

County Commission explores fishing pier replacements

Hector Flores

At its Wednesday meeting the Charlotte County Commission discussed options for replacing two fishing piers damaged by recent hurricanes.

Community Services Director Tommy Scott presented four options for replacing the El Jobean Fishing Pier. The four options were: targeted repair/replacement using the existing pilings; replacement at a same elevation; replacement at a higher elevation; and replace at a higher elevation, but with a shorter pier.

The board voted to move ahead with option C, which would provide a pier nine feet above mean sea level to make it more resilient against storm surge. The project would also require repairs to the access path, shoreline rip rap, mangrove plantings and seawall replacement. There is much work left to be done, starting with hiring a design firm and then a construction contractor.

The board also heard more about the status of the Bayshore Live Oak Park Fishing Pier, which was closed for repairs before the hurricanes and permanently closed after sustaining catastrophic damage during the storms.

The county has received the necessary U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Florida Department of Environmental Protection permits. The engineering contractor is currently working on construction documents. Once those are done, the county will hire a construction contractor to remove what's left of the old pier and building its replacement.

Burn ban lifted

The Charlotte County Commission has voted to rescind the countywide burn ban enacted on Dec. 9, 2025, following recent rainfall that has reduced the risk of wildfire throughout the county.

Charlotte County Fire & EMS Chief Matthew McElroy recommended lifting the ban after reviewing local and regional fire weather data, fuel conditions, operational readiness, and in consultation with the Florida Forest Service.

Residents may now resume outdoor burning activities, including recreational fires and yard waste burning, in accordance with applicable county ordinances and state regulations.

Controlled agricultural and prescribed burns continue to be regulated by the Florida Forest Service.

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