

June 13, 2024

Meeting Agenda and Notice

Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC)
Thursday, June 13, 2024– 1:00 p.m.
Collier County Board Chambers
Collier County Government Center
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Third Floor, Naples, FL

Sunshine Law on Agenda Questions

2024 CAC MEETING DATES

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

IV. Changes and Approval of Agenda

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Motion approved for phone listeners to call in

Andy is requesting item 8A to add plants to the dunes (berm).

Motion carried

V. Public Comments

V.a Seagate/Clam Bay Natural Resource Protection Area By: Ray Bearfield from Collier County Water Keeper

Comments with full discussion will follow presentation.

The Clam Bay National Resource Protection Area was established in 1995 due to degradation of Estuary caused of 80 years of development.

As a conduit for information about this system, for people coming into Collier County, the purpose is to create public consciousness of the decline in Clam Bay, Clam Pass and outer Clam Bay and Seagate.

Their role is public awareness in education and advocacy in Collier County.

Clam Bay Estuary Management is now the responsibility of Pelican Bay Service Division

Solution is to open a public discussion on how to proceed with managing

1. Tidal exchange
Mangrove die off because of lack of tidal action within the bay
2. Resilience
Dead mangroves effected by Hurricane Ian on the berm
3. Water Quality
Landscaping and storm water runoff contributing to water quality
4. Stakeholder agreement
Pelican Bay Services District is bound to protect including dredging and advisories on managing the reserve

Trecker - Comments

Maintenance excavation starts June 17th to cut through sand spit or the Clam Pass entrance to open the mouth and grade the Clam Pass inlet bank.

Hydraulic dredge is scheduled for November and being carried out by PBSB. Bids are now under review for this dredge.

Assistant County Attorney indicated that BCC transferred sole responsibility to PBSB in 2013. CAC no longer has the responsibility for Clam Pass, Clam Bay.

Colleen of BCC concurred.

Brechnitz - Comments

Mr. Barefield, about how long has this area has been impaired, and what are the current levels of phosphorus and nitrogen.

Mr. Barefield replied that the phosphorus and nitrate levels are unknown, but the DEP put Clam Pass on the impaired list in 2023.

Penniman - Comments

What should the CAC do?

Colleen of BCC advised that the CAC could make recommendations to TDC and BCC after hearing from the Stakeholders.

Bob Roth, Councilman via Zoom - Comments

If the CAC is going to consider and make recommendation it should have a study to evaluation aspects. Other stakeholders could possibly be called to assist PBSB. Dave Tracker suggested that the PBSC give background information on this and give a presentation as to where they are.

Colleen - Comments

She recommends that information be requested by Stakeholders before making a recommendation to the TDC and BCC.

Burke - Comments

The County is reimbursing some of the work that being done, and the exact information will be obtained by Colleen, BCC.

Cathy Worley, Conservancy of SW Florida, Director of Science - Comments

There is a mechanism recommended for communication with PBSC and the CAC should get on their agenda. There is a management plan for Clam Pass that is revisited on a cycle. Stakeholders have the opportunity to participate.

Neil Doral, Administrator for the Pelican Bay Services Division - Comments

Mr. Doral was the County Manager of Collier County the last 10 years of his time with Collier County.

Responsibility for Clam Pass over the past 30 years has been vested in the Services Division Tasking District. Surface water management in Pelican Bay is award winning and has become a model for the South Florida Water Management.

Bay Colony is in Basin 6 and has features called beach dune swale where the water runs north and south to a center point (swale existing for hundreds of years) before it goes out into a spreader waterway and goes into the upper reaches of the Estuary.

This was one of the first of several Natural Resource Protection areas. The original management plan in 2000 was driven by Stakeholders not just the people of Pelican Bay.

The most recent management plan shows return of seagrass beds in the upper reaches of outer Clam Bay and has been positive after Irma.

Pelican Bay Foundation nor the Services Division is responsible for Beach renourishment. They are responsible to reimburse for beach renourishment that is the requirement of the nearest public parking area.

Penniman - Comments

Suggestion that the PBSB advise the Committee when their meetings are and if the Committee cannot attend then the Water Keeper should attend.

Mr. Doral advised the Committee that PBSB meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1p.m. at their community center. It is open to the public, is televised and is an open discussion format such as this meeting today.

VI. APPROVAL OF CAC MINUTES

May 9, 2024

CAC Minutes were approved with markup done by Dr. Hushon to correct grammar and misconstrued words.

Meeting minutes approved

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Extended Revenue Report

Andy presented the Revenue Report which was the same as last month. Revenue graph shows March and April are up and heading towards the peak. We have 50.2% revenue above our budget. Dave Trekker said the Fund balance is not known at this time. An email was requested for this information.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Dune Restoration

Miller - Comments

The emergency berm was built and performed well through Hurricane Idalia. One million plants are scheduled to be planted to stabilize the berm. Funding was approved.

Motion was passed

Miller - Comments

Planting is scheduled for end of summer during rainy season.

Hushon - Comments

We should hold off planting if they are not planted during rainy season.

Miller - Commented

The contractor uses gel caps planted with roots and soil mixture and offers a warranty.

Roth - Commented

Cancer of the contractor's warranty regarding watering and suggested that there be a watering schedule and a contingency plan.

Hushon - Commented

Send the motion forward with a caveat that the wet and dry seasons be taken into consideration on the planting to ensure the success of the plantings and the Committee's watering concerns be addressed by Andy.

Miller - Comments

Agreed.

Hushon - Comments

Identify locations of offshore reefs where we are not affecting hard bottoms that are near to the coast instead of far offshore.

Miller - Comments

There may be an opportunity to explore this, and he agreed to incorporate it into the report to the Committee.

Burke - Comments

The annual report shows the hard bottom locations. A copy of the report will be requested when it is ready in September.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Water Quality Subcommittee Update by Bob Roth

The Committee made recommendations to the BCC that existing wastewater plants in the County, which is reclaimed water used for irrigation, be upgraded to AWT standard.

Bob Roth, Andy Miller, Robert VanHule, and Matt McClain - zoom meeting at Collier County's Public Works last Monday.

Concerns that the nutrients in the reuse irrigation, which are not stripped out in current treatment process, are leaching into the water in some fashion.

This Committee and Collier County's own Pollution Control Department in its 2022 report made the same recommendation to upgrade to AWT standard. In their 2021 report the Pollution Control Group found saccharin in freshwater bodies.

There is a growing concern, and it is encouraging to hear that DPW has been proactive in keeping up with environmental issues including PFAFS in drinking water. Discouraging was that there is no movement toward regulation on a state level that requires AWT for the purpose of the County uses for wastewater irrigation and it is allowed to contain contaminants.

The typical reuse quality of Collier's wastewater. The AWT would have an operator lower the nitrogen concentrates to 3ppm and 1ppm of phosphorus. That's not the best technology. Collier's normal process goes down to 5.2ppm of nitrogen and phosphorus 1.5-1.9ppm which is close to AWT standard. CAC had recommended to BCC to upgrade. Collier County Sewer District is funded by the user fees.

Maybe reformulate our recommendations and send it to the Sewer District instead of the BCC. We are possibly not talking to the correct arm of the government.

Miller - Commented

Concurred and said He remembered hearing some talk of an upcoming Pilot project studying PFAFS, pharmaceuticals, nitrogen and phosphorus in the water. Andy's impression is although it seems that they are not doing anything, they are looking into AWT.

Roth was asked what would be involved in approaching Sewer District.

Roth - Comments

A phone call to find out their schedule and process for taking in outside input. Maybe Andy could reach out to the Sewer District.

If the Pilot project indicates that they could be doing something better, they don't have to do it. They just have to follow the State regulations.

Colleen, BCC - Comments

The governing body of the Water Sewer District. It is the same governing body just wearing different hats.

Brechnitz - Comments

A recommendation to the BCC that an engineering study be done to determine adverse reactions of PFAFs in the wastewater as a recommendation to the BCC.

Marco Island had the same issue and hired Jacobs Engineering that did the study and it a de minimis effect on surrounding bodies of water. We measure injection water daily that goes into the underground waterways, and it is a de minimis effect. An engineering firm needs to determine to what degree it will help.

Hushon - Comments

What the County numbers.

Andy can call to get them.

How much is it costing us because of the contaminants e.g. dead fish, red tide, blue green algae blooms and effects on tourism. There is a report by The Conservancy studying the effects of contaminants regarding loss of tourism dollars. A more complete study needs to be done, that shows the cost of bad water quality.

Roth - Comments

We have to recognize that reuse is only one source of nitrogen and phosphorus. We may need to follow the leads of some other counties like Lee County planning to upgrade to AWT. Sarasota converted its plant to AWT. Others are doing it around us, and it is good risk management.

Penniman - Comments

Do AWT plants deal with saltwater intrusion?

The answer, no.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Penniman has returned to the Committee.

Brechnitz - Comments

What about Dredging of Collier Creek which is in 2 years of waiting.

Miller - Comments

We are waiting on the Army Corp. permit.

We have had some communications from our liaison from the White House recently and a petition is in.

Brechnitz - Comments

Tiger Tail was requested and has been completed already. It is becoming a boat safety issue.

Burke - Comments

Third draft of position paper that would go the Army Corp of engineers was edited by Burke and presented at this meeting.

Hushon and Tracker conferred on comments and resolved their differences. The draft is now ready to send.

Damage was eliminated.

Motion passed to approve sending our position paper to BCC on the USC's project

Burke - Comments

Do we need to respond to an email from Environmental Defense Fund?
Several members did not receive a copy.

Miller - Comments

I will forward the email to upper management and will copy the email and attachment to all Committee members. Andy also agreed to supply the Committee with the final copy of the position paper.

September 13th is the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee

Joseph Burke, Chairman

These minutes were approved by the Committee on _____ (check one) as presented,
_____ or as amended _____.