



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

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

<u>BOARD MEMEBERS</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
Robert Wibbeler	District 1
Robert Hancik	District 2
Ralph Lombardo	District 3
Stas Matias, Chair	District 4
Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair	District 5
Hank Killion	Member-at-Large
Vacant	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

April 3, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Stas Matias, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Stas Matias asks those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL / DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Per Marie Valeus:

Committee Members Present:

Stas Matias
Wendy Lang
Robert Wibbeler
Ralph Lombardo
Hank Killion

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Hancik

County Staff Present:

Matt Logan, Coastal Projects Manager
Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources
Elizabeth Eastes, Natural Resources
Shaun Cullinan, Planning and Zoning Official
Marie Valeus / Melissa Mason, Recording Secretary

Guests:

Larry Benjamin, Community

Josh Olive, Waterline Magazine

Damian Ochab, SMSKA

Mary McMurray, FDEP - Charlotte Harbor Aquatics Preserves FDEP

Marie Valeus, Recording Secretary conducts the roll call and poses a question thereafter to **Shaun Cullinan** regarding the process of **Robert Wibbeler's** resignation. **Mr. Cullinan** states that board member's resignations are handled solely by the BOCC administration. **Stas Matias, Chair** affirms that the process of the resignation will be accepted by the County Commissioners and at present there has been no dialogue with them. **Mr. Wibbeler** states that he contacted Commissioner Doherty and Commissioner Duetsch's office. **Mr. Matias** states that he will follow up with their assistants. **Mr. Matias** highlights that Larry Benjamin applied for the seat of District 1 and will be appointed on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, and that **Robert Wibbeler** has applied for the Member-at-Large seat. **Mr. Matias** has seen the letter of recommendation, but not yet the acceptance from the County Commissioners. With that said, **Mr. Wibbeler** remains in the District 1 seat for this meeting.

Upon clarification of Mr. Wibbeler's seat status, **Marie Valeus** noted a quorum was present.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 3, 2025

Ralph Lombardo states that the question he had was not included in last month's minutes. **Stas Matias** reaffirms that **Mr. Lombardo** wants to add to the minutes that a question was asked. **Wendy Lang** makes a motion that the question be added to the minutes from last meeting and that the minutes are approved based on the revision.

Stas Matias, Chair called for action on the minutes of March 6, 2025, BSAC Meeting. There was a motion to approve by **Wendy Lang, Vice Chair**, seconded by **Ralph Lombardo**. The motion passed unanimously.

5. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

6. CITIZEN INPUT AGENDA ITEMS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Water Quality Update

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager presents visual aids that were exhibited at the “One Water Plan” public workshop. The visuals provide information of the 5-year projection of Brandon’s future role, the Water Quality program, and its projects, (restoration planning, stormwater management, utilities operations, policy and planning, comprehensive planning, stewardship, outreach and education). He is requesting an Advisory Panel for Water and One Water for the purpose of accountability and guidance. It will be a focus group of subject matter experts, regional authority, stakeholders, industry reps that are related to water and water protection. The visuals are summary documents that are in draft prepared for agency review in a few weeks; and then posted for a thirty (30) day public review before going to the Board. There were a few workshops held for the public to learn about the projects and weigh in on the proposed measures. The public feedback helps to understand what their priority of water protection, improvement and management is. Additionally, receiving the public’s feedback on comprehensive planning allows them to give aspiration goals for the agency to implement community goals. **Mr. Moody** answers questions brought to him from the board members.

b. Educational Tour Update

Stas Matias, Chair calls for the action of a motion to be presented to the County Commissioners for the approval of the tour to represent a meeting, provide an agenda and to meet at said location individually.

In discussion, **Mr. Matias** and **Mr. Lombardo** discuss the component of the Sunshine Law that ensures that the meeting is made public in proper advance for attendance with waivers provided. **Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair** suggests that the logistics be a point of talk soon (location sites, length of meeting, quorum). **Mr. Matias** ask for the members to email him their objectives for the meeting and will create a tentative agenda to discuss collectively and thereafter send to the Board of County Commissioners.

There was a motion to approve by **Mr. Lombardo**, seconded by **Mr. Killion**, the motion passes unanimously.

c. Public Works Update

Matt Logan, Public Works provides updates on

- i. Sand Screening Operation on Manasota Key – completed
- ii. Sand Screening Operation on Palm Island – commences
- iii. Stump Pass Navigation Channel – dredge has mobilized last week, delays from closures prevented initial start-up date; began pumping on Monday, March 31, 2025.
- iv. Stump Pass State Park - anticipated completion date of June 2025.

- v. Manasota Key Beach Project – shelved until state funding is made clear with FEMA Plan; anticipated funding strategies known by end of May 2025.
- vi. Mitigation Reef – all in place
- vii. Terminal Groin placement on Stump Pass – all in place
- viii. Engineering Projects Update Report – MSDU updates

Hank Killian asks for official status of the Post Milton Pass, in which **Mr. Logan** states that due to it naturally narrowing, there is an intent to permanently close as it is an unmarked channel with no jurisdiction; is dangerous. **Wendy Lang, Vice Chair** asks if we are still working with Sarasota County on the project, to which **Mr. Logan** explains that the efforts have been halted due to both counties being in hurricane recovery, TBD. **Hank Killian** asks about the inter-coastal depths. **Mr. Logan** states that the status is unknown, however, Ski Alley is shallow and does not have a permit to dredge; is working on Sun Pass.

Matt Logan, Public Works announces that Charlotte County will be hosting the Florida Beach Preservation Association (FBPA) Literacy Conference held at Sunseekers on September 17 – 19, 2025 in which Public Works will present their beach projects in the opening session.

Hank Killian asks about the location of the new beach complex; **Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources** confirms that the location has been evaluated by Facilities to be in a safe location.

d. Parks and Natural Resources Update

Jamie Scudera, Natural Resources provides updates on

- i. Shore Birds and Sea Turtles – no nesting for either; coastal wall will begin in March or around April 15, 2025. **Stas Matias, Chair** asks for advice on how to handle turtles nested and hatched on property. **Ms. Scudera** advises to leaving them alone is best. Robert Wibbeler shares that the social media campaign has had a positive effect on the cleanup efforts in the community. **Ms. Scudera** answers questions brought to her from the board members. **Note – during the Member's Comment, **Ms. Scudera** shares a PSA that there is black privacy screening being put up for the protection of the sea turtles and signage will be displayed; and announced on their social media platforms.
- ii. **Ralph Lombardo** asks if Tina Powell will be attending next month's (May) meeting, as he is requesting a copy of cost estimates.

Stas Matias, Chair calls for the action of a motion that the committee is making a second request for pier restoration/repair cost estimates. There was a motion to approve by **Mr. Lombardo**, seconded by **Mr. Wibbeler**, the motion passes unanimously.

Elizabeth Eastes, Natural Resources provides updates on Derelict Vessels and answers questions brought to her from the board members.

- i. The last vessel that was on hold since 2023 has been released
 - ii. There are five (5) open cases
 - iii. 19 “ready to remove” cases
- e. Proposed Letter to BCC regarding Hold or Pier Restoration Efforts

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

Marie Valeus provides an update on tourism speaker – she reached out to Tourism and is still waiting on a response to address the upcoming Water Festival. **Stas Matias, Chair** expresses the importance of having a plan for shuttling attendees. **Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair** shares the same concern and would like the opportunity for the committee to ask any additional questions for staff running.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. **Damian Ochab, SMSKA** highlights that with tourism in Englewood beach, parking is a significant issue and would like to see a solution. Public beach -vs- private beach access is another issue to address to the public. He highlights that most of the vegetation is depleted and asks if there is a plan to replenish it. **Ms. Scudera** and **Mr. Logan** share that there is a said plant for replanting vegetation. **Mr. Ochab** expresses gratitude for Rhonda Harvey and volunteers that cleaned up along Beach Road into Manasota Keys. **Mr. Ochab** informs that he attended a meeting at Sarasota County and there was a permission granted for a temporary road to be laid and are moving forward with a permanent plan in Manasota Keys. Timeline is four (4) years. Florida Shore, Beach and Preservation Association (FSBPA) has a newsletter that highlighted the U.S. Army Core launching the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study that **Mr. Logan** will be working on with them on to federalize the Manasota Key Beach Management Project. Public outreach is encouraged. **Mr. Ochab** states that the 30-acres property off Beach Road that was for sale was purchased through Forever Florida to preserve the land in perpetuity.
- b. **Mary McMurray, FDEP- Charlotte Harbor Aquatics Preserves** confirms that the land is being preserved and will be incorporated in the management plan with regular monitoring.
- c. **Josh Olive, Waterline Magazine**, asks **Matt Logan** if the dredging at Milton Passes will cause it to fill up more rapidly, in which he answers that it is too early to tell. **Mr. Olive** asks **Mr. Logan** if there are engineering reports with the dredging, in which he confirms that there are various reports. The request of information can be granted through him. **Mr. Olive** asks **Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager** if Charlotte County is paying or water monitoring in Lee County. **Mr. Moody** states no and explains the separate processes. **Mr. Olive** extends his platform to **Mr. Moody** to help with outreach efforts to the community. **Mr. Olive** asks if the cost report of the pier repair replacement that the committee is requesting exists. He states that he asked Brian Gleason if the county has

cost estimates regarding the pier and was informed via email there is not an estimate yet. **Stas Matias, Chair** confirms that financial quotes were put on hold due to impending projects and that the cost report may not exist. **Note – during the Member's Comment, **Mr. Olive** shares the urgent need for legal options for the public to have access to fish.

11. COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OR CONSULTANTS

- a. **Shaun Cullinan, Planning and Zoning Official**, states that a special Code Enforcement magistrate hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, in Chambers for damaged and destroyed homes for security of Flood Insurance and FEMA funding. Mr. Cullinan answers questions brought to him from members.
- b. **Marie Valeus, Recording Secretary** introduces the new secretary Melissa Mason as she has accepted a new position. **Ms. Mason** introduces herself to the members.

12. MEMBER COMMENT

- a. **Ralph Lombardo, Board Member** requests that the proposed letter to BCC regarding the hold on pier restoration efforts be sent promptly to BOCC. He also expresses that the financial report for the Pier and Restoration project to remain a focus. **Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair** emphasizes that the dangerous conditions existing at the parks that need to be addressed first could be a factor of delay.
- b. **Stas Matias, Chair** calls for the recommendation to table the letter for review and to have a discussion with the County Commissioners to understand their stance on the matter.
- c. **Robert Wibbeler, Board Member** wants the urgency of the matter to remain highlighted.
- d. **Wendy Lang, Vice-Chair** shares her appreciation for the county staff's dedication and the need to know the current stance.
- e. **Stas Matias, Chair** shares his current responsibilities, past and upcoming absences.

****NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

The Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee Regular Meeting will be held at:

Murdock Administration Center, Room B-106

18500 Murdock Circle

Port Charlotte, FL, 33948

***unless otherwise announced.

13. ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.


