



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

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

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

MINUTES

September 4, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Lang, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Wendy Lang, Chair led those in attendance for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL / DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Per **Melissa Mason** calling roll, it was determined that a quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:

Wendy Lang
Robert Wibbeler
Robert Hancik
Ralph Lombardo
Hank Killion

Committee Members Absent:

Lawrence Benjamin - retired

County Staff Present:

Brandon Moody - Water Quality, Manager
Matt Logan - Coastal Public Works, Project Manager
Jamie Scudera - Parks and Natural Resources, Project Manager
Zachary Zampella – Parks and Natural Resources, Community Services Environmental Specialist

Elizabeth Eastes – Parks and Natural Resources, Community Services Environmental Specialist
Shaun Cullinan, Planning and Zoning Official
Melissa Mason, Recording Secretary

Guests:

Anne Varene, Englewood Resident

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes from [June 5th, 2025](#) tabled for next meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2025.

Motion moved by **Vice Chair, Wibbeler**: Seconded by **Member, Lombardo**: Motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion on the new format of minutes:

- The dissatisfaction on the lack of details and how it negatively effects the committee
- The legal advice given to the Chair by the County Attorney in how to proceed with the new format
- Explanation on the reason the minutes have been revised commissioned by the Charlotte County Community Development legal staff
- The review process of recorded minutes
- Request for a written decision document on the new format of minutes
- Suggestions on the of future minutes – format and accessibility
- Minutes were therefore not approved until a concrete solution/compromise is made on how the formal minutes will be formatted and retrieved to listen to.

5. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- a. None.

6. CITIZEN INPUT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. WATER QUALITY

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager provided presentation and updates on

- i. Water level tide gauges

There was a discussion and updates on:

- Type H updates
- Notifications to the community on flood risks
- Update on 1998 storm water remodeling
- Burnt Store Road

- Current tide information
- How to mount the tide gauges, (one was displayed)
- Tide gauge restrictions
- Flooded area concerns
- Types of gauges
- Implementing gauges at the end of terminal groin marker at the State Parks
- Comprehensive dashboard (Phase 0.5) on website that has tide, elevation and rain gauge information, rainfall, water levels and general conditions condensed into one map.
- Expansion of network to pursue once monies are allotted
- The gauges will target the larger canal systems and frequently flooded areas
- New equipment to arrive to repair Tom Adams Bridge
- Data point calculations
- Use of County gauges to measure rainfall
- NOAA level super-gauges petition for Charlotte County – at a standstill due to legislation
- Government funding cuts affecting gauge removals

ii. Data Purposes

There was a discussion on:

- Public requests to see progress of the timing of surge and storm events in real time
- Internal purposes
- Post storm response regarding waterline data benefits and accuracy
- Insurance claim justification for homeowners

b. Public Works

Matt Logan, Public Works provided updates on:

- i. All Beaches – due to unknown state funding, all projects will be postponed until next fiscal year; will continue with monitoring
- ii. Working with FEMA's new standard to receive monies
- iii. Due to time freedom will be able to meet more with the community
- iv. MSBU rebuilt for maintenance and capital projects to be included
- v. Manasota Key Storm Recovery – able to screen and place back 100,000 cubic yards as residents were permitted to use sands for their home areas
- vi. Differing shoreline impacts on both Keys
- vii. Palm Island - lost entire dune system
- viii. The next renourishment project will be built with more resiliency
- ix. Mitigation Reef – remains with continued monitoring - in good standing

- x. Terminal Groin – remains with some displacement; during renourishment were able to move a few boulders back into place – in good standing
- xi. Engineering Projects Update Report (MSBU) – DeWayne Nodine no longer staff; will update as time permits. Currently:
 - a. Buena Vista – surveys done of waterways with a bid placed for Sunrise Waterway; working with Parks and Natural Resources to dredge and replenish shorelines
 - b. Port Charlotte Beach – working towards opening with access to shoreline to the community
 - c. Miscellaneous waterway activities in motion
 - d. South Gulf Cove – a discussion on the design at the upcoming workshop
 - e. Pirate Harbor – see grass mitigation component was destroyed

There were suggestions/questions answered on:

- Having a future meeting and give updates on the seagrass meadows
- The surge of Helene and Milton – soil pouring on the northern parts, sediments, algae bloom growths

c. PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- a. **Jamie Scudera, Environmental Projects Manager** introduced Zachary Zampella
- b. **Zachary Zampella, Environmental Specialist Community Services** provided Park and Natural Resources Update:
 - i. Shorebirds
 - a. 3 American Oystercatcher Chicks - Bird Island Park
 - b. 3 Wilson Plover Chicks – Stump Pass Beach
 - c. Black Skimmer Bird – first sighting in Charlotte County
 - ii. Seabirds
 - a. 71 Black Skimmers Chicks – Palm Island Resort
 - b. 171 Least Terns – Palm Island Resort and Gasparilla Island
 - iii. Self-Care Animals Needing Improvement
 - a. The cut off portion of Stump Pass Beach caused limited legal enforcement
 - b. Non-leashed dogs
 - c. Trespassing beyond prohibited areas
 - d. Vehicles
 - e. Paragliders
 - f. Fish & Wildlife Conservation has increased patrols due to reports given
 - iv. Sea Turtles

- a. Increased numbers
- b. 1476 nests – 1272 Loggerheads and 204 Green
- c. Issues: USDA has reported bonfires in sea turtle areas, interference with turtle travel,
- d. Resolve: Community Education and law enforcement
- e. Sight Check for Turtle Lighting – sent out over 100 violation letters with educational literature in reference to window tinting
- v. Recognition Program for Condo builders who are responsible with light control
- vi. Featured artwork at Centennial Park - 121 art submissions of turtle drawings and paintings for public voting
- vii. Moving to off season into educational outreach events for upcoming season

There was a discussion on:

- Turtle window costs
- Street lighting
- Art submissions

- c. **Elizabeth Eastes, Environmental Specialist** presented the Derelict Vessel Report Update:

- i. 8 open cases
- ii. 3 removals
- iii. 1 relocation removed off of State waters
- iv. 4 set to be removed

There was discussion on:

- 2024 derelict vessel removal
- Law enforcement efforts

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

- a. None

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. **Anne Varene, Englewood Resident** expressed her concerns with the dog issues disturbing the turtle nesting areas with no policing control and the monitoring of boat racing

There was a discussion on:

- Department of Tourism management of boating activities
- Englewood Chamber of Congress
- Boaters' responsibilities
- Parks and Natural Resources staff monitoring
- Request for an update on the monitoring
- Natural predation vs. Human impact on beaches

- Dog leash enforcement management of Englewood and Charlotte Beach Park

11. COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OR CONSULTANTS

- a. None.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. **Ralph Lombardo, Member** inquired about Board Member vacancy fillings
- b. **Wendy Lang, Chair** discussed resignation of member Lawrence Benjamin

There was a discussion on:

- Vacancy policies
- Vacancy advocacy to fill seats on the Board Agenda
- Florida Resilience Conference Membership and its benefits to the committee

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, October 2, 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 10:21 A.M.

Motion moved by **Vice Chair, Wibbeler**: Seconded by **Member Lombardo**: Motion carried unanimously.

