



Meeting Minutes - Draft
Vegetation Committee

Thursday, February 5, 2026

1:30 PM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

**SUPPLEMENT 1 AS OF 02/03/26: ADDED INFORMATION UNDER
PROGRAM ITEM 6(a.)**

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 1:30 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wyskowski led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Chair Barb Wyskowski, Committee Member Barbara Boyce, Committee Member Barbara Horvath, Committee Member Ruth Brooks, Vice Chair Pamela Miller and Committee Member Vincent Simonelli

a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

All Committee Members were present.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the January 8, 2026, meeting minutes

Vice Chair Miller moved, seconded by Committee Member Horvath to adopt the January 8, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

6. Program

a. Living Shoreline Presentation, Principal Planner, Kim Ruiz (Supplement 1)

Principal Planner Kim Ruiz provided a brief overview of her professional background and presented a PowerPoint Presentation on Living Shorelines. Ms. Ruiz discussed shoreline stabilization approaches.

Discussion ensued regarding the use and purpose of Reef Balls as part of living

shoreline strategies. Discussion continued regarding the function and benefits of Reef Balls.

Mitch Koppleman spoke regarding king tide and storm tide issues affecting his home in New Jersey. Mr. Koppleman asked Ms. Ruiz about the placement of materials in front of living shoreline to reduce wave energy and whether extending features further into the waterway would impact aquatic vegetation. Discussion included the potential for vegetation burial, the use of native plants in living shorelines, whether barriers are required, and the importance of limiting human interaction in these areas.

Chet Sadler commended Mr. Ruiz for the presentation. He referenced conditions along Woodring Road, noting that the area experienced significant issues in the past but now appears to have an effective solution in place. Mr. Sadler asked whether Sand remains shell-based following recent sand placement. Discussion ensued the beach re-nourishment project.

Ed Holden inquired about living shoreline plans currently under review and asked who organizes and oversees living shoreline projects. Discussion ensued regarding active planting projects.

Melissa Landlaw spoke regarding stabilization of bayou areas and noted that during average king tides, water levels can rise above the surface in these locations.

7. Old Business

a. Native Plant Walk Report

Committee Member Brooks stated that there were issues with the notices being distributed for the first three (3) Native Plant Walks. It was noted that the date listed for the third Native Plant Walk was incorrect.

Committee Member Brooks further stated that the Native Plant Walk on January 24th had a small number of participants.

b. National Invasive Species Awareness Week Event Planning

Natural Resources Liaison Rachel Rainbolt announced the kickoff event scheduled for February 22nd at the Sanibel Farmer's Market. Ms. Rainbolt noted that two volunteer shifts are needed to staff the committee table and that plantings will be displayed at the table.

Ms. Rainbolt stated that an article will be released the Friday prior to the event to notify the community members of the week long celebration and to inform the public that the Vegetation Committee will be present at the Farmers Market.

Discussion ensued regarding staffing the Farmers Market table and the plantings to be displayed.

c. Guest Speaker Calendar

Natural Resources Liaison Rachel Rainbolt reported that she had spoke to Chris Comer the March guest speaker. She noted that the a biography and a finalized top are still pending.

Discussion ensued regarding public notice requirements for the Native Plan Walks, including placement of notices in the newspaper.

Discussion continued regarding suggested topics for Mr. Comer's presentation.

Ms. Rainbolt raised the question of whether the committee would like to discontinue guest speakers for a period of time. She asked whether the committee preferred a scheduled presentation in May or pause presentations and resume in the fall.

8. Reports

a. Natural Resources Report

Natural Resources Liaison Rachel Rainbolt provided a reminder that applications for reappointment or new appointments are due by next Friday at 5 P.M.

b. Chairpersons Report

Chair Wyskowski spoke to herself and Committee Member Brooks attending the Arbor Day event. Chair Wyskowski stated that they were approached by David Muench who requested that the Vegetation Committee visit his property and provide input and feedback on his landscape.

c. Committee Member Report

The committee commended Principal Planner Kim Ruiz for an excellent presentation. Discussion included the need to better advertise bay areas or grants for homeowners related to shoreline improvements and actions they can take to support and protect their shorelines.

9. Next Meeting Date

- a. Thursday, March 5, 2026 at MacKenzie Hall

10. Public Comment

City of Sanibel Chief Resiliency Officer, Ashley Painter addressed the Committee to invite the Vegetation Committee to participate in the Earth Fair and to have a table at the event.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:48 P.M.