



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
Gregory Garvey	District 1
Robert Hancik	District 2
Ralph Lombardo	District 3
Vacant	District 4
Hank Killion	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

March 5, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Robert Wibbeler, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Robert Wibbeler, Vice 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:

Robert Wibbeler
Gregory Garvey
Robert Hancik
Ralph Lombardo
Hank Killion

Committee Members Absent:

Wendy Lang

County Staff Present:

Brandon Moody, Water Quality & Resiliency Manager
Jamie Scudera, Environmental Specialist
Elizabeth Eastes, Environmental Specialist
Melissa Mason, Recording Secretary / Senior Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Mary McMurray, FDEP – Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves
Damian Ochab – SMSKA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes from [February 5th, 2026](#), approved.
Motion moved by **Member, Hancik**: Seconded by **Member, Garvey**: Motion carried unanimously.

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 updates on:

- i. Algae blooms (Ponce Park and Bayshore)
There was a discussion on:
 - Team collecting samples to determine why isolated blooms exist
 - Drones surveys show no similar blooms in nearby areas
 - Historical patterns of nutrient input linked to human activity, but not attributed to the isolated blooms
- ii. Ammonium nitrogen trends
There was a discussion on:
 - Ammonium emerging as a major driver of algae growth.
 - How hurricanes cause the rising ammonium nitrogen levels.
 - Long-term monitoring data (2001-2020) show sharp increases in post-storm and lingering months afterwards.
 - Fish kills and vegetation loss after storms contribute to decomposing organic material that raises ammonium levels.
- iii. Groundwater ammonium findings
There was a discussion on:
 - Surficial groundwater wells showing extreme high levels during dry season – unexpected as there was no fertilizer use or rainfall
 - Possible causes: legacy contamination (historic land use)
 - Possible cause: upward movement of deeper aquifer water of 400 years old.

- iv. Micronutrient testing on metals

b. PUBLIC WORKS - none

c. PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Jamie Scudera, Environmental Specialist provides update:

- i. No unusual wildlife activity
- ii. Sea turtle nesting season began February 15, 2025, with monitoring underway
- iii. Outreach and education activities – mailers issued to property owners are completed

Elizabeth Eastes, Environmental Specialist presented the Derelict Vessel Report

- i. Refer to handout – 4 active cases: 2 removed, 2 pending removals, 1 in administrative processing
- ii. FWC website will no longer display detail status of scheduled derelict vessel removal
- iii. Will have to use other reporting systems for updates

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

- a. None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Concerns raised about fish kills
 - o Residents reporting dead fish and the odor.
 - o Linked to cold snaps, mostly tilapia.
 - o Fish cleanup efforts – natural cycle of life: vultures clean up within 24 hours.
 - o Water quality is not expected to be contaminated by rapid scavenging.
- b. Red tide concerns
 - o Ammonium nutrients can contribute to red tide propagation.
 - o Movement driven by currents and storm activities.
 - o Gulf Stream variability influences distribution.
- c. Residents express major concerns about Manasota Key development impacts:
 - o Rapid development and rezoning proposals.
 - o Traffic congestion extending from the roundabout to Tom Adams Bridge.
 - o Severe parking overflows along narrow shoulders and right-of-way.
 - o New proposed restaurants, including “Coco Loco” and its impacts on the natural habitation, specifically on turtles.
 - o Unpermitted activities: food truck operation, seawall construction issues.
 - o Concerned, seasonal residents are absent during key rezoning meetings set for May.

11. COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OR CONSULTANTS

- a. Clarifies resort/hotel rooms do not count toward density limits.
- b. Traffic studies use standardized seasonal adjustment factors.
- c. All new restaurant applications must meet parking and turtle-lighting codes
- d. Code enforcement is aware of food truck and seawall issues and are following up.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. **Vice Chair, Wiebbeler** acknowledges member, Lombardo’s attendance on account of postponed arrival.
- b. **Vice Chair, Wiebbeler** inquires about establishing a volunteer to be a BSAC liaison to Parks and Recreation
- c. **Member, Lombardo**, states that the MAC Committee are reviewing grants, so there is no update of activities available.


13. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, April 2, 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.

14. ADJOURNED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 A.M.



Vice Chair, Robert Wiebbeler