



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

Murdock Administration Building, 18500 Murdock Circle,
Building B, Room B-106, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

<u>Board Members:</u>	<u>District:</u>
Coty Keller, Chair	District 4
Don McCormick, Vice-Chair	District 2
Ellen Decker.....	District 3
Patrick Jurek.....	District 1
Wendy Lang.....	District 5
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Ed Hill.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

April 1, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Keller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Keller asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call / Determination of a Quorum

Upon Secretary Bennett calling the roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.

Wendy Lang and Ellen Decker were absent

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from March 4, 2021
minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

5. Changes to the Agenda

Brandon Moody, has been added to the agenda to speak on the water quality.

Jeff Anlauf, Member-at-Large, asked how does he get items onto the agenda?

Secretary Bennett answered for **Mr. Anlauf** to send the item over that he would like added and she would then send it over to **Mr. Keller** to see if he would like for it to be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Deutsch mentioned that if he would like something added, he believes under item #5 he could mention it there. Then suggested that if he wanted something on the agenda prior to the meeting then he would reach out to the secretary and then she would send it to the chair.

Mr. Anlauf commented that he has an objection towards items #8, the George Luer report, being on the agenda again, when it was heard back in 2018.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

Kevin Peragoy lives on Manchester Waterway and has some concerns on the Old Business item; Access to western end of Manchester Waterway is being addressed at this meeting. He was present when this issue was heard on May 3rd, 2018 by this board and recalls Mr. Keller asking for a 30-day extension for his opportunity to oppose. He expresses his concerns for this being re-brought up at this meeting. When the members have only received a couple page summary of **Mr. Keller's** objection and with the board being blind sided with this being on the agenda. He referenced an article in the newspaper **Mr. Keller** spoke about. He also stated he sees FWC here and wondered if they are commenting on this item.

Mr. Keller states his concerns are noted. He will leave it to the board members when discussion is completed today to come to your own judgements.

7. New Business

None Offered.

8. Old Business:

- Claire Jubb, Assistant County Administrator
 - Water Quality Manager
 - SW Resiliency Compact update

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager, gave an update on water quality and current monitoring plan.

During the workshop last month, he gave an introduction of a general plan of their direction of establishing a monitoring program for water quality. The workshop on April 20th they are going to talk about budgets for Community Development. Also, there will be further discussions about the Water Quality Monitoring and **Mr. Moody** will release what he has learned thus far with numbers. They are working on putting into context some basic numbers on cost. So, they can get an idea of what they are looking at budgetarily and what the fiscal aspect is. There has been some discussion at the workshops on macroalgae in the region. Multiple state agencies and universities have been giving presentations and discussing what we know, what we don't know. **Mr. Moody's** perspective on this has further reinforced the need for us to get a monitoring program on the ground. That would allow us to characterize Charlotte counties waterways contributions to the harbor, in terms of water quality.

- SW Resiliency Compact update

Mr. Moody spoke to **Claire Jubb** and she mentioned to him that Lee county ratified a couple of weeks ago. From his understanding that leaves City of Fort Myers and Collier county the two that has yet to sign There were no immediate extension updates.

Mr. Keller asks is this compact for Charlotte, Lee and Collier county and the major municipalities? That every county and municipalities have all signed on with the exception of Collier county and the City of Fort Myers. Could we expect every other municipality in those counties has signed on to the agreement?

Mr. Moody said he can't speak on that. For this process with the compact has not been put into his jurisdiction just yet. However, he can check into it.

- Access to western end of Manchester Waterway

Mr. Keller informed the committee the reason why he saw the need for this to be reviewed is that there has been a major change. That being, the county is taking on the decision as to whether or not Charlotte county would become a lead agency in this project. Since, in the past this was an interest to us it might be appropriate

for us to answer and advise on that decision. Or at least, air what's going on and what has changed since then. One of the major functions of this committee is community awareness.

Commissioner Stephen Deutsch mentioned that was the process they were told by the state. He believes there are 3 State Environmental agencies for water quality, and they feel it is a positive project. In order to move ahead, the county was told this is the way for the methodology that has to be followed. With that, he wanted to leave a thought with everyone; When the lock was put in, that's when the 3 waterways were closed off, to the best of his recollection the dredge materials from the Myakka is what was thrown in there to close them off. With all that, the state came back years later and said they think it's better for the waterway. When the state came back saying to open up the lock, why didn't they open the water ways? It's the flushing is supposed to be a very positive environmental thing from what he is told by scientist.

Mr. Keller mentions as an awareness point of view for the committee, he will present a fresh look at the historical aspects of this. **Corey Anderson, FWC**, will share a view on the impact of this project on fish and wildlife.

Commissioner Deutsch asked for clarification is **Mr. Anderson** representing the agency? It was his understanding that the agency was supporting the concept. However now, it sounds like they are not.

Mr. Keller answered let's find out when **Mr. Anderson** comes to the podium.

Don McCormick, Vice-Chair, is concerned for this discussion. We have a member of the public expressing concerned about this meeting and we have a member, **Mr. Anlauf**, expressing concern. He would like to know what **Mr. Anlauf** wishes are.

Mr. McCormick asked **Mr. Anlauf** if he would like another 30 days to prepare a rebuttal, for this discussion?

Mr. Anlauf felt blindsided that we were going to discuss this again. He feels this committee is being used by **Mr. Keller** to further his agenda. He would like to see on this report, for this to be removed. Also, to give us time to present and to gather up a presentation. He would like this struck from the agenda and given full documents of the George Luer report, full documents of what will be presented and maybe this can be done together, next month.

There was some discussion of the purpose for this to be on the agenda.

***Mr. McCormick** made a motion to table the discussion on the Access to western end of Manchester Waterway for 30 days with information provided in advance, seconded by **Mr. Jurek**; the motion passed unanimously.*

- Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (START)- discuss START speaking at one of our meetings

Mr. Keller mentioned that Betty Staugler has been working on clams and oysters for years, and wanted to know what is the committee's objective? Do they want to learn how to plant clams or oysters? Or do they want some insight on how that might affect our water quality and what kind of programs do we want to have. Maybe we should invite Betty Staugler to come in, to give us her insight and what avenue to take?

Mr. McCormick added to have an invitation extended to Jennifer Hecker from CHNEP. To come in and talk about the oyster's restoration project in Charlotte Harbor.

Mr. Keller would like for the committee to decide

- which of the 3 lectures we want from S.T.A.R.T
- or hold off for awhile and have Betty Staugler come in and give us a presentation
- Or have a follow up with the Estuary Program and what they are doing with oysters.

Mr. McCormick suggest having Betty Staugler in first, she has a lot of information the committee would enjoy hearing. He would also be interested in start some views on clams to be heard. **Mr. Keller** suggested for the clams to be discussed as a follow on after Ms. Staugler is heard.

Mr. Keller agreed to have Betty Staugler come in and give a general orientation on the benefits, Pro and Cons of shell fish restoration.

- Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.
 - Manasota Key Beach Restoration Project
 - South Beach (Knight-Don Pedro Island) Renourishment
 - Stump Pass navigation channel project
 - Mitigation reef

Matt Logan, Public Works spoke because **Mr. Poff** was not present.

Mr. Logan stated they just finished the first annual tilling ahead of Sea Turtle nesting season, this wrapped up last week. They are currently working in relation to the stump pass project with Coastal Engineering. To develop the bid specifications and to move forward with the channel dredging of Stump Pass. The placement of sand on the north and south side of the pass.

Commissioner Deutsch recommended to remind **Mr. Poff** to include the figure amount that was saved because of the beach project, in his next report.

Mr. Logan indicated that **Mr. Poff** will be at the April 27th, Board of County Commissioners meeting giving an update on the beach project. Updates will include; information on Manasota Key and the performance of the groin. He will also be able to answer some questions that have come up.

- Mitigation reef

Mr. Logan stated this project has been completed. They got more than they bargained for by having to place some additional rock to compensate for some of the gaps. Even under difficult conditions throughout the project, an incredible job was done.

Mr. Logan announced that Zach Patchell wasn't able to attend to talk about the MSBU updates. He referred the committee to the MSBU update handout that was distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Logan explained that annually they have to dig out material from the channel adjacent from the Port Charlotte Beach Complex to provide navigation access. He has teamed up with Parks and Recreation and Coastal Engineering to develop a plan addressing the consistent sculling within that channel in areas, as well as to stabilize the beach. Over the years, the shoreline has receded significantly. Usually, to replace the sand from the beach, they dig out the access channel. This was recently done this past year and unfortunately due to some wave action the beach eroded. One of the points they are discussing, is to have Coastal Engineering look into slowing down the erosion rate.

- **Parks and Natural Resources – Jamie Scudera**
 - **Sea Turtles, Shore Birds and Sea Birds**

Susan Foley-Pieri, Natural Resources informed the members there are a couple of surveys occurring right now for shore birds. The non-breeding shore bird survey that is required for the recent restoration project, continues until mid-May. They look for Piping Plovers and Red Knots and go out twice a month. Starting February 15th – August 31st there's a breeding shore bird survey. No nest thus far. 3 breeding pairs were seen on Palm Island and 1 mating pair, American Oystercatchers, on Bird Island. Florida shore bird database, has changed their method of reporting shorebirds. They look for breeding pairs.

Ms. Foley-Pieri mentioned that Parks and Natural Resource staff conducts a monthly survey. Last week while at Stump Pass, they saw:

- 15 total species
- 362 Royal Terns
- 268 Laughing Gulls
- 75 Black Skimmers

There also were 14 boats beached at Stump Pass State Park. Earlier in the week they saw LGI there were 20 boats parked around the south end.

Ms. Foley-Pieri stated the sea turtle season starts on May 1st- October 31st, daily monitoring begins on April 15th.

- **Derelict/Abandon Vessels**

Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources, informed the members that:

- 1 has been relocated temporarily to our Port Charlotte Beach floating dock, until it can properly be trailered out
- 1 has been removed
- 3 are ready for removal
- 3 are open cases
- 1 cited by Law Enforcement

9. Correspondence and Communication

Mr. Keller mentions they will look into a new procedure, where an extended draft agenda will be given 2 weeks ahead and the agenda be finalized a week ahead.

10. Public Comments

Corey Anderson, FWC, Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration Biologist, addressed what his input might be on the Access to western end of Manchester Waterway, for the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee. The FWC doesn't have official positions on a proposed project for Manchester Waterway. They are happy to provide detail technical input on Fish, Wildlife, Shell fish and their habitats. In or around the Manchester Waterway area for Tippecanoe Bay, Sand Knight creek, Deer Fly creek, Hog Island and the State Park preserve in that area. That would be for consideration by the committee.

Mr. Keller asked would you be able to comment if we said a dredge of a 5 ft distance was performed, what kind of impact that would have on the habitat and the fish?

Mr. Anderson answered Yes, he would be able to make an entrance on what a potential action would have on the habitat. Then the committee could consider if it would be a worth while thing to do in their opinion and make a recommendation to the commission.

Jim Robinson, Resident of the Manchester Waterway, expressed his outrage for an article in the newspaper where Mr. Keller spoke on behalf of the BSAC. He stated that he and others have many meetings about the quality of the water. They monitor the water quality monthly and could demonstrate that the quality of the water coming into Manchester is as good as what's in the harbor. They have the data to support it. For someone to suggest as an official representative of this community, for that not being the case, is an outrage. They contacted MOTE Marine for an expert opinion. The program manager for fisheries, ecology and enhancement, was sent the George Luer report for comment. They then had a conversation on it, and he has no problem with what they are doing. He express's there were countervailing opinions that he thinks were mis-represented in the article that was in the paper.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None.

12. Member Comments

Jeff Anlauf, Member-at-Large, commented that the Manchester Water Way Civic Association (MWCA) had a water clean up last Saturday of the Manchester Waterway. In conjunction with Keep Charlotte Beautiful, they picked up over 600 pounds of trash that was in the canal ways. They expect this to be an endeavor for the MWCA annual or semi-annual basis in the future.

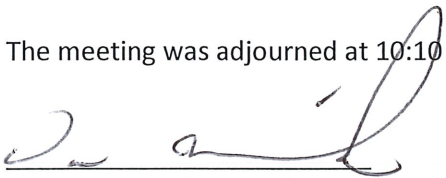
14. Next Meeting

Mr. Jurek made a motion to move the May meeting to Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 at 9:00am, seconded by Mr. McCormick; the motion passed unanimously.

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106 Port Charlotte unless otherwise announced.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.



Don McCormick, Vice-Chair