

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER
One Haben Boulevard
Palmetto, Florida
AUGUST 3, 2021**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:

Vanessa Baugh, Chairman
George Kruse, First Vice-Chairman
Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Second Vice-Chairman
Reggie Bellamy, Third Vice-Chairman (absent)
Misty Servia
James A. Satcher III (Attended via Zoom)
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Dr. Scott L. Hopes, Acting County Administrator
William Clague, County Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court

 City of Bradenton Beach Mayor, John Chappie, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA

BC20210803DOC001


1. **CITY OF BRADENTON BEACH – HOT TOPICS**


City of Bradenton Beach Mayor John Chappie reported on the following topics of interest in the City of Bradenton Beach:


- Red Tide; and
- Parking

BC20210803DOC002

2. **BIVALVE INITIATIVE**


 Jeff Sedacca, All Clams on Deck, advisor to the Gulf Coast Restoration Initiative, used a slide presentation to address aquaculture to help restore the estuaries, biological mitigation strategies, the replenishment of bivalves removes algae, reduces nutrients, and applies nutrients to the roots of seagrass, work on experimental areas to plant clams that can be monitored and collect data on water clarity and sea grass growth, start a project that can be environmentally and economically beneficial, federal funding is available, potential area in Sarasota to plant clams, mitigation credits available for seagrass and mangroves and seek legislation to include bivalves, 2 million clams can be planted on one acre, government regulation for seafood, bivalves do not create a negative impact on the environment, and need the Governor to extend the seagrass mitigation to include bivalves.

 Discussion ensued that the clams planted in the City of Bradenton Beach are doing well, could State money be used to plant clams to deter Piney Point impacts, a small amount of funding can get the program started, and some money can be raised by private individuals to begin a pilot program.


 Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, addressed mitigation measures around Port Manatee.


BC20210803DOC003


3. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

 Commissioner Kruse stated there is nothing specific for this, and affordable housing involves everyone. The item is put on the agenda in the event something comes up, such as a Community Land Trust. The Community Land Trust makes home buying more affordable, since the land is owned by the Trust and home owners lease the property. He urged passing the ordinance for Accessory Dwelling Units.


Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, stated the County has accelerated the review of County owned parcels that could be used for a Community Land Trust, or land for multiple single family homes. This could encourage work force housing. A work session is planned in the future regarding the Community Land Trust.


 Discussion ensued that Commissioner Kruse is available to discuss affordable housing with anyone who is interested.


 Charlie Kennedy, School Board Chairman, (via Zoom) addressed the possibility of forming a subcommittee of members to work on affordable housing.

 Glen Gibellina addressed Sadowski Funds that have been cut and used for other things, the eviction moratorium has been lifted; therefore, there will be more homeless, 830 homeless children are enrolled in school, and the lack of transitional housing.


Andra Griffin spoke regarding structures that can be used for affordable housing, keep Community Land Trusts local, and allow more eligibility for recipients of surplus property. She also expressed concern for the homeless children.

 Discussion ensued regarding a group called Emergency Housing is helping people who need assistance with utilities and housing and urged those who need assistance to call 2-1-1, the group handling the Community Land Trust is out of Pinellas County and they are part of the local preference.


 Dr. Hopes clarified there is a company that wants to invest capital in Manatee County to assist with affordable housing.

 There was a consensus to form a sub-committee for affordable housing, of Charlie Kennedy, George Kruse and Bill Sanders. Dr. Hopes will help form the subcommittee. If a member is interested they should contact Dr. Hopes. BC20210803DOC004

4. **RED TIDE**

 Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, distributed Red Tide Situation Report 14, and stated he toured the beach at Longboat Key and assessed the situation. BC20210803DOC005

5. **PINEY POINT**

 Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, used a slide presentation to provide an update on Piney Point, and stated there are about 280 million gallons in the pond, and FDEP is backing up a bit and they have turned the site over to HRK to deliver a plan on how they plan to manage this. HRK is in the bankruptcy court. The money being spent right now is not part of the \$100 million. Water is being processed to reduce the nitrogen. The County's scientists are working independently to ensure any discharge is not effecting the water. Red Tide came up from the South and down from the North, but Manatee County has been okay compared to

neighboring counties. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to reimburse the County on costs to clean up red tide. He displayed a map of current sampling locations around the bay.

(Enter Commissioner Bellamy)

A test well was drilled on HRK property at Piney Point a few years ago. There is an opportunity to use the previous test well, and DEP was able to have HRK deed over the area with the well. After negotiating with the deed holder, the engineers came back and said the original site approved on Buckeye Road is a better location for the well, but would cost an additional \$300,000. Public works is preparing to drill the monitoring well, and the water from the ponds will be continually tested. They have met with a number of engineering firms that have experience closing out stacks and ponds. The first phase will be to develop a plan, and then work will begin. He continued to address the process for cleaning the area and ponds. The goal is to have a usable property.



Discussion ensued that Mote Marine has a website called visitbeaches.org which has beach reports.

BC20210803DOC006

4. RED TIDE



Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, played a video regarding red tide, and noted most of Tampa Bay has experienced reduced effects and the beaches are open. A debris removal company has been contracted to remove the debris from the water prior to it getting to land. They are working with cities. Red Tide is being approached as an emergency even though it an emergency has not been declared. Reports vary per week, there are group meetings with City representatives, and challenges are being addressed. The situation report is being distributed to the cities.

BC20210803DOC005

6. 2022 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

Dr. Scott Hopes reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2022, as follows: February 1, May 3, August 2, and November 29, 2022.

BC20210803DOC007

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There being no further public comments, Mayor Chappie closed public comment.

OTHER COMMENTS BY OFFICIALS



Ken Schneier, Longboat Key Mayor, thanked the County for their assistance with red tide and dealing with issues in Longboat Pass.



Dr. Scott Hopes explained COVID cases effecting County are throughout all County locations not just the County Administration Building. He introduced Bob Reinshuttle, Deputy County Administrator.



Mayor Brown introduced Rob Perry, City Administrator.



Chairman Baugh thank Mayor Chappie for running the meeting. She also stated the County cares for all the other governments in the County and stressed that the goal is to have a better working relationship with all the municipalities.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Chappie adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Minutes Approved: September 14, 2021