



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Minutes of the Shore Protection Board Meeting

Held on November 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM in the Town Council Chambers.

Members Present: Erick Reickert, Joel Zylstra, Melissa Ceriale, Ronald Matzner, James McKelvy, Peter Matwiczzyk, Lawrence Kaplan

Staff Present: Jason Debrincat, Patricia Strayer, Sara Gutekunst, Katherine deClaire

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Ceriale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the March 27, 2025, Shore Protection Board Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Reickert to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2025, meeting as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matzner to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

COMMENTS

2. OFFICIALS

Mr. Matzner commended the Atrium Condominium for leading the effort to ensure that the sand for Reach 8 was delivered in a timely manner. Commendations were also expressed for the Claridges and the Citizens Association. Mr. Kaplan emphasized the importance of preparing now for the future sand delivery.

Mr. McKelvy expressed concern about the meeting schedule from the past year and spoke about

a meeting that had been scheduled for October but was cancelled at the last minute.

3. STAFF

Ms. Gutekunst announced that the terms for Ms. Ceriale and Mr. Reichert are expiring, and this will be their last meeting. Ms. Strayer announced that Ms. Gutekunst had just completed her 1st anniversary at the Town and commended her on the work she has been accomplishing.

4. PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Warren Belmar, 130 Sunrise Avenue, spoke regarding the importance of several items on the agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Shoreline Update

Tom Pierro, Coastal Protection Engineering, presented photos and explained the condition of each of the Reaches. He spoke regarding the king tides and certain weather events that have occurred over the past several months, which have contributed to the condition of the sand. He also explained that the beaches have different profiles during the summer versus the winter. He answered questions from Board Members.

Mr. Belmar, a former Board Member, spoke about the large amount of sand that had eroded, as shown in one of the Reach 2 photos.

Mr. Pierro addressed the reaction of the beach to the breakwater structures that had been built in Reach 2. Discussion ensued. He spoke about how the beach has been restored in Reach 5 from the Mid-Town project. Ms. Ceriale spoke regarding the effectiveness of the Town's beach management program.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding dune vegetation planting, dune restoration, and the Town's budget allocation for dune vegetation planting.

Ms. Gutekunst stated that three beach accesses in the Mid-Reach have been closed since October due to erosion.

6. Project Updates

6.1 USACE Mid-Town Beach FCCE

Ms. Gutekunst reported that the Town provided the easements that they had been able to gather to USACE. There will be temporary easements for nine properties. Patricia Strayer, Town Engineer, provided an update on the status of the easements for the beach renourishment program. She explained that they have met the deadlines that were necessary, and USACE has put the project out to bid and has made a choice for the contractor. The project will be happening in January. Ms. Strayer explained that the project does not include northern properties that were previously a part of the project, and the Town will need to have all perpetual easements by 2032. A discussion ensued regarding the easements, project scope, and

funding. She answered the Board Members' questions. A discussion ensued regarding the issue with The Breakers not agreeing to a permanent easement. Ms. Strayer and Mr. Pierro provided additional information on the impact of the lack of these easements on future projects and the beach management program. A discussion ensued on what the Board can do to assist, including requesting a study on the long-term impacts of eliminating those properties. Communication with residents on this issue was discussed.

Ms. Strayer will be sending an email to the Board with the consensus of ideas from the Board to be presented to the Town Council.

Ms. Gutekunst spoke about the project's construction beginning in January.

6.1 Breakers Shoreline Protection

Ms. Gutekunst provided an update on the breakwater project that the Breakers has completed. She explained the permit requirement for a physical monitoring and mitigation plan and spoke regarding what would occur if there were negative impacts on Clarke Beach. A discussion ensued regarding the mitigation plan and monitoring, as well as any additional steps that could be taken. Ms. Gutekunst and Ms. Strayer provided additional information on the monitoring that the Town is currently doing. Ms. Ceriale spoke regarding the importance of the Breakers in the community, but expressed concern over their history with compliance with requirements for their previous breakwater project. Ms. Strayer addressed her concerns.

6.2 Reach 8

Ms. Gutekunst reported on the project's success so far and presented photographs of the project. She thanked the Atriums condominium for assisting with the staging of the project and presented a video of the conveyor belt. A discussion ensued regarding the lack of issues with the conveyor belt and attempts to have other condominiums visit the site to see that it's not intrusive. Further discussion ensued regarding the Town's commitment to beautify the area after the project. Mr. Debrincat stated that the current arrangement is not sustainable and that they need other condos to also assist in keeping this project going in the long term. Mr. Matzner spoke about an issue with the Citizens Association News and Views regarding this project.

6.3 Sand Transfer Plant

Ms. Gutekunst provided an update on the rehabilitation of the sand transfer plant project. Ms. Strayer provided additional information on the plant's capacity once it has been refurbished. Discussion ensued.

6.4 Groin Rehabilitation

Ms. Gutekunst provided background information on the proposed groin rehabilitation plan and explained the scope of the potential project. Mr. Pierro provided additional information on the project. Ms. Gutekunst answered questions.

Mr. Belmar, a former Board Member, provided an overview of the groins and the permit process. Mr. Pierro provided additional historical information on the use of groins and the replacement

project. He answered questions. Mr. Kaplan expressed the importance of communicating with property owners about the benefits of the rehabilitation. Ms. Ceriale inquired about any groins that perhaps should not be replaced, to which Ms. Gutekunst and Mr. Pierro responded. Ms. Strayer spoke regarding past efforts in communicating with residents about the groin project.

6.5 Living Shoreline Project

Deputy Town Engineer Julie Parham presented the concept plan and layout of the living shoreline project on the Lake Trail. She answered questions about the project and explained the plantings, grants, and agreements associated with it. Mr. Debrincat provided additional information.

6.6 Mid-Town Seawall Replacement

Ms. Gutekunst provided background on this item and stated that staff are currently working on a work plan for this project, which will be presented to the Town Council in February for discussion. She announced that there will be a public outreach meeting on December 11 to discuss the linear park. Ms. Strayer stated that the plan is for this project to commence in November 2026, and it will also entail redoing the linear park at the same time. She answered questions about why the seawall needed to be replaced, and Mr. Debrincat explained the project's scope. Discussion ensued on the differences between Palm Beach and Delray Beach, and why this project can't be the same as Delray Beach.

7. Communications Report

The following item was heard out of order on the agenda.

7.1 Sea Turtle Signage

Ms. Ceriale introduced the Wahine Surf Club, which has been collaborating on the signage project.

Cara McClure, Lily McClure, and Nora McClure of Wahine Surf Club presented the proposed sea turtle signage options.

Ms. Gutekunst discussed the importance of ensuring that the verbiage complies with state regulations and reducing the wordiness of the signs. Mr. Kaplan commended the Wahine Club for their work and spoke in support of tweaking the language to make it more concise. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matzner to select the third signage option, subject to change in the language and font, and bring it back for approval at the January meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

7.2 FY25 Communications Flyer

Ms. Gutekunst spoke about changes to the Coastal Projects Flyer, which she has distributed to all condominiums in Reach 8. She spoke regarding her attendance at Town of South Palm Beach meetings regarding the dune restoration project.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Reickert inquired about the Board discussing sea level rise and projections on impacts to the Island to plan for sea walls, especially on the Lake side. Ms. Gutekunst spoke about an update to the 2019 Vulnerability Study currently underway and explained the process for review and project planning. She addressed sea walls and any work that will be undertaken on the Lake Trail. Mr. McKelvy spoke regarding an issue that has started occurring with residents building new sea walls further out into the Lake, to which Mr. Debrincat responded. Mr. Matzner stated that the Citizens Association will be focusing on resiliency. Mr. Kaplan inquired about when the study would be completed and spoke about some extremely vulnerable points on A1A in the South End. He stressed the importance of this Study. Ms. Parham spoke about the study, and it was discussed that the Executive Summary would be distributed to the Board upon completion.

Mr. Matwiczuk inquired about dredging and why the sand can't be used to dump on the beach in Reach 2, to which Ms. Strayer responded. Mr. Matwiczuk requested that the Town lobby USACE to use this sand on the beach.

Ms. Ceriale emphasized the importance of everyone reviewing the Woods Hole Report and moving forward with effective communication about the positive work being done by the Town. Mr. Kaplan commended Ms. Ceriale on her leadership and great efforts.

MEETING SCHEDULE

8. 2026 Public Meeting Schedule

Ms. Gutekunst recommended January 8, 2026, and March 5, 2026, to which everyone concurred. Discussion ensued on holding additional meetings. The following meetings were also scheduled: May 7, September 24, and November 5.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matzner to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 PM. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


for ~~Melissa Ceriale, Chair~~
RONALD MATZNER, VICE CHAIR