



## Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

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

### Board Members

Robert Wibbeler  
Vacant  
Ralph Lombardo  
Stas Matias, Chair  
Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair  
Hank Killion  
Vacant

### District

District 1  
District 2  
District 3  
District 4  
District 5  
Member-at-Large  
Member-at-Large

### MINUTES

**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.**

1. Call to Order:

**Wendy Lang** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

**Ms. Wendy Lang** leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call / Determination of a Quorum

Upon Secretary Heather Bennett calling the roll call, it was noted that a quorum was **present**.

### Present

Robert Wibbeler  
Wendy Lang  
Hank Killion  
Ralph Lombardo  
Stephen R. Deutsch  
Brandon Moody  
Jamie Scudera

Approval of Minutes

- Approve the Minutes from October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

**Mr. Lombardo** made a motion to approve the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, minutes, seconded by **Mr. Killion**. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

**Wendy Lang** commented that they should invite some people from the building department to our next meeting to discuss what is the latest on the beaches.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

**Damian Ochab, President of the South Manasota Sandpiper Key Association (SMSKA)** gave an update on about the complex on the key. He expressed that the island is looking for direction as into how to strengthen their shorelines. They would like to see a consistent plan as into what's the best plan to have. They know that there will be some future sand coming from FEMA. There are 5 or 6 ways of armoring your property, they would like some consistency of a plan to inform the surrounding owners on the key to the best ways to protect their property.

**Don Denison** commented that Charlotte County only has one beach on Manasota Key that is blocked off for anyone to use. He suggests for them to open it up because people are driving around looking for parking to go to the beach. **Ms. Lang** comments that the beaches are not safe right now and they are not open. She suggested that an electric sign should be placed before the bridge that says the beaches are closed and are unsafe.

There was a discussion about the way the sand is being cleaned for it to be placed back onto the beach.

7. New Business

**Ms. Lang** asked for a motion for a new sign to be placed onto Tom Adams Bridge and maybe a sign down by the beach. Also to make a motion to request someone from the building department to attend next meeting to discuss some of the following:

- Permitting process
- debris pickup
- demolition issue
- reconstruction

for public works they are requesting for the following info:

- Where do they plan to put the sand
- How will they plan to distribute the sand

Motion

**Mr. Lombardo** requests the reach out to the appropriate offices to put the sign onto the beach addressing it is unsafe until further notice. Seconded by **Mr. Wibbeler**. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

**Mr. Brandon Moody** shared his findings with the storm surge between Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Prior to Helene they placed water level monitors in various locations of the county to try to see what was going to happen with the storms. Some of them were left out past Helene which allowed him to track the surge in both Hurricanes. The results for Helene were the surge went above the seawall flooded into yards and then came back down and the same with Milton. This illustrated that not all storm surges are created equal. We talk about things in terms of how high things got. Here you can see Milton got one foot or a foot and half above

Helene. When we talk about the storm damage and it's also about the duration of the storm. Where Helene wasn't as tight and short as Milton. For Hurricane Helene the timing recorded for when the water started going above peoples docks to when it started pushing down below was 29 hours. For Milton it was 13 hours. Which meant that we had more water coming in at a faster rate which means a lot more force pushing through. You saw that is places like Manasota Key, where Hurricane Helene came through and houses flooded. Hurricane Milton came through and houses were moved. When were talking about surge and surge events it's really about also the intensity and duration and not just the height pushing through. That's where it's helpful to have data like this so we can kind of get a handle on sort of where the hardest areas were hit.

**Mary McMurray, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves,** commented about the continuous water quality instruments that are placed on the east and west wall of Charlotte Harbor. They captured both of the storm surge, and it was interesting to see the difference between what was happening on the east wall verse the west wall. The east wall had a higher surge during Helene than Milton. Milton was higher on both on the east and west wall. She commented that if they are interested in the data, she'd be happy to come back in and give another presentation.

**Mr. Moody** commented in terms of oxygen levels during Hurricane Ian. In the weeks following Ian the oxygen was near zero and stayed that way until about three weeks later when the cold front came. Ian was a major wind even which caused the vegetation to be stripped and deposited into the water. When that happens, bacteria start breaking the material down. When it does it uses oxygen. As part of Hurricane Response, we go out to bodies of water and sample for biochemical oxygen which gives an idea of how active the bacteria are in the water. Hurricane Ian we had high levels around 20-30 mg per liter. After Milton we had virtually none. Again, we didn't have a lot of organic matter come in, we didn't have a lot of storm water runoff. We are seeing some Red Tide blooms coming near shore. Which they were seeing before the Hurricanes came through.

**Mr. Moody** mentioned that they had the first public meeting on sea level rise storm surge and tide surge vulnerability assessment. That is an effort the county has been working on to identify areas at higher risk for current and future tide surge and flooding. To identify the areas that are at greater risk, then we identify strategies for those areas. We then give the info to the state and the state will allow us to ask for funding to implement the resiliency measures.

- Parks and Natural Resources
  - Parks and Natural Resources Update

**Jamie Scudera** commented that the sea turtles didn't get hit badly by the storms. The preliminary number of nests is 1853. Which are good numbers, and we did have the one leatherback, a Kemps Ridley and the rest were Loggerheads. They are currently working on the next steps for the mitigation area since it is flat now. We do now have a trapper on Palm Island.

- Derelict Vessel Update Report

Jamie Scudera mentioned that boats are being handled two different ways. There's Derelict Vessels- which are the vessels in the water. There are upland vessels- which are the boats that were pushed onto land. We are addressing them in two different ways. The ones in the water are still being handled by FWC. The ones on land they are partnering with Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to get the contact owners information and then working through FEMA for removal of the vessels.

9. Correspondence and Communication

None offered.

10. Public Comments

**Damion Ochab** commented about the debris removal. That currently they are working on removing storm debris. But he was wondering what's going to happen to the demolition of homes debris.

**Ms. Lang** asked **Mr. Moody** for the reasoning of the thickness of the muck that was in Punta Gorda verses any where else? **Mr. Moody** explained that is the unconsolidated organic material muck that was left over from breaking through the algae. What Punta Gorda saw was what had been sitting at the bottom of the coastline of Charlotte Harbor until Milton delivered it to Punta Gorda.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None offered.

12. Member Comments

None offered.

13. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106 Port Charlotte unless otherwise announced.

14. Adjournment

**Ms. Lang** made a motion to adjourn; seconded by **Mr. Lombardo**; the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.



Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair