



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>
Don McCormick, Chair	District 2
Ellen Decker Vice-Chair	District 3
Patrick Jurek.....	District 1
Wendy Lang.....	District 5
Stas Matias.....	District 4
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Ed Hill.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order:

Don McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Don McCormick 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.

Patrick Jurek and Jeff Anlauf were absent.

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from May 4, 2021

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the May 4, 2021 minutes, seconded by **Ms. Decker** the motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

Mary Lundeberg, Bird Steward Program, commented that the beach renourishment at Stump Pass has been phenomenal for the shorebirds and the sea turtles. She is very pleased with the threaten birds population this year. She's in attendance to try to make sure that any renourishment for next year, happens before April 1st. The Least Terns and Wilson Plovers may not choose to nest here next year if there is heavy machinery operating after April 1st. Also, the tidal pool on Stump Pass right now is phenomenal it is drawing all sorts of birds. She runs a bird steward program at Stump Pass Beach State Park, where they have bird stewards who educates people about the threatened beach nesting birds. They also help keep dogs on leashes on the State Park beach. Dogs

are prohibited on the State Park except in the middle of the park, they are not allowed on the water, which not a lot of people know that. In her view better signage is needed throughout the State Park on dog education.

Mr. McCormick encourages **Ms. Lundeberg** to speak to Matt Logan regarding her concerns for the beach renourishment and the groin project.

7. New Business

Ms. Decker mentioned that Sarasota county received \$42 million in Federal Aid. They are using it towards the Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility and Wastewater Treatment plant where they are going to upgrade it to an advanced wastewater treatment. Sarasota county has also launched a program that gets fats, oils and grease out of the pipes.

8. Old Business

- **Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager**

- Water Quality

Mr. Moody commented in terms of updates; The launch of the county's Water Quality plan is still in development. The next milestone discussion is going to be with the MSBU Storm Water Unit. At the end of July, he will be in attendance to both meetings. Where he intends to inform them of general locations and gather their opinion on what areas they see the need to focus on. They are still working out the money aspect of the plan.

Mr. Moody informed the group that he noticed an algae bloom has been developing in the Butterford canal. Also, now that is raining season, be aware of any concern related to storm water.

Mr. Moody commented that he attended the Mosaic Workshop on Tuesday. He was not there to provide input from the county but was there to gather information. The commissioners have also sent letters to the Mosaic board members. He mentions that there may be another Mosaic Workshop coming soon for the DEP representatives speak.

Mr. Moody mentions that there are some bills that have been signed into law, that anybody that does boating or has interest in the water might want to take a look. Senate Bill 1086, is the more significant one of them. There is a lot of changes to things such as handling derelict vessels and tightening up restriction areas. Also, from a water quality perspective, pending approval from EPA, there was a designee for any aquatic preserve areas in the state as no discharge zones for boats.

Ms. Decker asked **Mr. Moody** on the letters that the commissioners sent over to Mosaic, DeSoto and DEP, did any of those three entities reply, that you are aware of? **Mr. Moody** answered Mosaic just replied, he received the letter late yesterday. He hasn't fully retained it yet; he just did a quick glance. No other responses have been received yet.

Ms. Decker mentioned that the Army Corps of Engineers is getting ready to decide on the Lake Okeechobee release schedule. She's unaware of when they will be making a decision and asked **Mr. Moody** if he knows when that will be? **Mr. Moody** responded that Wednesday, July 7th, there's going to be a Lake Okeechobee system operating manual meeting where the project delivery team will provide their recommendation. The final preferred lake schedule will be on August 4th.

There was some discussion on House Bill 735 about how it may or may not affect the water quality.

Mr. McCormick asked has there have been any developments with Sarasota County or the City of North Port regarding Cocoplum, with water quality assessments?

Mr. Moody answered in terms of Cocoplum, there is a proposal for them to do some monitoring near the Como Waterway.

- **Shore Birds and Sea Birds**

Ms. Lundeberg Found 10 Least Tern Nest outside of the ropes. She extended the ropes to cover the nest and called Susie to come out and take a look.

Ms. Lundeberg commented that one of the reasons why our manatees are dying is because of herbicides and other things killing our seagrasses, and the manatees are starving. If we could spread the word and do more about our water quality and seagrasses, it all works together.

9. Correspondence and Communication

None offered.

10. Public Comments

None offered.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None offered.

12. Member Comments

Ms. Decker asked **Shaun Cullinan, Planning and Zoning Official**, if someone is not able to attend the BZA meeting, that may be affected by a petition that will be heard at the July BZA meeting, is there an email where they can send their opposition to or their support of?

Mr. Cullinan answered yes, the planner that handles special exceptions and variances is Elizabeth Nocheck. If the email is received before the agenda is posted, we will attach it in the report as additional materials. If not, we typically print out the email and give it to board members the day of hearing. If received day of hearing, we will make a reference that we have received letters but did not have time to print them out.

Ms. Decker do you know if this particular case will set any new legal precedence?

Mr. Cullinan replied variances are unique to a site, you can't set a precedence with a variance. Variances are based on the fact patterns of a unique a site; whether that could be based on lot size if they have to meet the criteria, etc.

Mr. Hill mentioned that Lightspeed Gives started a charity initiative first of the year. It's not just investing into the community with our dollars but also our resources such as our employee's time. They are doing a beach cleanup, collaborating with the county who is providing the materials, on July 10th at 8:30 am – 12pm. Also, they have collaborated with Stump Pass and purchased a couple of bike racks for the State Park, that were installed recently.

Ms. Lang asked if they could create some sort of announcements about dumping into the canals to help educate the community on the impact that can cause to our water quality?

There were some ideas discussed as into what they could do to help educate the community.

Mr. Moody added that one of his tasks was not only to work out a water quality monitoring plan but also start forming a water management plan. To create a series of measures that we as a county can do to help protect and preserve the water quality. They are looking into specific things that they can be doing based on the challenges we have here. Which is as we mentioned the high migration of people into the county from out of state, who are not necessarily familiar with the dynamics of the systems. He has been communicating with interest groups and some realtor associations about maybe riding along an effort that's already done by Parks and Recreation. There's a program that he's aware of for new property owners on the shorelines that own homes, who get a welcome packet that talks about the sea turtles. His thought is why can't they do something like that for people that are inland? By putting together educational packet about the fertilizing ordinance and the canals, etc. By approaching it in a way of we have all these great things, here's how we can do our part. They are thinking about that idea and concept and are working on what the content of the package looks like. With him attending meetings and hearing people's ideas, it is helping him think of ways to help get the word out.

Ms. Lang recommended to include the packages for rentals and seasonal rentals. We have quite a few people coming here for a short amount of time too.

Mr. Moody commented he is more concerned for the vacationers who don't really know any information about the harbor or any of the water in the area. He thinks to have educational information for the vacationers will help.

Ms. Decker suggested to **Mr. Moody** Airbnb and VRBO are used a lot by government agencies to see if they are collecting the tax, maybe you can go in and find those larger landlords and supply them with packages. She also recommended to speak to the board of realtors and try to get onto their agenda. She suggested as well to mention the mangroves and possible fines for trimming them in his packet.

Mr. Moody stated that he will be taking all of this into consideration.

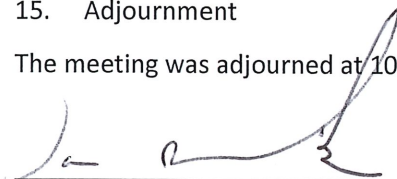
Mr. Matias stated he is a part of the association for realtors, they always welcome county employees to come and speak at their general membership meeting. There will be a general membership meeting this month with one of the speakers being the Sheriff. He encouraged **Mr. Moody** to reach out to the association to get on the roaster to speak in front of the realtors. He's also the president elect of the woman's council of realtors that meets once a month and explains to **Mr. Moody** if he ever wants to speak at that meeting, he's more than welcome. He agrees that education is key to help.

14. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, September 2, 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 10:03 a.m.



Don McCormick, Chair