



## Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

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

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

### **MINUTES**

January 15, 2026, 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  
Gregory Garvey  
Ralph Lombardo  
Hank Killion

**Committee Members Absent:**

Robert Hancik

**County Staff Present:**

Janette Knowlton, County Attorney  
Brandon Moody, Water Quality & Resiliency Manager  
Matt Logan, Coastal Projects Manager

Alexandria Grant, Environmental Specialist  
Zachary Zampella, Environmental Specialist  
Elizabeth Eastes, Environmental Specialist  
Melissa Mason, Recording Secretary / Senior Administrative Assistant

**Guests:**

Commissioner Steven R. Deutsch  
Carlo McCoy, Coastal Wildlife Club  
Damian Ochab, SMSKA  
Jack Vanderheyden, Resident

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of Minutes from [December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025](#) approved.

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

**5. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

- a. To add under new items under New Business (see below).

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

- b. To move the Public Comments prior to New Business and after Citizen Input Agenda Items

**6. CITIZEN INPUT AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. None.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a. **Jack Vanderheyden, Charlotte County resident** requests for urinal or a port-a-potty to be placed into the men's public restroom at Charlotte County Park. He requests the beach rule signs to be made visible at all park entries to enforce pet laws. He suggests that an ordinance of fines be made visible to prevent the ongoing issue. Mr. Vanderheyden expresses frustration over restricted parking due to trucks and trailers taking up spaces. He requests that a parking restriction sign be made visible. He suggests enforcement actions to solve these rising issues.

- b. **Damian Ochab, SMSKA**

**There was a discussion on:**

- Letters of concern sent to the Commissioners regarding the Manasota Keys Resort project.
- Successful responses to the Facebook posting opposing the Manasota Keys Resort initiative.
- Manasota Keys Project placed on hold by applicant
- Developers potential code violations on Manasota Keys
- Soft opening of new restaurant and bar at Manasota Keys

- Sea wall installation – code violation
- Cyclone fencing – code violation
- Requesting public access to Englewood Beach boardwalk design
- FEMA slow response to disaster recovery at Manasota Keys

**c. Commissioner Deutsch, District IV**

**There was a discussion on:**

- Agencies that are hindering project efforts
- Reimbursement concerns regarding FEMA
- Core of Army Engineers approval process
- District IV committee member vacancy applicants

**b. Carol McCoy, Coastal Wildlife Club**

**There was a discussion on:**

- Beach parking affecting sea water habitation
- Boating community interfering with shore birds and turtle survival
- Outcry of parking issues from residents
- Intended expansion of seawall detrimental to coastal habitation
- Concerns of why the environmental study was waived and a request for it to be completed.
- Traffic study requests and concerns

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Website Advertisement**

- i. Member, Lombardo** shares frustration of how the member vacancy advertisement is displayed on the county website and the need to fill the vocation

**There was a discussion on:**

- Communication Director, Brian Gleason's advertisement process pronounced by the County Attorney articulating the proper workflow
- The County Attorney did remind Commissioner Deutsch of the vacancy
- The County Attorney suggests to the committee sending potential applicants to District IV Commissioner's Executive Assistant
- Recording Secretary to advertise the vacancy

Motion moved by **Chair, Lang**: Seconded by **Member, Killion**: Motion carried unanimously.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. WATER QUALITY**

**Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager** provided presentation on website navigation that will be featured on the county website

- i. Website Dashboard Features**

**There was a demonstration/discussion on:**

- Water level tide gauges
- Weather gauges
- Rainfall accumulation
- Tidal cycle and tide predictions
- Waiting on citizen recommendation to make website more user-friendly
- Advancing website to be mobile-adaptable
- Future website optimization
- Requests for committee to provide website suggestions
- Data of water above land levels recommendation by local weather stations
- Live data cross data
- Real-time data collection – intervals and historical data

ii. General Updates

**There was an update on:**

- State grant for water elevation monitoring network
- Risk planning related to storm surges
- Funding for data accuracy
- Gap identifications that created inaccuracies in data
- Continues compliance with agencies to submit prerequisites needed for additional funding
- Gauge implementation locations to monitor the Gulf: Pirate Harbor, Fisherman's Village, Edgewater, Myakka River at South Gulf Cove, Boca Grande, Tom Adams Bridge, Stump Pass Bridge

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iii. State Collected Water Quality Data Map

- Evaluate every (2) two years of the water health sheds
- Bacteria levels and categories
- Bacteria testing accuracy
- Sample collection of bacteria sources
- Identify unhealthy waters caused by humans

**There was a discussion on:**

- Sampling locations
- Ground water testing during dry season vs. wet season
- Mining contamination of ground water that concerns residents
- Mining permit application requirements of water testing
- Requests for more sampling
- Punta Gorda water quality requirements sampling discrepancies
- Living organisms' locations and conditions that attribute to high bacteria waters
- Storm attributions to muck drifting

**b. PUBLIC WORKS**

**Matt Logan, Public Works** provided MSBU updates on:

- i. Port Charlotte Beach - shoreline is open
- ii. Sunrise Channel - dredged
- iii. Suncoast Waterway Restoration - delays due to water conditions
- iv. Manasota Keys and Palm Island Renourishment Project dependent on county and FEMA monies approval
- v. Post Storm Bill – not yet passes
- vi. Statewide allocation was exhausted by other cities that submitted projects afore

**There was a discussion on:**

- o Oyster Creek residents' concerns of the river's current flow causing erosion of property/home destabilization
- o Flow enhancement undertaking by the Storm Water Department
- o Public Works will look into the concern
- o Coastal Storm Risk Study Milestone

**c. PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Alexandria Grant, Environmental Specialist** provides update:

- i. Pre-season prep of outreach supplies
- ii. Art contests
- iii. Residential distribution of goodie bags
- iv. Monitoring eagle nests
- v. Eagle sighting locations

**There was a discussion on:**

- o Light bulb projects with hardware stores
- o Barnicle

**Elizabeth Eastes, Environmental Specialist** presented the Derelict Vessel Report

- i. Refer to handout – 5 open cases, 5 removals, 1 upcoming removal

**10. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION**

- a. **Chair, Lang** expresses that of the (3) three letters, the latter two below were combined as one and that the committee is waiting on a response:

- 1. Commissioner Request letter
- 2. General Information of future projects
- 3. Manasota Key Resort plans

- b. **Chair, Lang** inquiries about BSAC members additional participation in other meetings

**There was a discussion on:**

- o Attending Parks and Recreation meetings
- o Park and Recreation meeting dates

- BSAC members to attend said meetings and reporting of information received that concerns BSAC initiatives with beaches and shores: – add to the next meeting agenda.
  - 1) Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP)
  - 2) Parks and Recreation
  - 3) Marine Advisory Committee (MAC)
  - 4) Planning and Zoning

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

## 11. COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OR CONSULTANTS

### a. Janette Knowlton, County Attorney

**There was a discussion on:**

- Residents to send letters to Commissioners regarding the concern of the withdrawn application of the environmental study
- Assurance of the Commissioners' receipt of letters from the public
- Recommendation to liaison to routinely send copies of drafted and/or signed minutes to the Commissioners to keep them informed.
- Quasi-judicial legal advice – staff are not permitted to share comments from other board/committee meetings
- Dogs permitted on Port Charlotte Beach Complex but not the beach
- New signs will be issued on the parks
- Where signs are located on the public beach
- Advise to keep meeting in proper speaking order

## 12. MEMBER COMMENTS

### a. Vice Chair, Wibbeler offers appreciation for all attendees and informs guests that their concerns are important to the committee to address within their fullest capacity.

**Motion** moved by Vice Chair, Wibbeler to limit public comments to (3) three minutes:

**There was a discussion posed by Chair, Lang on:**

- Limiting public comments to (3) three minutes for sake of time
- Member, Lombardo feels that it would be courteous to allow for a more meaningful time for the public who have traveled from afar
- The County Attorney states that (3) three minutes is the average speaking time frame.
- Will implement time restriction when there is a large public presence

**Motion cancelled after discussion.**

### b. Chair, Lang will not be in attendance for the Thursday, March 5, 2026, meeting

**13. Sunshine Law**

- a. Reminder not to respond to all in communal emails
- b. Reminder to members the need to review the Sunshine Law videos before their legal expiration date.
  - o Members will watch required videos at next committee meeting.

**14. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, February 5, 2026, 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.

**15. ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 A.M.

