



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Minutes of the Shore Protection Board Meeting Held on January 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 AM in the Town Council Chambers.

Members Present: Tim Cohan, Austin Fragomen, Lawrence Kaplan, Ronald Matzner, James McKelvy, Peter Matwiczzyk, and Joel Zylstra.

Staff Present: Paul Brazil, Jason Debrincat, Sara Gutekunst, and Pat Gayle-Gordon

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Gutekunst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Ms. Gutekunst called for nominations for Chair. Mr. Matzner was nominated.

A motion was made by Mr. Matwiczzyk and seconded by Mr. Zylstra to approve Mr. Matzner as Chair. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

Ms. Gutekunst called for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Matwiczzyk was nominated.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matzner to approve Mr. Matwiczzyk as Vice Chair. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

As Chair, Mr. Matzner, now presided over the meeting.

MINUTES

1. Approval of the Shore Protection Board Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matzner to approve the minutes of the November 20, 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. Matwiczuk to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

COMMENTS

2. OFFICIALS

There were none.

3. STAFF

Ms. Gutekunst welcomed the two (2) new members, Messrs. Cohan and Fragomen.

4. PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Ms. Diane Buhler, Friends of Palm Beach, introduced herself to the Board and gave an update on her group's activities. She stated she has a publication that she handed to the members. Mr. Matzner thanked Ms. Buhler for her group's activities in maintaining the beaches. In response to Mr. Kaplan, Ms. Buhler stated that their group is a 501 (c) (3) organization and would welcome donations. She also spoke about educating the public regarding plastics and their effect on the ocean.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Approval of the Shore Protection Board 2025 Annual Report

Ms. Gutekunst highlighted several updates to the draft report, such as the insertion of the newly elected Chair, Mr. Matzner. She stated that the second revision was to the final number that was bypassed at the Sand Transfer Plant, which was 142,000 cubic yards. She clarified information on Reach 2 sand forepassing and coordination with Florida Fish & Wildlife, as well as how the budget has been prepared.

In response to a question, Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works, gave information regarding the dune restoration maintenance, and Dr. Michael Jenkins, Geosyntec, provided additional information on planting in certain areas. Mr. Brazil also stated that any items that the Board wants to recommend for the budget would be taken to the Town Council for consideration. He clarified that the primary role of the Board is communication. He spoke regarding a specific circumstance where the Town had replaced a planting in front of a property in Reach 8, but stated that it is not the policy of the Town to do so. Discussion ensued on the Board's review of the Town Budget and the policy of planting dune vegetation.

Mr. Brazil responded to a question about the budget for lakeside resiliency projects. Discussion ensued on these budgetary items.

A motion was made by Mr. Matzner and seconded by Mr. Kaplan to approve the 2025 Annual

Report as amended. The Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

6. Sediment Budget

Dr. Michael Jenkins, Geosyntec ATM, presented an update on the flow of the sand and the two major nourishment projects, Mid-Town and Phipps. He provided an overview of the physical monitoring program and presented data on beach profiles, total volume, and the gains and losses since 1990. Discussion ensued regarding the hard bottom and what can be done by permit, and the placement of sand in the different reaches.

Diane Buhler, Friends of Palm Beach, inquired about how many days a week the sand transfer plant pipe is working, to which Dr. Jenkins responded. He stated that it works whenever it can when conditions allow and material is available to bypass. Ms. Buhler spoke regarding a citizen's lawsuit against the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Dr. Jenkins presented data on Reaches 3 & 4 and explained the gains and losses in the Mid-Town area. He answered questions from Board members on the losses and the groins. He spoke regarding an upcoming project that will mitigate the loss that has occurred in Mid-Town and explained the timing with the beginning of the sea turtle nesting season.

Dr. Jenkins presented data on Reaches 5 & 6 and discussed loss trends and a strong, long-term trend of positive gains. He spoke about Reaches 7 & 8 and the large sand infusion at Phipps. He spoke regarding an unusual erosion event that occurred in that area.

In conclusion, Dr. Jenkins reported that there has been a net gain of 5.75 million cubic yards since 1990. He stated that the trend is that they are placing more sand than they are losing. He addressed a question about the quality of the sand being placed. He addressed the areas of concern. Discussion ensued regarding the groin rehabilitation currently underway. Further discussion ensued on the challenges facing Reach 8 and how this program has mitigated them. Dr. Jenkins responded to a question regarding the Breakers project and whether the Town's program could be at risk. He addressed the issue of easements. Mr. Brazil spoke about the issue of obtaining all the necessary easements. Discussion ensued on the easements and the potential for eminent domain. Mr. Brazil also spoke regarding the groin rehabilitation at Clarke Avenue.

Diane Buhler, Friends of Palm Beach, inquired about how a private condo would go about doing dune restoration.

7. Coastal Projects Update & Annual Report

7.1 Reach 8 & 9 Dune Restoration

Ms. Gutekunst gave an update on the coastal projects and stated that 28,188 cubic yards of sand have been placed in Reach 8 & 9, with 23,796 cubic yards of that in Reach 8. She, Mr. Brazil, and Dr. Jenkins answered questions from Board members. She spoke specifically about the success of the project at the Atriums. Mr. Kaplan spoke regarding a meeting he had attended with other condominiums after a tour of the project. Mr. Matzner spoke regarding putting together a video to exhibit the project.

7.2 USACE Mid-Town Beach FCCE

Ms. Gutekunst recommended that the Board delay their recommendation to the Town Council on performing a study about the future of the Mid-Town Beach Restoration Project. Mr. Brazil asked whether the Board would be comfortable not moving forward with a study at this time. He provided information on the reasons for the delay. Discussion ensued. Mr. Brazil spoke regarding a potential short-term solution at Root Trail and Dunbar. The Board concurred with the recommendation.

7.3 Groin Rehabilitation

Ms. Gutekunst provided an overview of the plan. She displayed the Town's Coastal Projects webpage. She spoke regarding a series of videos that had been produced and played the coastal structures video. She answered questions, and Tom Pierro, Coastal Engineering, answered further questions regarding discrepancies between the plan and the peer-reviewed study. He addressed the groins that were recommended for removal. He also spoke regarding property owners who are requesting removal or replacement. Discussion ensued on rehabilitating versus replacing certain groins and what the Town's permits allow.

8. Vulnerability Assessment

Julie Parham, Deputy Town Engineer, gave an overview of the assessment. She stated that they are working to finalize the assessment with Woods Hole Group and to also include a visual story map with the final version. She stated that they will continue to complete and recommend projects that add resilience for future flooding and spoke regarding recent projects, such as the Town Marina bulkhead, living shoreline project on North Lake Way, and the potential raising of Lake Trail. She answered questions on capital improvement projects and the Level Up Study.

9. Communications Report

9.1 Florida Sunshine Law

Lainey Francisco, Attorney, Jones Foster, gave an overview of Florida's Sunshine Law and answered questions.

9.2 Sea Turtle Signage

Sara Gutekunst provided background information on the item and presented the revised signage. Following the discussion, Mr. Brazil suggested that the revised signage, the existing signage, and the current one be brought to a future meeting for discussion and comments.

Stacey Ranier, Firefly, spoke regarding the proposed signage and agreed that the signage should reflect the Town's standards and will bring back another version in response to the Board's comments.

9.3 Mid-Town Flyer

Sara Gutekunst presented the flyer for the Mid-Town Beach Renourishment project. She stated that they will be passed out to condos and businesses and posted on the Town's website. She provided digital and hard copies to the Board for distribution. The Civic and Citizens Associations will also publish it, and it was recommended that copies be available at the Recreation Center.

NEW BUSINESS

10. 2026 Meeting Schedule

Due to scheduling conflicts, the 2026 meeting schedule was revised as follows:

March 26, 2026
May 7, 2026
October 1, 2026
November 5, 2026

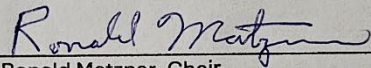
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Matwiczuk to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 PM. The motion was carried unanimously, 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ronald Matzner, Chair