately 9:10 a.m. and left approximately 10:15 a.m.

Old Business

1. Michael Poff handed out copies of the presentation he will be making at the stakeholder meetings. It will also be posted on the website. The first meeting will be held on 4/8/13 at 2:00 p.m. at the mobile home park on Manasota Key. This was arranged with the assistance of BSAC member, Jack Landis. This presentation will be similar to the presentation at the Joint Meeting in February. It will also include updates and streamlining the analysis. He also brought along sand samples from the offshore sand site search. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Fire Station on Knight Island on Wednesday, April 17th at 2 pm. Lorah Steiner will attempt to confirm the location with the Fire Chief at another meeting later today. They are awaiting confirmation, but either 4/18 or 4/19, there will be a webinar with state agencies, the County and Mr. Poff's firm.

Today he will discuss the structural alternatives on the slides and some of the offshore sand issues. A copy of the presentation will be attached as part of these Minutes.

The pass is dynamic as everyone is aware. Several events affected the pass over the last years and the goal of the 1980's dredging was to restore the pass to the condition which existed after the hurricane in the 1900's and the 1950's.

In the past, state and federal dollars were available to assist with the funding because of the type of work that was permitted. These funds are now more difficult to obtain. We have to be smarter about how we spend the local dollars we have available. Those receiving the benefits of the local tax dollars continue to be willing to pay for these benefits.

Along with the current information, modeling reports, alternatives and detailed costs will be provided to the stakeholders at the upcoming meetings. The main thrust is "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", that is to maintain the current program. A terminal groin is something that is acceptable to the State. The BSAC has indicated their support for a structure with adaptability and flexibility, such as a permeable groin. It is his

belief that this does not have to be decided in May or June, as we may learn things during the permitting process that will influence the final decisions.

The south side of the Pass will also need to be addressed. If a terminal groin is installed, the appearance of the beach will be different. Mr. Poff referred to the photos in his presentation.

There will be flexibility in the permitting language, which will include “triggers”, which means that ‘If this happens’, ‘then the County will do that’. This is very beneficial.

Modeling will be done for one year and the evaluations will be objectively scored, based upon the classifications. He gave examples of this scoring. A matrix will be available in May. The presentation to the BCC is tentatively set for their second meeting in May or the first meeting in June.

Mr. Poff then provided samples the sand that was found from an off-shore site for viewing by those in attendance. He said that it was very similar to the sand currently on Venice Beach.

David Nellis suggested an additional option of restoring the pass to the pre-hurricane breach status and prior to the ICW dredging. This of course would eliminate boating but would benefit the beaches. It was explained that the flushing of Lemon Bay is vital and this option would impede that. There were several questions and much discussion by those in attendance.

Commissioner Deutsch stated that he is one of five, but that his concern is less about dollars and cents than it is about ecology and the environment, as well as recreational and commercial benefits to the area. He also stated that there is much more cooperation and flexibility coming from the state agencies. Mr. Poff provided information about the modeling projects.

Lorah Steiner left at 9:55 a.m.

Chuck Mopps provided additional input on the “what if” scenarios and suggested a phased project. Mr. Poff gave an example of a project that was just permitted with the “what ifs” as part of it.

Mr. Poff stated that if nothing had changed since the 1950s, he would agree with Mr. Nellis, but there have been so many changes that that does not appear to be a feasible alternative. Additional discussion followed.

Mr. Poff left the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m. after his presentation, along with Charles Mopps and Steve Reilly.

2. Update regarding FEMA funding requests – Jason Stoltzfus. It was necessary to continue this item as Mr. Stoltzfus was attending a meeting in Tallahassee.

New Business

None

Public Comments

None

Staff Comments

Lynette Auger of Natural Resources reported that nesting has started for shorebirds on the mitigation site. She was able to overfly the area and take updated photographs which will be used for comparison.

Member Comments

Member Richard Parchen shared his Autobiography and BSAC Philosophies with the group. He grew up in Iowa and received an engineering degree from Iowa State. He worked at Dupont in Virginia and spent a number of years living in the outer banks of North Carolina. It was a beautiful area and quite similar to our barrier islands. There were many environmental issues. He shared a number of environmental and economic situations specific to the islands which, in part, led him to move to Charlotte County. His philosophy: To assure that animals and humans can co-exist.

Next Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the BCS Conference Room. The Clerk will provide contact information to the Chair for the Chairs of the Marine and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committees. They will be invited to hear the presentation by Michael Poff on Stump Pass and the 10-Year Plan

Adjournment

On motion by Bob Pierce, seconded by Richard Parchen and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on May 2, 2013

Clifford Kewley, Chairman