

From: Joan and Steve Szynal <szynals@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:22 PM

To: Heidi Wegryn Gross <grosstacular@gmail.com>

Cc: Judy Bellistri <judy.bellistri@gmail.com>; Alex Herrey <awhq@generalmail.net>; Marcel Ventura <marcelventura@prodigy.net>; Alan Antley <anb1040@gmail.com>; Melissa Lehman <malehman@icloud.com>; W Richard Fortune <throughthelens528@gmail.com>; Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>; Babs Maughan <barbara@maughan.com>; Rig Baldwin Sr. <RBaldwinSr@baldwin-seraina.com>; Janis Gregg <sanibeljanis@gmail.com>; William Muriel Primm <cmwy10a@msn.com>; jenmcsorley@embarqmail.com; Steven Triantafyllou <striantafyllou@comcast.net>; Jason Cohen <jason@cohensalesllc.com>; Jerold Roth <jr770ga@aol.com>; Amy Garrard <agarrard@agemploymentlaw.com>; evan@dupontresidential.com; Jeff D Harvey <jdharvey11@gmail.com>; Arielle Cohen <arielle@cohensalesllc.com>

Subject: Re: Dredging of Dinkins bayou, second amended letter

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

We just received the information letter today here in Michigan!

Steve and Joan

On Jun 3, 2025, at 1:13 PM, Heidi Wegryn Gross <grosstacular@gmail.com> wrote:

Second amendment to submission

Please be advised that I am not opposed to dredging of dinkins bayou and blind pass. But I do not feel that adequate notice has not been given to the residents who are affected pursuant to our existing statutes considering the gravitas of this monumental endeavor. At this time of the year, many of our residents rely on mail forwarding and may have had no notice at the time of the hearing nonetheless, they will be affected by your decisions. Further you are not just removing silting caused by your connecting clam bayou to dinkins bayou or as a result of the storms but it will be creating new channels that never existed. Thus creating additional expense. I believe the existing canal, pathway is grandfathered in their current locations. Should it need to do some silt removal this will be far less disruptive of the environment as well as considerably less expensive.

As a result of relying on inaccurate information from the private engineering firm that recommended a culvert between clam bayou and Dinkins bayou which resulted in not only significant silting by opening clam bayou into Dinkins Bayou but profound erosion of private property due to increased currents and flooding over the banks of the canal in storms. This is a massive project with environmental and economic impact on all of us, not just those who live on the waterway. The damage done by this ill informed decision has had permanent consequences including flooding across Pine Tree Dr from surges through the culvert into the canal.

We need to explore other options to renew the navigability, accessibility of this area that might be less expensive. The residents have not been informed if other solutions have not been pursued.

To my knowledge, you have not asked Captiva or Lee County, both of who benefit from this project to participate in the economic impact because they are not part of our taxing authority. I believe we are required to give them notice of our intentions through publication etc. even if they are not part of our taxing authority.

if Captiva and Lee county do not bear an economic responsibility than why are resident of other areas asked to bear the expense of opening Sunset Bay. When Pine Tree drive had a silting problem not even White Heron or other properties along this water helped in deferring the costs of dredging.

How are the costs going to be apportioned: per home on the waterway? I think it would be fairer to do it per shoreline linear foot, as there is one property that is useable solely as a dock and to the other extreme there is a house on three lots. But how do you apportion the cost for a house with water on two sides is a matter to consider.

Further the assessment on homeowners is a taxation. As a taxation residents have not been given adequate information regarding the proposal by publication in the local newspapers and by letter within the time frames as required bylaw. This meeting should not go forward until those requirements have been met.

Please refer to Ord. No. 18-002, § 2, 4-3- 2018 sec 94-37 forward to the requirements. Including SEC 58 and section 82-4 22 regarding schedule and notice.

We need more information and we need time to understand the consequences of these decisions before we do more irreparable damage and incur more expenses in trying to maintain navigable waterways.

Respectfully submitted.

Heidi Wegryn Gross, retired Esq. Fl. & N.J.
5868 Pine Tree Dr, Sanibel, FL 33957

From: Kathryn Tomita <tomitakathy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Christopher M. Kelly <ckelly@jonesday.com>; citymanager <citymanager@mysanibel.com>
Cc: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Subject: Milton damage at 6498 Sanibel Captiva Road

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Chris,

We want Dana Souza and the engineers to know our property at 6498 Sanibel Captiva Road was severely impacted by hurricane Milton. Once again the waters from the gulf washed over our property surrounding our home and dumping sand and silt into the waterway along our property and surrounding area. There were mounds of sand left behind everywhere. The gulf waters also breeched the mangroves along Blind Pass and pushed in large amounts of sand and silt. The build up of sand in the area has severely impacted our water route from our dock in both direction; toward Blind Pass and back through Sunset Bay to Dinkins Bayou. The route we need to navigate is significantly narrowed and shallower. The tide needs to be even higher for us to get out and back. This is all due to sand and silt buildup limiting access from our dock.

The mounds of sand left behind in Blind Pass and Turner Beach parking lot, in the point under and surrounding the bridge only supports the amount of sand that was pushed into Sunset Bay. Also, the Captive side of the blind pass bridge got washed out into the bay side. It's a travesty if the 4 homes on Sunset Bay closest to the gulf where much of the sand from Milton was dumped are not included in this dredging plan. It makes no sense to have the dredging equipment there and not include us.

Please let us know what we can do to extend the dredging to our home.

Thank you for taking this on.

Kathy and Tad Tomita
847-602-1651

From: Heidi Wegryn Gross <grosstacular@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:13 PM

To: Judy Bellistri <judy.bellistri@gmail.com>; Joan and Steve Szynal <szynals@hotmail.com>; Alex Herrey <awhq@generalmail.net>; Marcel Ventura <marcelventura@prodigy.net>; Alan Antley <anb1040@gmail.com>; Melissa Lehman <malehman@icloud.com>; Fortune W Richard <throughthelens528@gmail.com>; Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>; Babs Maughan <barbara@maughan.com>; Rig Baldwin Sr. <RBaldwinSr@baldwin-seraina.com>; Janis Gregg <sanibeljanis@gmail.com>; William & Muriel Primm <cmwy10a@msn.com>; jenmcsorley@embarqmail.com; Steven Triantafyllou <STriantafyllou@comcast.net>; Jason Cohen <jason@cohensalesllc.com>; Jerold Roth <JR770ga@aol.com>; Amy Garrard <agarrard@agementlaw.com>; evan@dupontresidential.com; Jeff D Harvey <jdharvey11@gmail.com>; Arielle Cohen <arielle@cohensalesllc.com>

Subject: Dredging of Dinkins bayou, second amended letter

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Second amendment to submission

Please be advised that I am not opposed to dredging of dinkins bayou and blind pass. But I do not feel that adequate notice has not been given to the residents who are affected pursuant to our existing statutes considering the gravitas of this monumental endeavor. At this time of the year, many of our residents rely on mail forwarding and may have had no notice at the time of the hearing nonetheless, they will be affected by your decisions.

Further you are not just removing silting caused by your connecting clam bayou to dinkins bayou or as a result of the storms but it will be creating new channels that never existed. Thus creating additional expense. I believe the existing canal, pathway is grandfathered in their current locations. Should it need to do some silt removal this will be far less disruptive of the environment as well as considerably less expensive.

As a result of relying on inaccurate information from the private engineering firm that recommended a culvert between clam bayou and Dinkins bayou which resulted in not only significant silting by opening clam bayou into Dinkins Bayou but profound erosion of private property due to increased currents and flooding over the banks of the canal in storms. This is a massive project with environmental and economic impact on all of us, not just those who live on the waterway. The damage done by this ill informed decision has had permanent consequences including flooding across Pine Tree Dr from surges through the culvert into the canal.

We need to explore other options to renew the navigability, accessibility of this area that might be less expensive. The residents have not been informed if other solutions have not been pursued.

To my knowledge, you have not asked Captiva or Lee County, both of who benefit from this project to participate in the economic impact because they are not part of our taxing authority. I believe we are required to give them notice of our intentions through publication etc. even if they are not part of our taxing authority.

if Captiva and Lee county do not bear an economic responsibility than why are residents of other areas asked to bear the expense of opening Sunset Bay. When Pine Tree drive had a silting problem not even White Heron or other properties along this water helped in deferring the costs of dredging.

How are the costs going to be apportioned: per home on the waterway? I think it would be fairer to do it per shoreline linear foot, as there is one property that is useable solely as a dock and to the other extreme there is a house on three lots. But how do you apportion the cost for a house with water on two sides is a matter to consider.

Further the assessment on homeowners is a taxation. As a taxation residents have not been given adequate information regarding the proposal by publication in the local newspapers and by letter within the time frames as required bylaw. This meeting should not go forward until those requirements have been met.

Please refer to Ord. No. 18-002, § 2, 4-3- 2018 sec 94-37 forward to the requirements. Including SEC 58 and section 82-4 22 regarding schedule and notice.

We need more information and we need time to understand the consequences of these decisions before we do more irreparable damage and incur more expenses in trying to maintain navigable waterways.

Respectfully submitted.

Heidi Wegryn Gross, retired Esq. FL. & N.J.
5868 Pine Tree Dr, Sanibel, FL 33957

From: Jeff Harvey <jdharvey11@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:50 AM
To: Laura J. DeBruce <laura.debruce@mysanibel.com>
Cc: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Subject: Re: Support for Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project

This Message Is From an External Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Hi Laura,

Thank you for your response. Apologies for my delay in reply.

I don't think the project should be delayed. However, I do believe we should have further discussions in parallel regarding the properties on the Captiva side of Blind Pass and Roosevelt Channel with the City of Captiva to include them in the tax district. They will 100% benefit from this effort and should be included.

And while some people living on Dinkins may be voicing concern because they are "not boaters", from my perspective they are voicing concern because they don't want to pay for it. They own waterfront property and I'm sure they want to protect the value of their asset, however they simply don't want to be burdened by the expense in doing so. I appreciate they don't want to pay for it (and neither do I in a perfect world), however the fact that they own property on the water I believe obligates them to be included.

That said, I think we also need to acknowledge this is not simply a "boating issue". This is also a significant environmental issue. The silt buildup will also dramatically impact wildlife and other shoreline areas, just as it has in Clam Bayou over the years. And as I have heard from other neighbors, the same issue was also part of the historical rationale to open up Clam Bayou under San Cap Rd because the lack of waterflow in Clam Bayou was impacting wildlife and killing mangroves in multiple areas along that shoreline -- and losing those mangroves would also create major erosion issues for the island going forward.

If this issue is not addressed and maintained going forward, the same issues could also happen in other areas of the "Wulfert Channel system". As you can also see from the attached image taken in the mid-90s and again today from Google Earth, these waterways have dramatically changed over the years due to silt and sand redistribution -- including a former channel from Blind Pass into Sunset Bay, which is now gone. Failure to maintain these areas will also impact other areas of the Wulfert Channel system in the future, including Ding Darling which is a significant part of this ecosystem. Given this, have we also

engaged Ding Darling to see how they want to be included and participate in this remediation and effort going forward?

Thank you,

Jeff Harvey

5690 Pine Tree Dr Sanibel FL 33957

847-208-0392



On Sun, Jun 1, 2025 at 8:49 AM Laura J. DeBruce <laura.debruce@mysanibel.com> wrote:
Good morning, Jeff and Tracy,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your concerns about the residents of Captiva who will also benefit from any dredging. I will certainly bring this point up at our meeting on Tuesday; however, the City of Sanibel does not have any enforcement powers vis a vis Lee County residents in Captiva so this would have to be a voluntary agreement. I agree with you that it would be more fair for the homes on Roosevelt Channel to share in the costs.

We have also heard from residents who live around Dinkins Bayou who are not boaters and who do not support the creation of a new Assessment District.

I would be curious to know if most of the Sanibel residents who are negatively impacted by the sediment in the water would prefer that the assessment be delayed while we seek out further discussion with Captiva residents.

Thank you for making your concerns known.

Sincerely,

Laura DeBruce

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 6:11 PM
To: Jeff Harvey <jdharvey11@gmail.com>; John Henshaw <John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com>; Mike Miller <Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com>; Holly Smith <Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com>; Richard Johnson <richard.johnson@mysanibel.com>; Laura J. DeBruce <laura.debruce@mysanibel.com>
Subject: Re: Support for Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project

Thank you for your comments. Your email will be included in the record of the meeting next week. Vicki

Vicki

From: Jeff Harvey <jdharvey11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 5:02:02 PM
To: John Henshaw <John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com>; Mike Miller <Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com>; Holly Smith <Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com>; Richard Johnson <richard.johnson@mysanibel.com>; Laura J. DeBruce <laura.debruce@mysanibel.com>; Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Subject: Re: Support for Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project

Resending with correct email for Vicki On Wed, May 28, 2025 at 4:57 PM Jeff Harvey <jdharvey11@gmail.com> wrote: Dear Members of the City Council, We own two homes on Sanibel that are within the "Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou
Resending with correct email for Vicki

On Wed, May 28, 2025 at 4:57 PM Jeff Harvey <jdharvey11@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Members of the City Council,

We own two homes on Sanibel that are within the "Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou Area Dredging Assessment District" and I am writing to express our **100% support** for this critical project.

We appreciate the hard work that has gone into securing permits to complete the dredging this summer. We also appreciate the pragmatic approach you are taking to plan for the future by establishing a fund to support dredging again in 2035 (based on historical experience with the last dredging being in 2014).

While 202 Sanibel properties have been identified for assessment for most of this cost, it's important to acknowledge that these waterways are also heavily used by Captiva and Lee County residents. Additional funding from Captiva property owners (especially those on Roosevelt Channel), would help more fairly distribute costs and reduce the impact on Sanibel homeowners alone for this effort. Has this also been considered?

Thank you again for your dedication and leadership. We recognize and appreciate your support in helping to maintain our beautiful island and our critical infrastructure.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 847-208-0392. I am happy to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Jeff & Tracey Harvey

[5690 Pine Tree Drive, Sanibel, FL 33947](#)

[5880 Sanibel Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL 33957](#)

From: John Alam <joalam@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:56 AM

To: Holly Smith <Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com>; Vicki L. Smith
<vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

Subject: Re: Support for Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Thanks again.

In regards to paying \$1200 per year in perpetuity, has there been a study showing how often re-dredging will be needed.

What if a hurricane changes the bayou completely linking Dinken to Clam bayou?

John Alam
joalam@verizon.net

On Monday, June 2, 2025 at 05:16:59 PM EDT, Holly Smith <holly.smith@mysanibel.com> wrote:

Mr Alam,

Thank you for your comments. The item before us 14A is an intent to declare a special use district for the dredging process. It's the beginning of the public process.

I certainly need more information before making a long term decision for the citizenry.

Holly D. Smith
Vice Mayor
City of Sanibel
239-270-1725. City Cell
holly.smith@mysanibel.com
City Website www.mysanibel.com

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from the City of Sanibel regarding City business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications, including your email address, may be subject to public disclosure

From: John Alam <joalam@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 3:18:15 PM

To: John Henshaw <John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com>; Mike Miller <Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com>; Holly Smith <Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com>; Richard Johnson <richard.johnson@mysanibel.com>; Laura J. DeBruce <laura.debruce@mysanibel.com>; Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>; Cindy Alam <cindyalam01@gmail.com>

Subject: Support for Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project

Everyone. Thank you for your work representing the city of Sanibel. While dredging the bayou is a good idea, it seems to me this is the job of an HOA. When an HOA is not available the neighbors can get together and arrange it. This would be Everyone.

Thank you for your work representing the city of Sanibel.

While dredging the bayou is a good idea, it seems to me this is the job of an HOA. When an HOA is not available the neighbors can get together and arrange it. This would be more fair and better for the home owners.

Not clear from your letter is whether a bidding process was performed. Also not clear is whether a way to minimize the effort has been considered.

An HOA would serve me better and it would help me control more closely this for ever fund.

Thanks again.

John Alam
5850 San Cap.

From: Helen Garthwaite <helen.garthwaite@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:31 AM
To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Subject: Dinkin Bayou Dredging Proposal

This Message Is From an External Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

I am writing to express my confusion over the planned Special Assessment. There are a number of areas which I feel require clarification.

1. Why are the households within Dinkins Bayou being required to subsidise the dredging of Wilfred Channel in Blind Pass? This benefits both Sanibel and Captiva in general. I understand dredging the Dinkins Bayou area is of direct benefit to residents, but the channel is used by almost all boaters in the area. Therefore the Special Assessment should only cover the Dinkin Bayou proposal.

2. Why is it only residences with boat access that are required to contribute? There are public boat accesses in the area. Therefore all residents in the area will benefit from the dredging. In which case the Special Assessment should encompass these houses which will also benefit. Unless the Council is proposing to close all these accesses, the proposed Special Assessment houses do not have exclusive access and benefit of these areas, and should not have therefore have the exclusive burden of the costs.

3. I see no reference to any potential environmental assessment of the dredging. This area has not been dredged for a considerable period of time. If it proposed to alter the natural depths in the bayou and surrounding areas, it is important that this has been thoroughly assessed.

I look forward to hearing these points addressed.
Thank you.

Helen Garthwaite
Sent from my iPad

From: MERRAY HARRIS <merrayharris@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:09 AM

To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

Cc: joanne Harris <mucmuc1@comcast.net>; Laura J. DeBruce <laura.debruce@mysanibel.com>; Holly Smith <Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com>; Mike Miller <Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com>; Richard Johnson <richard.johnson@mysanibel.com>; Dana A. Souza <Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com>

Subject: Millage vs flat tax: Wulfert Dredging

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

\$700,000 home is paying the same amount as a \$ 7,500,000
This tax needs to be millage not a flat tax.

Tax burden is on 202 homes with no thought to assessed value.

7.5% of RE Taxes will be from this tax.

From: MERRAY HARRIS <merrayharris@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 12:17 PM

To: vicki.smith@mysanibel.com <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

Cc: joanne Harris

<mucmuc1@comcast.net>; Laura.DeBruce@mysanibel.com <Laura.DeBruce@mysanibel.com>; Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com <Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com>; Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com <Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com>; Richard.Johnson@mysanibel.com <Richard.Johnson@mysanibel.com>; Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com <Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com>

Subject: \$10,000 Tax assessment plus \$1200 a year tax increase

Joanne and I are 24/7/365 Sanibel Residents and vote every election

We have been hit hard by Milton, Helene and Ian

We are appalled at receiving a snail mail letter and short notice on this tax increase.

Bullet points

1. We see no value in the dredging to our Family.
2. Housing market is Del Segha has collapsed. A tax increase will not help

3. 300,000CY of silt trucked to a landfill via Henderson Rd????
4. We are paying \$17,000 in taxes for a 1300SF home.
5. We NEED walkable restaurants and a convenience store.
6. I have not found any support among my Neighbors for the dredging
7. We are organizing to fight this TAX INCREASE

Merthyn and Joanne Harris (Murray and Jo)
2464 Blind Pass Ct
Sanibel FL 33957
215-872-1797

From: Joan Klutch <jklutch@me.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 7:51 AM

To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

Subject: Proposed Assessment dredging for Private Home OwnersWulfert channel,
Dinkins Bayou,Sunset Bay

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

To:

Dana A. Souza, Mgr.

City of Sanibel

Subject:

Assessment

Saturday May 31 st I received your packet of information concerning the proposed special assessment, I feel this was a late notice to our Del Saga residents, when most residents have left for the summer.

This project would already increase our tax burden and further assessment for a back up fund an unfair cost.

In the past projects of this kind have been paid by federal funds and city of Sanibel and should again be paid by them as these are public waterways and also shared by Captiva. My husband and I have not been boaters for many years and can appreciate what you want to accomplish but not to burden senior taxpayers with your proposal without fair study and notice.

Other municipal towns such as Cape Coral dredge yearly at no cost to their property residents and previously done in our waterways in 2014 at no cost to our residents.

I feel this is unjust

Notice and backhanded when many of us are not present.

We need more time to discuss its legality and environmental impact on our waterways.

Sincerely,

Joan Klutch

2454 Harbour Lane

Sanibel

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kathryn craig <kathryncraig57@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:54 AM
To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Subject: Bayou assessment

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

To whom it may concern:

I just received notice of today's meeting as I am not currently on Sanibel, so will be unable to attend today's meeting.

I would like to say that I am not in favor of this assessment at this time. I am on White Heron Lane and have been flooded with 3-5 feet of water coming from Clam Bayou 3 times including Ian. I feel that this is a more pressing issue than dredging. It's my understanding that this push is coming from the Pine Tree Home Owners Association. I would look forward to more information in a timely manner prior to this assessment being pushed ahead to meet a deadline imposed on us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathryn Craig
703-244-5380

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Cathy O'Neil <cathyoneilmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 3:56 AM
To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Subject: Sunset bay property assessment

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Ms Smith,

My Mother owns 2545 and 2551 Coconut Drive and we first heard of this property assessment on June 3th by our neighbor. I understand there is a meeting on June 4th but we have no information on how to attend and voice our concern. You have my email and phone number why were not contacted?

I understand the need for dredging but want to make sure it is done thoughtfully. I don't want to waste money.

The proposal just mentions Dinkins Bayou and Wolfert Channel and not our bay (?Sunset Bay?). It doesn't mention if beach renourishment will be stopped as it contributed to this problem. It doesn't mention how many bids your received for the project and was the most competitive one accepted (our neighbor did not see any RFP for this project).

I, Cathy O'Neil, would like any vote delayed until we can get more answers. I don't know when the meeting is tomorrow or how to attend.

Kindly,
Cathy O'Neil for Jacqueline P O'Neil.
303-501-6171

From: Pete Petrikas <ordpete944@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 11:09 PM

To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>; SANIBELLEA@COMCAST.NET; Stephen Petrikas <stephen.petrikas@gmail.com>; Katie Petrikas <holliebella@gmail.com>

Subject: Wulfert/ Dinkins Bayou dredging

This Message Is From an External Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Good evening Vicki.

I was given your info as a contact for the dredging project. Please read my comments at the meeting tomorrow morning regarding item 14A.

My mother, Lea Petrikas, lives on Blue crab court, in the affected area. Other than a letter three days ago stating the city meeting and agenda, she has never received any survey or questionnaire asking if she wanted the bayou dredged, or her opinion on the matter. She has lived at this address for 36 years. I would think her opinion matters.

I think the city needs to actually reach out to each individual owner and speak with them regarding this, rather than giving a few days notice of a meeting.

We disagree with funding a public works project for a public water way through assessments. She already pays taxes in excess of \$15000 yearly. Those tax dollars should be covering these repairs, and only if the residents even wanted it to happen. Public roadway repairs in front of people's homes are covered by tax dollars, not additional special assessments. A public waterway should be no different.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Peter Petrikas
For Lea Petrikas

From: Trevor Nette <trevor@trevornette.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 8:39 PM

To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

Cc: kay@kaycasperson.com

Subject: Sunset Bay dredging assessment per City of Sanibel letter dated 5/21/25

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

To the City of Sanibel,

Following up to the recent notice dated 5/21/25, regarding the dredging assessment within our Del Segua neighborhood.

We are in agreement of the proposed assessment for the dredging of Sunset Bay with the condition that the area to be dredged also includes re opening of the bay area closest to blind pass bridge which historically was open prior to beach renourishment programs that shifted sands and plugged Sunset Bay on its western tip. The historical opening assisted with flushing out water flow with tides as well as supporting positives such as clearer and cleaner water and more wildlife.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter

Trevor Nette and Kay Casperson
2617 Coconut Drive, Sanibel

From: Doug Billings <billingsd62@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 1, 2025 1:52 PM
To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Cc: Jenny Billings <jennyelb@yahoo.com>
Subject: Additional Input - Wulfert channel assessment questions

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki

Also, some specific input to the council

1. The first that we were aware of the proposal for the dredging and special assessment district was May 29th when we received the letter from the town dated May 21st. We only became aware of prior discussions at the town council after reading the minutes of the May council meeting after receiving the letter dated the 21st. Prior to that time no one had contacted us about our opinions on the need to dredge or on the appropriateness of a special assessment district.
2. In the letter dated on the 21st it stated that the reason for the dredging was for the safety of boating due to hurricane impacts. We regularly boat out of our canal and do not issues with traveling though the bayou and Wulfert channel. There are low tide conditions where transit could be problematic but that was true prior to Ian, Milton and Helene and if we take them appropriately into account we have no transit issues.
3. There is a public boat access at the end Henderson Road that is commonly used by other residents in the area that do not have water front access and also even non-residents to access these waters. However these residents and others are not included the special assessment district.
4. As a result of items above at this time we do not support the creation of the special assessment district as we believe insufficient input and consideration has been given to all residents and factors in the discussion.

Doug and Jenny Billings
6101 Starling Way
Sanibel Florida

From: Doug Billings <billingsd62@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 1, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>
Cc: Jenny Billings <jennyelb@yahoo.com>
Subject: Wulfert channel assessment questions

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki

I hope this note finds you doing well. I am a resident that would be affected by the proposed special assessment district for dredging of the Wulfert Channel, Sunset Bay and Dinkins Bayou. In advance of the town council meeting on Tuesday which I plan on attending, I have a couple of background questions I would appreciate the answers regarding. Specifically:

1. what are the prior and/or existing special assessment districts that have been established by Sanibel, what were their purposes and durations?
2. the letter we received says that the ongoing \$1,200 a year assessment would be collected as part of the Lee County annual tax assessment. Will those funds then be transferred to Sanibel from the County or held by the County?
3. what will done with the materials dredged? Will it be removed entirely from the area or deposited to other parts of these areas?

Thank you for any information you can provide as soon as you can on these questions.

Doug Billings
6101 Starling Way
Sanibel Florida
508 878 9067.

From: Dan Hinckley <dbh@suiattle.org>

Sent: Sunday, June 1, 2025 11:11 AM

To: Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

Cc: Laura J. DeBruce <laura.debruce@mysanibel.com>; Mike Miller <Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com>; Holly Smith <Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com>; John Henshaw <John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com>; Richard Johnson <richard.johnson@mysanibel.com>

Subject: Dredging and SAD for Dinkins Bayou and Wulfert Channel

Importance: High

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Please find attached our input to the debate on this question at the June 3rd Council meeting.

Sincerely,

~~~~~

Dan and Katherine Hinckley

2498 Harbour Lane

Sanibel, FL 33957

[kph\\_dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:kph_dbh@suiattle.org)



The Sanibel City Council  
800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

Sunday, June 1, 2025

RE: The Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project and Special Assessment District

Dear Council Members,

While the navigation issue may be real, we do not feel this SAD is the appropriate solution.

**We are writing to oppose the Special Assessment District as currently proposed.**

- The notice period for this meeting agenda on June 3<sup>rd</sup> was way too short. Many affected residents did not receive this notice in time to prepare to comment in an informed or timely manner.
- If you make an approximate count of the affected abutters (i.e., those with boats large enough to encounter problems navigating the Dinkins Bayou entrance or Wulfert Channel) we feel that it will be a small percentage of the affected abutters. Suppose it might be 40 users, then another 160 abutters are being asked to pay to solve this issue. We have personally navigated all the canals off Dinkins Bayou often, and while we have never counted the number of large draft boats, it is not enormous.
- One resident abutting Dinkins Bayou asserts that he has had no issues using a 28 ft. Dauntless in the waters.
- We have not received a copy of the legal reasoning whereby Sanibel decides that this is its problem.
- Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou are Navigable Waters within the meaning of the act, and as such are the responsibility of the USACE (US Army Corps of Engineers); please see sections of the US CFR attached.
- Abutters are being asked/told to pay for work which will not benefit most of them; however, this dredging project will benefit many non-Sanibel residents, who will not be required to pay for any of this work. This project is at a minimum one which should be funded by Lee County and the State, not by local residents of Sanibel.
- Mention is made of protecting property values of abutters. Is protection of property value actually one of the responsibilities of the City of Sanibel?
- If a future claim is made by a boater alleging that the dredging is improperly done, will abutters in the SAD be liable?
- Sanibel has experienced three hurricanes in three years. The waters of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico are warming so fast that hurricanes now develop independently in those seas, without having begun off the west coast of Africa. Two of those storms (Ian and Milton) had enormous effects on the profiles of the Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou channels. The proposed 10 year planning horizon is meaningless when we contemplate

that more such hurricanes are highly likely to occur within that horizon. What happens then? Will dredging be done sooner than 2035? Who will then pay for it?

- The last dredge of Blind Pass and part of the Wulfert Channel was in 2017. Following that there was a comprehensive, and very public, process to review the dredging template for future work. Those of us who participated provided input to the planning firm about the historic pattern of flows through Sunset Bay. When the firm ran their model with that modification, they found that adding to the dredging template to include Sunset Bay would significantly improve flows through Blind Pass.
- For those interested in the dredging history of Blind Pass, please visit [this page](#).
- The last dredging was done for environmental reasons, not to improve navigation.
- The 2019 management plan in which many of us participated, is reported [here](#). If you scroll down to page 10 of that report, you will see the final preferred option, Figure 5. **That option would resolve whatever issues boaters may feel they now face.**
- The current proposed dredging and funding is a short-sighted effort, with no apparent responses planned in the event of a re-occurrence in a period less than the 10 year planning horizon. Meanwhile, abutters are expected to pay an annual tax which will not suffice to respond to re-occurring storm changes. When this navigation problem happens again in 5 years, will the SAD feel obliged, or be allowed to make additional assessments?

We urge the Council to at a minimum table this project until answers to these points are more carefully researched. Fundamentally, this dredging should not be undertaken by the City of Sanibel when it so clearly benefits many users from many other communities, and so few of the abutters.

If the Council decides to proceed with this effort, then at a very bare minimum the affected abutters should have the opportunity to vote on this proposal; to do otherwise amounts to taxation without representation.

---

US CFR:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-II/part-329>

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/regulatory/regs/33cfr329.pdf>

#### **§ 329.4 General definition.**

Navigable waters of the United States are those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. A determination of navigability, once made, applies laterally over the entire surface of the waterbody, and is not extinguished by later actions or events which impede or destroy navigable capacity.

### **§ 329.7 Intrastate or interstate nature of waterway.**

A waterbody may be entirely within a state, yet still be capable of carrying interstate commerce. This is especially clear when it physically connects with a generally acknowledged avenue of interstate commerce, such as the ocean or one of the Great Lakes, and is yet wholly within one state. Nor is it necessary that there be a physically navigable connection across a state boundary. Where a waterbody extends through one or more states, but substantial portions, which are capable of bearing interstate commerce, are located in only one of the states, the entirety of the waterway up to the head (upper limit) of navigation is subject to Federal jurisdiction.

### **329.12 Geographic and jurisdictional limits of oceanic and tidal waters.**

(a) ***Ocean and coastal waters.*** The navigable waters of the United States over which Corps of Engineers regulatory jurisdiction extends include all ocean and coastal waters within a zone three geographic (nautical) miles seaward from the baseline (The Territorial Seas). Wider zones are recognized for special regulatory powers exercised over the outer continental shelf. (See [33 CFR 322.3\(b\)](#)).

Sincerely,

Katherine and Dan Hinckley  
2498 Harbour Lane  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

**From:** Jennifer Shaver <jldrenik19@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 11:09 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

**Subject:** Strong Opposition to Unfair Assessment Proposal for Public Waterway Dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Sanibel City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed dredging assessment that would require 202 property owners to pay over \$10,600, with an additional \$1,200 annually starting in 2026. This proposal places a disproportionate financial burden on a small number of residents for the maintenance of **public waterways**—resources that benefit and are accessed by the wider community, not just those being asked to fund them.

These are not private canals tucked away for exclusive neighborhood use. Wulfert Channel, Sunset Bay, and Dinkins Bayou are **publicly navigable waters**, often traversed by people from all over the island and beyond. On any given day, we see charter boats, kayakers, and recreational boaters using these channels, many of whom have no ties to the properties now being asked to carry the cost of dredging and long-term maintenance.

We received our letter from the City by regular mail on **May 28th**, providing **less than a week's notice** before the scheduled June 3rd meeting. Several of our neighbors—who are also included in the proposed assessment district—still have **not received any notification**. This inconsistent communication, combined with the compressed timeline, undermines the ability of residents to fairly review and respond to the proposal.

If these waterways are indeed public—as their daily use clearly reflects—then their care and upkeep should be treated as a **public responsibility**, funded through appropriate city, county, or even state mechanisms. Targeting a narrow group of property owners to subsidize the upkeep of a community-wide resource is inequitable and, frankly, short-sighted.

We are all invested in preserving Sanibel's natural beauty, environmental health, and access to its cherished waterways. But that preservation must come through **collaborative, fair, and transparent processes**, not by quietly shifting the financial responsibility onto a select few.

I urge you to halt this proposal as currently structured and take time to reconsider how our public resources are funded—ensuring equity, transparency, and proper notice for all island residents.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Shaver

2510 Coconut Dr

**From:** Mark Calkin <mtcalkin@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 11:10 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Dinkins dredging taxation

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Sanibel City Council

We live at 2449 Harbour Lane and received a letter stating we will be paying a fee of approximately 10,000\$ for dredging the bayou. This is the first time we've ever heard about this issue.

We have never had a boat so we really don't have any interest in dredging. The number of homes assessed seems somewhat arbitrary. Numerous boaters use the bayou and it seems that fees from some other source (e.g. boat licenses, guided fishing permit fees etc) would be more fair. Many people use Dinkins- so why do only a few residents have to pay this extraordinary fee. Can the residents who pay for maintenance of Dinkins then rightfully charge an entrance fee to the bayou?

Mark and Melissa Calkin  
2449 Harbour Lane  
Sanibel

Sent from my g

**From:** THE BORSCHKE FAMILY <[borschkes@gmail.com](mailto:borschkes@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 3:48:02 PM

**To:** Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Kelly, Christopher M.

<[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>; [thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net) <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfuncion@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfuncion@pennbeer.com)>; Andy Vollmer <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>; [karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com) <[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com)>; Tadanori Tomita <[ttomita@luriechildrens.org](mailto:ttomita@luriechildrens.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Dear Chris, Our property (6494) which is referenced in the Tomikas's email and John DiLorenzo's email is one that would not be on the dredging plan yet we'd be expected to pay for the dredging assessment. We are in agreement with our neighbors  
Dear Chris,

Our property (6494) which is referenced in the Tomikas's email and John DiLorenzo's email is one that would not be on the dredging plan yet we'd be expected to pay for the dredging assessment. We are in agreement with our neighbors that we need to be included. Our home has a boat dock and a boat lift that are essentially useless based on the low level of water that is there now. On weekends and holidays we have seen countless boating tourists get stuck in front of our homes because of low water. The number of dolphin and manatees have drastically reduced in number and we fear the stagnation of the water in that area without currents to freshen it could cause health concerns as well as affect our mangroves. We are willing to help in this cause and we hope our concerns will be looked at seriously.

Thank you.

Sue and Gus Borschke  
6494 Sanibel Captiva Road  
336-782-1994 (Gus) 336-918-2408 (Sue)  
[Borschkes@gmail.com](mailto:Borschkes@gmail.com)

Sent from Sue Borschke's iPhone 📱

On May 31, 2025, at 2:44 PM, Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Chris,

I see you have done lots of work on this project and I thank you. However, **I'm very shocked and upset that our property isn't included in the dredging.** The Dinkins Bayou / Sunset Bay dredging portion stops at Castaways. Our property at **6498 Sanibel Captiva Road** and the 3 other properties past Castaways (**6496, 9494 and 6492 Sanibel Captiva**) are **NOT INCLUDED to dredge**. We have been the most impacted by the shifting sands and silting caused by beach renourishment and storms. When we bought our home in 1995 we were able to keep a boat at our dock. Now we're only able to take a kayak out at high tide.

**We need to be included in the dredging plan.** The equipment is right there. It doesn't make any sense to leave us out. I can't be at the meeting Tuesday but have left a message with Dana Souza. I have not yet heard back from him. I've also sent an email to Vicki Smith. We've been writing letters for years expressing our concern.

Please, what do we need to do to get our properties included in the dredging plan?

Thank you for your help with this!

Tad and Kathy Tomita  
6498 Sanibel Captiva Road  
847-602-1651

On May 29, 2025, at 5:46 AM, Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)> wrote:

Thanks Tim and Weazie, your neighbors are grateful for the support.

**Christopher M. Kelly** ([bio](#))  
Partner  
**JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide<sup>SM</sup>**  
901 Lakeside Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
Office +1.216.586.1238  
Cell +1.216.496.6212  
[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)

---

**From:** [thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net) <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 6:42:06 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>  
**Cc:** Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunction@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunction@pennbeer.com)>; Andy Vollmer <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey



Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>; Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>; [karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com) <[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Thanks for your work on this Chris. We are also in support of this project for all the same reasons as Ed. Additionally, losing boating access would be far more costly in terms of reduced market value of our properties than any assessment(s) we will pay. Most importantly, we bought our property in 2016 precisely because we could have a boat in our backyard and use it whenever we wanted. Our ability to do that has been reduced by the changes in Dinkins and Wulfert, and if this is the only way to make access less tide dependent, we support it.

We both sent emails to Vicki yesterday afternoon.

Thanks again,  
Tim and Weezie Huyck  
Tropical Way Ct

On May 29, 2025, at 6:10 AM, Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)> wrote:

Thanks Ed, your Dinkins Bayou neighbors are grateful for you and your efforts.

**Christopher M. Kelly** ([bio](#))

Partner

**JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide<sup>SM</sup>**

901 Lakeside Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44114

Office +1.216.586.1238

Cell +1.216.496.6212

[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)

---

**From:** Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 10:33:59 PM

**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunction@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunction@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Tim Huyck

<[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers

<[captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>; Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** [karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com) <[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Thank you, Chris.

I will be supporting this project and sending emails to Vicki.

I have forwarded this to family and other neighbors (on Bluecrab Ct) impacted who were not on your list.

I suspect I have gathered 10 people willing to send emails of support.

In speaking to one neighbor, I heard a fair point.

He believes that the last time this was done, it was 50%/50% city vs assessment.

No reason not to put pressure on Dana and the city to cover more of the costs.

It's a reasonable ask.

Regardless, I will be supporting the program.

The house I built on Bluecrab is valuable, more so than most Sanctuary homes.

The reason is its on water and boating accessible.

I have trouble all the time hitting bottom with my 25" Dauntless.

There are tides that most of us will avoid taking the boat out. We need to fix this....

Thanks again,

Ed Siciliano

Blue Crab Ct

Girls! Girls! Girls! -25" Boston Whaler

<image001.jpg> <image002.jpg> **Ed Siciliano**

Chief Executive Officer

**O:** [856-745-3359](tel:856-745-3359)

[CANCapital.com](http://CANCapital.com)

<image003.png> <image004.png> <image005.png>

**Celebrating Over 20 Years in Small Business Finance**

<image006.jpg>

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail and any files or previous e-mail messages attached to it, may contain proprietary and confidential information. If you are not an intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure or use of this information obtained is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email in error, please notify us by replying to the sender of the e-mail and destroy the original transmission and its attachments without reading them or saving them. Thank you.

**From:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:54 PM

**To:** John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunction@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunction@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Tim Huyck <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; jenni@flipsidecharter.com; Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Good afternoon. By now, you should have received the letter from the City outlining the plan for dredging of Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou which is great news for those that have boats or have properties whose values are enhanced by having deep water access through safe, navigable waterways. The dredging is planned for this summer assuming we stay on course. Hence my reason for reaching out; there is a City Council Meeting next Tuesday to finalize the overall plan and funding, and the City needs to hear from those that support this proposal. If you are in town and can attend the meeting in person that would be the best; if that is not possible then an email indicating your support would be extremely helpful. The email need not be anything more than identifying yourself as someone who is affected (I am going to simply use my address) and saying you support the dredging plan/assessment zone. Emails should be sent by the end of this week and should be directed to:

[Vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)

I don't have all emails of everyone in the neighborhoods so please forward this to people you know to be supportive and ask them to email the City. Also, please ask your spouses, children, and the like to write emails as well. Please please write these emails. The plan is the culmination of a lot of effort and I believe really does represent the best possible solution. The permits from the Army Corp were a challenge to obtain and all possible sources of funding were explored. The assessment zone is modeled from a very similar assessment zone at the east end of the island which has worked well. The alternative here is continued fill in of our navigable waterways which means loss of boating and fishing opportunities and declines in property values; it is a binary choice at this point. On behalf of everyone who loves our water and wants to be able to use it thank you for writing to the City and supporting this.

Chris Kelly

---

**From:** John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:28:07 AM

**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com)>; Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunction@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunction@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Tim Huyck <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; jenni@flipsidecharter.com <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Status

Good morning, Chris... Thank you so much for taking up this cause!! Your efforts are sincerely appreciated! For the 3 of us here at 6494, 6496 and 6498 SanCap (last 2 driveways) the water is so shallow, we have to be mindful of the tides just  
Good morning, Chris...

Thank you so much for taking up this cause!! Your efforts are sincerely appreciated!

For the 3 of us here at 6494, 6496 and 6498 SanCap (last 2 driveways) the water is so shallow, we have to be mindful of the tides just to get a kayak back to the house. It is our understanding that improving the water flow in our area is also very beneficial to the fish and wildlife. Hopefully, we can benefit from any dredging efforts that may occur. I am happy to help in any way I can! Including these 3 households in the dock count would certainly help!

**John F DiLorenzo**  
**CEO**

T: (800) 674-9235

M: (586) 263-9000

F: (586) 263-0690

59259 Van Dyke AVE

Washington, MI 48094

[www.miplanners.com](http://www.miplanners.com)

---

**From:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:15:18 AM

**To:** AICP James H. McNeil <[Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com)>; Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunchion@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunchion@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; Tim Huyck <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>

**Subject:** Status

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning. Brief status update on our interactions with the City regarding the need for dredging Wulfert Channel. On Saturday I showed newly appointed councilwoman Laura DeBruce Dinkins Bayou, Sunset Bay and Wulfert Channel, focusing on the major problem in Wulfert. Being a boater herself she understood the treacherous situation. I think it's fair to say she was somewhat surprised by the number of households and boats that need to utilize that stretch of water to get to the bay and the Gulf. She has asked for information about the number of boats that are on Dinkins, Sunset Bay, and all of the canals. Short of just doing a manual count I don't know, but if anyone has ideas please let me know. Tomorrow we are meeting with Dana Souza-Sanibel City Manager-and several department heads, to show them by boat the issue and to sit down to hopefully come up with some sort of plan which is likely to involve approaching the County again as well. They City has the various emails where the County has said "not my problem", but there are numbers of people that believe that is not necessarily the case. I'll report back after the meeting tomorrow, thanks.

Chris

Sent with BlackBerry Work

([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

**From:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** [jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com); Dana A. Souza <[Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com](mailto:Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

**Christopher M. Kelly** ([bio](#))

Partner

**[JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide<sup>SM</sup>](#)**

901 Lakeside Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44114

Office [+1.216.586.1238](tel:+12165861238)

Cell [+1.216.496.6212](tel:+12164966212)

[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)

---

**From:** Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 2:43:47 PM

**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>

**Cc:** [thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net) <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Ed Siciliano

<[ESiciliano@canccapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@canccapital.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James

H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan

Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley

<[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion

<[mfuncion@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfuncion@pennbeer.com)>; Andy Vollmer <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey

<[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen

<[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy

<[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Nick Weyers

<[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>;

[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com) <[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com)>; Tadanori Tomita

<[ttomita@luriechildrens.org](mailto:ttomita@luriechildrens.org)>; Sue Borschke <[suebsfo@gmail.com](mailto:suebsfo@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Chris, I see you have done lots of work on this project and I thank you. However, I'm very shocked and upset that our property isn't included in the dredging. The Dinkins Bayou / Sunset Bay dredging portion stops at Castaways. Our property at  
Chris,



I see you have done lots of work on this project and I thank you. However, **I'm very shocked and upset that our property isn't included in the dredging.** The Dinkins Bayou / Sunset Bay dredging portion stops at Castaways. Our property at **6498 Sanibel Captiva Road** and the 3 other properties past Castaways (**6496, 9494 and 6492 Sanibel Captiva**) are **NOT INCLUDED to dredge**. We have been the most impacted by the shifting sands and silting caused by beach renourishment and storms. When we bought our home in 1995 we were able to keep a boat at our dock. Now we're only able to take a kayak out at high tide.

**We need to be included in the dredging plan.** The equipment is right there. It doesn't make any sense to leave us out. I can't be at the meeting Tuesday but have left a message with Dana Souza. I have not yet heard back from him. I've also sent an email to Vicki Smith. We've been writing letters for years expressing our concern.

Please, what do we need to do to get our properties included in the dredging plan?

Thank you for your help with this!

Tad and Kathy Tomita  
6498 Sanibel Captiva Road  
847-602-1651

On May 29, 2025, at 5:46 AM, Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)> wrote:

Thanks Tim and Weazie, your neighbors are grateful for the support.

**Christopher M. Kelly** ([bio](#))  
Partner  
**JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide<sup>SM</sup>**  
901 Lakeside Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
Office +1.216.586.1238  
Cell +1.216.496.6212  
[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)

---

**From:** [thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net) <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 6:42:06 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>  
**Cc:** Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunction@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunction@pennbeer.com)>; Andy Vollmer <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey

Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>; Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>; [karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com) <[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Thanks for your work on this Chris. We are also in support of this project for all the same reasons as Ed. Additionally, losing boating access would be far more costly in terms of reduced market value of our properties than any assessment(s) we will pay. Most importantly, we bought our property in 2016 precisely because we could have a boat in our backyard and use it whenever we wanted. Our ability to do that has been reduced by the changes in Dinkins and Wulfert, and if this is the only way to make access less tide dependent, we support it.

We both sent emails to Vicki yesterday afternoon.

Thanks again,  
Tim and Weezie Huyck  
Tropical Way Ct

On May 29, 2025, at 6:10 AM, Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)> wrote:

Thanks Ed, your Dinkins Bayou neighbors are grateful for you and your efforts.

**Christopher M. Kelly** ([bio](#))

Partner

**JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide<sup>SM</sup>**

901 Lakeside Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44114

Office +1.216.586.1238

Cell +1.216.496.6212

[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)

---

**From:** Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 10:33:59 PM

**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfuncion@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfuncion@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Tim Huyck

<[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers

<[captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>; Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** [karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com) <[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Thank you, Chris.

I will be supporting this project and sending emails to Vicki.

I have forwarded this to family and other neighbors (on Bluecrab Ct) impacted who were not on your list.

I suspect I have gathered 10 people willing to send emails of support.

In speaking to one neighbor, I heard a fair point.

He believes that the last time this was done, it was 50%/50% city vs assessment.

No reason not to put pressure on Dana and the city to cover more of the costs.

It's a reasonable ask.

Regardless, I will be supporting the program.

The house I built on Bluecrab is valuable, more so than most Sanctuary homes.

The reason is its on water and boating accessible.

I have trouble all the time hitting bottom with my 25" Dauntless.

There are tides that most of us will avoid taking the boat out. We need to fix this....

Thanks again,

Ed Siciliano

Blue Crab Ct

Girls! Girls! Girls! -25" Boston Whaler

<image001.jpg> <image002.jpg> **Ed Siciliano**

Chief Executive Officer

**O:** [856-745-3359](tel:856-745-3359)

[CANCapital.com](http://CANCapital.com)

<image003.png> <image004.png> <image005.png>

**Celebrating Over 20 Years in Small Business Finance**

<image006.jpg>

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail and any files or previous e-mail messages attached to it, may contain proprietary and confidential information. If you are not an intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure or use of this information obtained is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email in error, please notify us by replying to the sender of the e-mail and destroy the original transmission and its attachments without reading them or saving them. Thank you.

**From:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:54 PM

**To:** John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[jim.mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:jim.mcneil@akerman.com)>; Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunction@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunction@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Tim Huyck <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com)>; jenni@flipsidecharter.com; Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

Good afternoon. By now, you should have received the letter from the City outlining the plan for dredging of Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou which is great news for those that have boats or have properties whose values are enhanced by having deep water access through safe, navigable waterways. The dredging is planned for this summer assuming we stay on course. Hence my reason for reaching out; there is a City Council Meeting next Tuesday to finalize the overall plan and funding, and the City needs to hear from those that support this proposal. If you are in town and can attend the meeting in person that would be the best; if that is not possible then an email indicating your support would be extremely helpful. The email need not be anything more than identifying yourself as someone who is affected (I am going to simply use my address) and saying you support the dredging plan/assessment zone. Emails should be sent by the end of this week and should be directed to:

[Vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)

I don't have all emails of everyone in the neighborhoods so please forward this to people you know to be supportive and ask them to email the City. Also, please ask your spouses, children, and the like to write emails as well. Please please write these emails. The plan is the culmination of a lot of effort and I believe really does represent the best possible solution. The permits from the Army Corp were a challenge to obtain and all possible sources of funding were explored. The assessment zone is modeled from a very similar assessment zone at the east end of the island which has worked well. The alternative here is continued fill in of our navigable waterways which means loss of boating and fishing opportunities and declines in property values; it is a binary choice at this point. On behalf of everyone who loves our water and wants to be able to use it thank you for writing to the City and supporting this.

Chris Kelly

---

**From:** John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:28:07 AM

**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>; AICP James H. McNeil <[Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com)>; Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunction@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunction@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; Tim Huyck <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; jenni@flipsidecharter.com <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Status

Good morning, Chris... Thank you so much for taking up this cause!! Your efforts are sincerely appreciated! For the 3 of us here at 6494, 6496 and 6498 SanCap (last 2 driveways) the water is so shallow, we have to be mindful of the tides just  
Good morning, Chris...

Thank you so much for taking up this cause!! Your efforts are sincerely appreciated!

For the 3 of us here at 6494, 6496 and 6498 SanCap (last 2 driveways) the water is so shallow, we have to be mindful of the tides just to get a kayak back to the house. It is our understanding that improving the water flow in our area is also very beneficial to the fish and wildlife. Hopefully, we can benefit from any dredging efforts that may occur. I am happy to help in any way I can! Including these 3 households in the dock count would certainly help!

**John F DiLorenzo**  
**CEO**

T: (800) 674-9235

M: (586) 263-9000

F: (586) 263-0690

59259 Van Dyke AVE

Washington, MI 48094

[www.miplanners.com](http://www.miplanners.com)

---

**From:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:15:18 AM

**To:** AICP James H. McNeil <[Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com)>; Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>; Mike Kluth <[mkluth1963@hotmail.com](mailto:mkluth1963@hotmail.com)>; Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>; Donna Bishop <[don.db5151@gmail.com](mailto:don.db5151@gmail.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>; Mark Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>; Matt Funchion <[mfunchion@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfunchion@pennbeer.com)>; 'Andy Vollmer' <[Andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:Andy@bellmarkpartners.com)>; Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>; Harvey Padewer <[padewer@gmail.com](mailto:padewer@gmail.com)>; Jason Cohen <[jason@cohensalesllc.com](mailto:jason@cohensalesllc.com)>; Herb Lord <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>; Brian Murphy <[murph719@gmail.com](mailto:murph719@gmail.com)>; John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>; Tim Huyck <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>; Nick Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenfishing.com)>; [jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com) <[jenni@flipsidecharter.com](mailto:jenni@flipsidecharter.com)>

**Subject:** Status

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning. Brief status update on our interactions with the City regarding the need for dredging Wulfert Channel. On Saturday I showed newly appointed councilwoman Laura DeBruce Dinkins Bayou, Sunset Bay and Wulfert Channel, focusing on the major problem in Wulfert. Being a boater herself she understood the treacherous situation. I think it's fair to say she was somewhat surprised by the number of households and boats that need to utilize that stretch of water to get to the bay and the Gulf. She has asked for information about the number of boats that are on Dinkins, Sunset Bay, and all of the canals. Short of just doing a manual count I don't know, but if anyone has ideas please let me know. Tomorrow we are meeting with Dana Souza-Sanibel City Manager-and several department heads, to show them by boat the issue and to sit down to hopefully come up with some sort of plan which is likely to involve approaching the County again as well. They City has the various emails where the County has said "not my problem", but there are numbers of people that believe that is not necessarily the case. I'll report back after the meeting tomorrow, thanks.

Chris

Sent with BlackBerry Work

([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

**From:** Stafford, Arthur <artstaf@staffordmfg.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 8:09 AM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Cc:** dianestafford2020@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Assessment District

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello Vicki,

As regards the proposed dredging, how was it funded when last done in 2014? Was there a \$10,000 assessment then or is this a new twist?

We agree that the dredging necessary, to maintain the property values on the affected parcels, but those property values already pay additional taxes based upon the assumption that they have access to navigable water. Should this change, there would be a cry for tax decreases --- so, in effect we're being asked to pay twice.

Also, the annual add-on to our Lee-County tax of \$1200 to prepay for a cost that may or may not be necessary and may or may not cost the estimated amount again seems like the wrong approach. We strongly object to this.

Arthur and Diane Stafford  
2423 Blue Crab Court  
Sanibel, FL



**From:** rsbcsb <rsbcsb@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 8:31 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Dredging assessment

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Dear Ms. Smith/ City manager Souza:

I have received your 21 May 2025 dredging assessment notice. I find it unfathomable that a project of this scope and cost to all property owners was initiated by "requests from residents", rather than a survey of all residents. So, some residents have started a process that will impose a large and continuing cost to all residents without any say from all of us. Talk about lack of due process. After major damage from 3 hurricanes, I am fairly certain that few of us have that kind of funding to spare, especially for a project that will not benefit any who do not have a boat. I do not support this assessment and if able to vote, vote no.

A few questions:

Can the state or federal government provide support in any capacity.

Why are private citizens funding repair of areas owned by the state.

If citizens fund repairs are they then liable should an injury occur from those repairs ( I assume the city and/or county are liable now).

The costs of recovery from 3 major storms have affected all involved and driven some away. This added cost will surely do more of the same, last straw type of mentality. I am not sure why private homeowners are asked to fund a project involving property not owned by them, especially since the benefits of said repairs will benefit more than the 202 property owners.

The cost should be born by the municipalities involved not the property owners who do not own the waterways.

Again, I vote no.

Robert Berger  
2470 Harbour lane

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** Andy Vollmer <Andy@bellmarkpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 9:59 AM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Dredging Project

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Hi Vicki,

Karen and I have a 2<sup>nd</sup> home at 2514 Blind Pass Ct in Sanibel. We purchased this home in 2015 as it offered two elements that were very important to us – proximity to the beach and canal/dock/lift water access. The home needed investment as significant deferred maintenance had accumulated from the prior owner.

Since that time, we have spent ~150% of the original purchase price in home improvements, and less than 40% of that spend was related to Hurricane Ian. Long way of saying we have been good stewards, and we are invested in Sanibel and this home.

Water access is critical to us, so we are highly supportive of the proposed dredging project in Wulfurt and Dinkins. We also feel the beach areas which have been decimated near us need to be renourished but with a focus on replacing vegetation to hold the sand more effectively during storm surge events.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andy Vollmer  
Managing Director  
BellMark Partners, LLC  
25101 Chagrin Blvd., Suite 210  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
Office | (216) 575-1000 x115  
Mobile | (216) 496-2333  
[andy@bellmarkpartners.com](mailto:andy@bellmarkpartners.com)

*Securities offered through BellMark Partners, LLC, Member FINRA, Member SIPC*

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

**From:** Rignal Baldwin <rignal1946@icloud.com>

**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 9:33 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

**Cc:** Allan Antley <aantley22@gmail.com>; larryschopp@aol.com;  
throughthelens@bellsouth.net; Heidi Gross <grosstacular@gmail.com>; Harvey Padewer  
<padewer@gmail.com>; Muriel Primm <murielpimco@hotmail.com>;  
rignal1946@icloud.com

**Subject:** Dredging Wulfert Channel And Dinkins Bayou

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Ms. Smith,

I write in support of the dredging of Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou.

The cause for the Bayou shoaling was the City's decision to connect Dinkins and Clam Bayous via a culvert under San Cap Road. The consequences have been disastrous for the residents and for the environment.

Before the culvert was installed the waterway and shoreline were stable. Afterwards, and continuing each day, the dramatic increase in current has torn out over a mile of shoreline mangroves, taken private property away with unchecked erosion and created the large sandbar deposits that now clog Dinkins Bayou. Those man-made sandbars are our former property. If a private property owner had made these Corps of Engineers type changes to the Sanibel environment, the City would have them in court, and paying for the costs of remediation. As for Wulfert Channel, that problem was created by the previous decision to reopen Blind Pass, done without regard for the foreseeable impact of shoreline erosion on the Sanibel side of the Pass.

All of this, including the increased vulnerability to storms and degradation of the island, is contrary to the supposed mission and purpose of the Sanibel Plan for the island's long term resiliency.

The bottom line is that fixing these problems, including restoration of the land barrier that separated Dinkins and Clam, is the City's responsibility.

Kindly forward this email to each member of the City Council.

Thank you.

Rignal W. Baldwin, Sr.

[Rignal1946@icloud.com](mailto:Rignal1946@icloud.com)

410-404-3082

**From:** Jason Cohen <jason@cohensalesllc.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 9:19 AM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Hi Vicki, I just wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know I support the cities plan to create the tax district and dredge both Wulfert and Dinkins,. I will attend the CC meeting on 6/3

Thanks

Jason Cohen

5847 Pine Tree Drive

2144350884

This message, including any attachments therein, contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message; any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message and its contents is strictly prohibited.

**From:** Megan Whalen <whalenmegan0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:50 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Sanibel Bayou

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello,

I do support the bayou becoming deeper.

Thanks!

Megan

**From:** Jordan Robinson <robinson.jordan.555@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 5:49 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

**Subject:** Channel Dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello Ms. Smith,

We would like to request that the dredging of Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou continues. It is imperative for the boats in our area to safely navigate, many of whom, like myself often have small children onboard. We have a family home on White Heron Lane and appreciate this work moving forward.

Thanks,

Jordan

My wife's family home is at 6012 White Heron

**From:** Meghan Robinson <mchristine147@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 5:39 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** In Favor

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hi Vicki,

My name is Meghan Robinson, and my parents, Chris and Chris Kelly have had a home on sanibel since 2008. We have been coming down for weeks a year since then and have been so impressed with the work that the city has done to repair what the recent hurricanes have destroyed. I wanted to also send an email supporting the dredging plan for Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou and related assessment zone. This will only continue to repair Sanibel to the beacon of beauty that it used to be. Thank you for your time!

Meghan Robinson.

**From:** Harvey Padewer <padewer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 5:19 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Cc:** ckelly@jonesday.com  
**Subject:** Dredging Wilford channel, Dinkins Bayou , and environs

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

We reside at 5744 Pine Tree Drive adjacent to Dinkins Bayou. We strongly support the Dredging project and urge the Sanibel City Council to proceed with establishing the special taxing district as soon as possible to have the work completed in time to avoid lapsing of permits.

This project is of utmost importance from and both an environmental point of view to assure continued water flow for the aquatic environment as well as to continue to allow recreational boat access in order to maintain property values.

Sincerely

Nancy and Harvey Padewer



**From:** ptd@seloquis.com <ptd@seloquis.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 4:35:40 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** 5745 Pine Tree Dr | Approval for Dredging Plan

This Message Is From an External Sender  
This message came from outside your organization.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Vicky,  
since I am not able to attend the City Council meeting on June 3rd, I am kindly asking you to register my consent for the proposed dredging plan.

With best regards  
Michael Seidlitz

**From:** Kathryn Tomita <tomitakathy@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 3:20 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

**Subject:** Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging 6498 San-Cap Road

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki,

Thank you for walking me through accessing the documents for the Dinkins Bayou / Sunset Bay dredging project.

I'm extremely disappointed that the dredging plan stops at Castaways and doesn't dredge out our property. There are four properties past Castaways that must be included in this project. Our property at 6498 Sanibel Captiva Road is one of them. We bought in 1995 and had a boat at our dock. All the renourishment of Captiva and Turner Beach, plus the storms have slowly silted in our property cutting off access to Blind Pass and the ability to navigate a boat from our dock to Castaways and out through Dinkins Bayou. Our 4 properties' have been the most severely impacted yet we have not been included in the dredging plan although we are being asked to pay. It doesn't make sense to not include our properties. The equipment is right there!

The Blind Pass Inlet Management Plan Adopted in 2019, which was based on extensive study, shows dredging past our home into blind pass is essential to keeping the area open. This current project at least needs to include the dredging of 6492, 6494, 6496 and 6498 Sanibel Captiva Road. As I see it, if we aren't included, we'll end up with more silt being deposited when the bay floor is disturbed by the dredging.

What do we need to do to get our properties added to the dredging plan? We've been writing letters for years trying to get our water access back.

Thank you for your help with this matter! Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kathy

**From:** Chris Prestigiacomo <chrisprestigiacomo@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 2:55 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

**Subject:** Dredging of Wulfert and Dinken

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Hi Vicki,

Hope you are doing well. My wife and I live at 5749 Pine Tree Drive on Sanibel. I just wanted to email you our support on the project and the assessment being proposed. While I am hopeful that the city can fin additional residents/users of the water channels to help offset more of the cost, we support the project as outlined in the notice we received in the mail. Thanks again for all of your hard work on keeping Sanibel such a special place. You and all of your colleagues are appreciated. Please let me know if you need anything else from me. My direct number is 608.345.8820.

**From:** Tomita, Tadanori <[TTomita@luriechildrens.org](mailto:TTomita@luriechildrens.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 2:11 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Cc:** Kathryn Tomita <[tomitakathy@gmail.com](mailto:tomitakathy@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Sunset Bay dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Vicki,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou project. Our house, located 6498 SanCap Road, Sanibel, is situated on the northwest end of Sunset Bay. When we purchased our house in 1995, the bay water directly connected with the Blind Pass, and we enjoyed clear Gulf water and boating. However, due to repeated sand re-nourishments of Turner and Blind Pass beaches, sediment has accumulated under our dock, rendering the water too shallow for our boat, and we had to give up our boating.

I could not understand why the proposed dredging ends at the Castways Marina, not extending to four properties further North including ours. I strongly urge the city to consider dredging our front water as part of this project.

Also, we wonder what happened with “the Blind Pass Inlet Management Plan, Division of Water Resource Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection” approved in August 2019.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. I look forward to the city’s favorable response.

Sincerely,  
Tad

Tadanori Tomita, MD  
Professor Emeritus of Neurological Surgery,  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine,  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago,  
Chicago, Illinois USA

**From:** Ed Siciliano <[ESiciliano@cancapital.com](mailto:ESiciliano@cancapital.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 12:56 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>; Karin Siciliano <[karin3102@gmail.com](mailto:karin3102@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Dredging Project

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hi Vicki

This is Ed Siciliano, 2403 Bluecrab Ct Sanibel. I'm in the zone for assessment and Support the project. Boating can be impossible at times in the areas defined in this project.

I do ask that you consider lowering the costs of this project. Suggestions-

1. Reduce scope to those areas causing the biggest issues. This project can definitely be reduced in scope and cost and still achieve the goal of open and safe navigation.

2. Sanibel should cover 50%, and homeowners 50%. A more equitable division given Sanibel property taxes Mine are \$22,000.

3. Include others in the assessment who benefit from the project.

Again, this must be rectified so I fully support moving ahead.

Thank you.

Ed Siciliano

Sent from Ed's iPhone

**From:** August Borschke <[ajborschke@gmail.com](mailto:ajborschke@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 12:47 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Dredging - 6494 San-Cap

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hi Vicki. Thank you for your letter regarding dredging in Sunset Bay. We hope you can dredge most of the whole bay, as it is very shallow. Also, we live on the bay just north of Castaways; so I expect you will be dredging in front of our house too. Our address is 6494 San-Cap Road. Let us know. Thanks for your efforts. Gus Borschke. 336 782 1994.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 12:31 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** New development

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hey Vicki,

I was just very disappointingly informed by my neighbors at 6498 SanCap that the dredging plan stops at the old Castaways Marina and does not pass our houses. If we are being assessed, we need to be included in the dredging path! I speak for 6494, 6496 and 6498 SanCap.

Please let me know how we go about amending the plan so we are included. The machinery will be right there at Castaways; it's simply illogical not to include us!

I look forward to your response!

Thank you!

John DiLorenzo

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** Wood, Michael B., M.D. <[wood.michael@mayo.edu](mailto:wood.michael@mayo.edu)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 11:53 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Cc:** Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** dredging Wulfert Channel

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Hello Vicki, I am unable to attend the June 3 City Council meeting , but wanted to voice my support for dredging Wulfert Channel to Dinkins Bayou , and would be willing to contribute to an assessment if necessary. I own a home at 5869 Pine Tree Dr.



**From:** Joan and Steve Szynal <[szynals@hotmail.com](mailto:szynals@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 11:52 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Dredging in Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Sanibel City Council:

Access to Dinkins Bayou and Wulfert Channel are extremely important to Sanibel and the neighborhoods that surround them. Not only does it play a huge part in our home values, but it also provides an open habitat for the many dolphins, birds and manatees that populate these waters. We need the dredging project if we intend to keep the access open.

.

We are writing to let you know that we fully support the proposal, and hope that the City Council can come through for us in this important endeavor. Thank you for all you do to keep Sanibel a special place.

Sincerely,

Stephen and Joan Szynal

5743 Pine Tree Drive

Sanibel, FL. 33957

**From:** [tjsikon@comcast.net](mailto:tjsikon@comcast.net) <[tjsikon@comcast.net](mailto:tjsikon@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 11:23 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou Area Dredging Assessment District Project

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Sanibel City Manager and City Council:

I am writing about a number of concerns we have about the proposed project. First and foremost, while it appears the City may be able to legally assess a small number of residents for the project, this is a public waterway that a large number of both residential and non-residential boaters will use and benefit from. This seems highly unfair to lay the burden of this cost on such a small number of residents. Unfortunately, your letter dated May 21, 2025 was the first time we and all of our neighbors became aware of the project even though it appears the project has been in progress for some time now. I would have expected that the impacted residents would have been contacted directly by the city for comment/concerns instead of it being buried in a city council meeting agenda and only being directly informed once the project has been approved. Since this is our first direct notice about the project and the fact that our property is included in the Assessment District we have a number of questions:

1. Florida Statue 170 provides special assessments against the specific properties **benefiting** from the improvements. We would like to know exactly how you determined which properties will benefit from the project and please define the term "benefit" as used in the project. My wife and I do not own a boat and do not use the waterways in any way shape or form. So why are we being assessed for something we do not use nor benefit from - and it appears clear from your letter that the dredging is necessary to "provide safe navigation for boaters". We do not fall into this class of beneficiaries.
2. Your letter states that the request was initiated by certain residents. We believe that there is a small number of very vocal residents who made the request. So we would like to know the approximate number of residents who made the request.

3. We also want to know approximate number of residents that the City reached out to who reside in the Assessment District for their feed back on the project. Was there a poll, vote, survey, etc or was this project pushed through for the benefit of a very small number of people who can't get their large boats through the waterway? This project has the appearance of some type of a favor for a very few people at others expense.
4. We don't understand why this project is not being funded by the county, state or federal government given the fact that it is public waterway and due to natural disasters. Currently there is a project in progress to clean storm debris from these same waterways which we believe is being funded by Lee County. How is it that the county will pay to remove debris from the hurricanes but not the sand deposited in these public waterways.
5. It appears that the Assessment District only included properties located on the waterways and excludes those without direct access ("land locked") to the water. As you know, there are a number of boat ramps in these waterways that provide access to all boaters – So why would you exclude anyone who boats.
6. Did council investigate any other means of funding this project such as grants, loans, assessments to all residents of Sanibel, etc.- if so, please provide responses received.
7. We do not understand how the City can establish a reserve against future work with in this small area – does the city have reserves established for any other parts of the Island? This is not an HOA.
8. We cannot determine exactly what parts of the waterways will actually be dredged – please provide a better map showing the project area and scope.

We look forward to your response.

**Timothy J Sikon**

**2460 Harbour Lane**

**Sanibel, FL 33957**

**440-821-3465**

**[tjsikon@comcast.net](mailto:tjsikon@comcast.net)**

**From:** Kathy Knoblauch <[kathyjknob@gmail.com](mailto:kathyjknob@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:25 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Cc:** Allan Antley <[aantley22@gmail.com](mailto:aantley22@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Dinkin's Bayou dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Thank you for all the work that has been accomplished to get the dredging project for Dinkin's Bayou to the point it is today. We appreciate the city paying for part of the project and encourage you to continue to look for additional grants to offset the bill.

Kathy Knoblauch

Terry Ische

5820 Pine Tree Drive

Sanibel FL 33957

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Jonathan Tongyai <[jonathan@islandhomesllc.com](mailto:jonathan@islandhomesllc.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:01 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Dredging of Dinkins Bayou and Wilber Channel

Hello Vicki,

I live at 2418 Blue Crab Court. I am happy to hear about the dredging and support it 1000%. We have not been able to utilize the boat ramp with our boat since the channel is very hard if not impossible to navigate due to the silting in.

Thank you,

Jonathan Tongyai  
Island Homes LLC, MMBR

239-472-2008

239-464-8734 Cell

2418 Blue Crab Ct

Sanibel, FL 33957

<http://www.islandhomesllc.com>

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This e-mail along with any attachments transmitted with it, is for the sole use by the intended recipient(s) and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Any unauthorized review, use, retention, disclosure, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If this e-mail is not addressed to you (or if you have any reason to believe that it is not intended to for you), please notify Island Homes LLC or the sender by telephone at (239) 472-2008 or by return e-mail and promptly destroy all copies of the transmission.

**From:** Bill P <[cmwy10a@msn.com](mailto:cmwy10a@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:54 AM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** william primm supports this project

.

ZjQcmQRYFpfptBannerStart

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

ZjQcmQRYFpfptBannerEnd

**From:** [beardyw@comcast.net](mailto:beardyw@comcast.net) <[beardyw@comcast.net](mailto:beardyw@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:31 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Dredging Assessment District

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Sanibel Council Members:

Our house is on Castaways lane and we have a dock on Dinkins Bayou. We do NOT have a boat (other than kayaks), and have no intention of ever getting one. Many of our Del Saga neighbors (that have property on the canals or bayou) do not have boats (or if they do, small ones). The proposed Assessment District (and the huge financial cost to each homeowner) is outrageous!! It may be an easy way for Sanibel to find the money for this project, but it is completely unfair.

In addition, many of the people who will benefit from this dredging do not even live on Sanibel. They come from Ft Myers, etc. We will be facing more sightseers, charter fishing boats and private fishing boats. The fishermen/women, will now feel comfortable entering our waterways and fishing at our docks. They will pay nothing, but will reap the benefits of traveling into our areas. We will bear the financial burden and face additional boat traffic and annoyances.

This proposal is extremely unfair, incredibly expensive, and will probably benefit less than 50% of the assessed homeowners (i.e., those that have larger power boats).

The letter from Dana Souza states that, "The remainder of the cost (66.67%) will need to be paid by **property owners who will benefit from this improvement....**" As I stated above, that is totally untrue!!! Many of us will not benefit at all, and in addition, we will have some additional negatives!!

Please reevaluate this proposal. We do not need this dredging and don't want it, and the cost to us is enormous!!

Thank you,  
Steve (and Penny) Weinstein  
Castaways Lane

**From:** Carolyn Tongyai <[carolyn@ctongyai.com](mailto:carolyn@ctongyai.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:27 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** I support dredging plan Wilbert Channel and Dinkins Bayou

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hi Vicki,

I live at 2418 Blue Crab Ct. Although we don't live on the Bayou, we do own a boat and love to boat and fish in this area, and believe the dredging plan for Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou will be beneficial to everyone who lives here. We support the plan.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Tongyai

2418 Blue Crab Ct.



**From:** Robert Paddor <[rpaddor@aol.com](mailto:rpaddor@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 9:42 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Robert Paddor/2411 Blue Crab Ct

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki,

I support the dredging of both Dinkins Bayou and the Wulfert Channel. If you remember, I also had to get dredging permit to make my side of the Bayou manageable for boating. With low tides we need this service, I ask for your support.

Robert Paddor

2411 Blue Crab Ct

[Rpaddor@aol.com](mailto:Rpaddor@aol.com)

I'm currently out of town and will not be able to attend your scheduled hearing.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Matt Kelly <[mattckelly45@gmail.com](mailto:mattckelly45@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 9:21 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Support Dredging Wulfert Channel

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki,

My name is Matt Kelly. I support the dredging plan and assessment zone. This will be crucial for us to navigate the waterway from the property I'm at consistently- 6012 White Heron Lane.

Kind regards,

Matt

**From:** Thomas Kelly <[tj22kelly@gmail.com](mailto:tj22kelly@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 9:01 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Sanibel dredging plan and assessment zone

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello,

My name is TJ Kelly, and my family lives at 6012 white heron lane, on Dinken Bayou. I wanted to send this email as the dredging plan and assessment zone are both important to me. I strongly support the plan.

Thank you,

TJ

**From:** Christine <[hopefulcmk@gmail.com](mailto:hopefulcmk@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 8:45 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Wolfort Channel and Dinkins Bayou

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Vicki and City Council Members,

I reside at 6012 White Heron Lane in Sanibel. I am in favor of the dredging project! This is so important to me as a homeowner that we have good water navigation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christine Kelly

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Markland Headley <[marklandheadley@gmail.com](mailto:marklandheadley@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 7:35:33 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Proposal

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

I support this proposed project.

Thanks,

Mark Headley

2552 Harbour Lane

Sanibel

**From:** Rhonda Lord <[rhondalord13@gmail.com](mailto:rhondalord13@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 7:04:22 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Dinkins/ Sunset Bayou/Wulfert Channel dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Vicki, I strongly support the proposed dredging project. Since I see our waterways have filled in making it difficult to get thru to the bay. Not only will this help boaters, but also allow wildlife to return to our bayou. This will also be a great boost for property values also.

Thank you for your attention to this desperately needed solution.

Rhonda Lord

Harbour Ln.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Louise Huyck <[weezieh@comcast.net](mailto:weezieh@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 5:26:47 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Assessment/Dredging of Dinkins Bayou and Wulfert Channel

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Vicki,

I am writing in support of the City's plans to assess affected homeowners in our neighborhood to open up the waterways in Dinkins and Wulfert Channel.

Thanks,

Louise Huyck

2518 Tropical Way Ct

603-566-1105

**From:** [thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net) <[thuyck@comcast.net](mailto:thuyck@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 5:22:38 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Assessment zone/dredging plans

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Good afternoon Vicki,

I am a homeowner and boater that lives in Del Sega, and I just wanted to send a note in support of the assessment zone and dredging plans. Although I believe Lee County should be helping financially with the dredging in Wulfert Channel, I support the city's approach to solving our access problems to our waterways.

Thanks,  
Tim Huyck  
2518 Tropical Way Ct  
603-566-1032



**From:** John DiLorenzo <[jdilorenzo@miplanners.com](mailto:jdilorenzo@miplanners.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 5:02:23 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Dredging project

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Good afternoon, Vicki...

My Sanibel home is located at 6496 SanCap Road. Yesterday, I received the communication from Dana about the proposed dredging project and I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER!! This is the best news I have heard from the City of Sanibel in ages! This will DRAMATICALLY improve our waterfront property in so many ways, including a significantly improved wildlife environment!!

I am 1000% in favor of this project and can't wait to see it come to fruition!

Thank you!!

John DiLorenzo

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 5:02:02 PM

**To:** John Henshaw <[John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com](mailto:John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com)>; Mike Miller <[Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com](mailto:Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com)>; Holly Smith <[Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com)>; Richard Johnson <[richard.johnson@mysanibel.com](mailto:richard.johnson@mysanibel.com)>; Laura J. DeBruce <[laura.debruce@mysanibel.com](mailto:laura.debruce@mysanibel.com)>; Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Support for Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Resending with correct email for Vicki

On Wed, May 28, 2025 at 4:57 PM Jeff Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)> wrote:

**Dear Members of the City Council,**

We own two homes on Sanibel that are within the "Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou Area Dredging Assessment District" and I am writing to express our **100% support** for this critical project.

We appreciate the hard work that has gone into securing permits to complete the dredging this summer. We also appreciate the pragmatic approach you are taking to plan for the future by establishing a fund to support dredging again in 2035 (based on historical experience with the last dredging being in 2014).

**While 202 Sanibel properties have been identified for assessment for most of this cost, it's important to acknowledge that these waterways are also heavily used by Captiva and Lee County residents. Additional funding from Captiva property owners (especially those on Roosevelt Channel), would help more fairly distribute costs and reduce the impact on Sanibel homeowners alone for this effort. Has this also been considered?**

Thank you again for your dedication and leadership. We recognize and appreciate your support in helping to maintain our beautiful island and our critical infrastructure.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 847-208-0392. I am happy to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

**Jeff & Tracey Harvey**

5690 Pine Tree Drive, Sanibel, FL 33947

5880 Sanibel Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL 33957

**From:** Nannette Lehr <[nsflorida@gmail.com](mailto:nsflorida@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:57:30 PM

**To:** Michael Lehr <[v808691@gmail.com](mailto:v808691@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Special Assessment-Wulfert/Dinkins

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

I have a question and wanted to add to my husband's (Mike Lehr's) comments. First our house fronts San Cap Road and Mitchell Canal is in our backyard separating us from Pine Tree Drive. Will this assessment include cleaning the Mitchell Canal? In case of another storm does this assessment include trimming mangroves and/or taking fallen trees out of our canal? Since our boat like so many others was destroyed during Hurricane Ian what do nonboaters get out of dredging Dinkens Bayou? At a time when 3 hurricanes have hit our properties hard and many of us are struggling with cleaning up and repairing the mess they made we are also facing higher insurance costs and higher inflation making repairs more costly. And please don't say that in an environment where Sanibel is experiencing an oversupply of houses for sale that access to the Bay adds to our real estate values. Worst we are living in a political environment where FEMA is at risk. Besides politics FEMA has been hit in recent years with an unduly number of massive hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, flooding throughout the country. If FEMA doesn't have the funds to provide support as they did during past storms is the State going to step in? The same state that plans on cutting property taxes for non homesteaders, that also allegedly dug into the state's medicaid funds to help defeat ballot measures? And does Sanibel have the funds to make up for disaster expenditures no longer covered by federal and state government? I think this assessment is a tone deaf answer to a non serious problem and i hope Sanibel continues to prepare our community for another hurricane season and the destruction that may follow.

Respectfully,

Nannette Lehr

On Wed, May 28, 2025 at 10:47 AM Michael Lehr <[v808691@gmail.com](mailto:v808691@gmail.com)> wrote:

Received a letter dated 5/21/25 regarding the city's proposed intention to establish a special tax assessment for dredging in Wulfert, Sunset and Dinkins waterways.

Quote from said letter:

"This project was initiated by requests from residents ..."

I noted lacking from the letter is the number of residents requesting this dredging and their names and addresses. Is this information confidential? If so, why?

It seems to me that if a resident(s) is/are willing to approach the city regarding such a project, especially one like this that places an extreme financial burden on all residents involved, they should also be willing to publicly stand up for their support of it. I would like to know the number of residents requesting this project along with their names and addresses/phone numbers.

Additional, the navigational/boating issues seem to have been addressed by a city hired "engineering firm", but what of the environmental issues created by this project? These waterways are home to many protected species of wild life. Sanibel goes to great lengths to protect sea turtles and sea birds on the Gulf of Mexico side of the island, but has little regard, it seems, for the north-east side of the island. This seems hypocritical to me. What has the city done to assess the impacts of heavy machinery digging in these waterways? Manatees, dolphins, alligators, sea birds (just to name a few) are all at risk due to this project.

Lastly, after three years of devastating storms, putting a financial burden like this on top of the already financial ruination that has occurred due to these storms seems callous, uncaring and to echo our current federal government, cruel. Not everyone on Sanibel is a millionaire/billionaire or pleasure cruises in large \$200,000+ watercrafts. Many are older retirees, barely scraping by and have no ability to earn more income other than their social security and what is left of their savings after these previous hurricanes.

I will be attending the 6/3/25 and 7/15/25 city counsel meeting to express my views publicly on this proposed project.

I await your reply.

Respectfully,

Michael J Lehr  
5884 Sanibel Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL 33957  
239 395 3327

**From:** Richard Burnham <[rmburnham@mac.com](mailto:rmburnham@mac.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:56:32 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Dredging Dinkins Bayou, Wulfert Channel

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Will we soon be provided with a map of exactly what is going to be dredged?

Richard M. Burnham  
806 Butternut Road  
Madison, WI 53704  
[rmburnham@mac.com](mailto:rmburnham@mac.com)  
608-215-6302

Winter - 6176 Henderson Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957

**From:** Keith Hoover <[angelcresttn@gmail.com](mailto:angelcresttn@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:26:13 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

I fully support Wuffert Channel and Dinkins Bayou dredging.

Thanks

Erica

**From:** [lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com) <[lordh@realtracs.com](mailto:lordh@realtracs.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:14:09 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** dinkins bayou dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Dear Vicki,

I own two properties on Dinking bayou.

I fully support the Dickins Bayou dredging project. Not only will it allow boaters more opportunities

to use the bayou without worry of prop damage or being stranded I believe it will allow the bayou to come back to life. As the water flow has become more restricted the wildlife has become more scarce. We see fewer schools of minnows, almost no mullet, and few pelicans diving for their dinner.

Im excited to see it all come back to life.

Herb Lord

2520 and 2544 Harbour ln

**From:** Brian Murphy <[brianmurphyemail@yahoo.com](mailto:brianmurphyemail@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 1:25:59 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** Wulfert/Dinkins Dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Vicki,

First let me thank you and Council for listening to residents and drawing up the plan to dredge Wulfert and Dinkins. The sand buildup prevents boating at lower tide periods and has become a safety issue as boats unfamiliar (and even familiar) with the issue get stuck during periods of dropping tide. This investment will make the island better for fishermen and property owners. We fully support this effort.

I have a couple of comments / questions.

1) I disagree with the Assessment District map as it does not include the houses with boat access on the East side of Dinkins. There are about 20-25 homes with docks, and they too utilize Dinkins and Wulfert waterways. They shouldn't benefit without contributing. Hopefully, these "Sanctuary" homes can be included and the cost shared with them. Please let me know the justification and if the District can be amended to include these homes.

2) I'm assuming that the markers and slow speed signage will be adjusted once the channel has been re-established. People are currently ignoring the markers as they are inaccurate and the speed postings.

3) The letter doesn't communicate the timing of the work or the timing for the assessment—can you share?

Thank you,  
Brian Murphy  
2510 Harbour Lane  
Sanibel, FL



**From:** jim.mcneil@akerman.com <jim.mcneil@akerman.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 12:54 PM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>

**Subject:** 2507 Blind Pass Court, Sanibel

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki, good afternoon. I live at 2507 Blind Pass Court. I received Dana's letter on the dredging. I am in favor of the dredging.

Could you please send me the dredging survey, the staff report and any map showing the limits of the dredging? It is unclear to me what areas are being dredged.

Thanks

Jim

**James H. McNeil, Jr.**

Chair, Residential Development Practice

Akerman LLP | 420 South Orange Avenue | Suite 1200 | Orlando, FL 32801-4904

Dir: 407.419.8543 | Main: 407.423.4000 | Cell: 321.217.1738

[Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com](mailto:Jim.Mcneil@akerman.com)

[vCard](#) | [Profile](#)

**akerman**

700+ Lawyers

25 Offices

[akerman.com](http://akerman.com)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: The information contained in this transmission may be privileged and confidential, and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error and then delete it. Thank you.

**From:** Michael Lehr <v808691@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 10:48 AM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Cc:** Michael Lehr <v808691@gmail.com>; nslflorida <nslflorida@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Special Assessment-Wulfert/Dinkins

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Received a letter dated 5/21/25 regarding the city's proposed intention to establish a special tax assessment for dredging in Wulfert, Sunset and Dinkins waterways.

Quote from said letter:

"This project was initiated by requests from residents ..."

I noted lacking from the letter is the number of residents requesting this dredging and their names and addresses. Is this information confidential? If so, why?

It seems to me that if a resident(s) is/are willing to approach the city regarding such a project, especially one like this that places an extreme financial burden on all residents involved, they should also be willing to publicly stand up for their support of it. I would like to know the number of residents requesting this project along with their names and addresses/phone numbers.

Additional, the navigational/boating issues seem to have been addressed by a city hired "engineering firm", but what of the environmental issues created by this project? These waterways are home to many protected species of wild life. Sanibel goes to great lengths to protect sea turtles and sea birds on the Gulf of Mexico side of the island, but has little regard, it seems, for the north-east side of the island. This seems hypocritical to me. What has the city done to assess the impacts of heavy machinery digging in these waterways? Manatees, dolphins, alligators, sea birds (just to name a few) are all at risk due to this project.

Lastly, after three years of devastating storms, putting a financial burden like this on top of the already financial ruination that has occurred due to these storms seems callous, uncaring and to echo our current federal government, cruel. Not everyone on Sanibel is a millionaire/billionaire or pleasure cruises in large \$200,000+ watercrafts. Many are older retirees, barely scraping by and have no ability to earn more income other than their social security and what is left of their savings after these previous hurricanes.

I will be attending the 6/3/25 and 7/15/25 city counsel meeting to express my views publicly on this proposed project.

I await your reply.

Respectfully,

Michael J Lehr  
5884 Sanibel Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL 33957  
239 395 3327

**RE: Dredging Assessment**

---

**From** Dana A. Souza <Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com>

**Date** Mon 6/2/2025 6:53 PM

**To** Heidi Mazel <heidi.mazel@yahoo.com>

**Cc** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>; Scotty L. Kelly <Scotty.Kelly@mysanibel.com>

Ms. Mazel – Thank you for your email. You did not receive a letter form the City concerning the Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project as your property is not proposed to be in the assessment area. Only waterfront properties that would benefit from the proposed project would be assessed, if approved by the City Council. I have inserted an image below that shows the limits of the assessment area in the Del Sega area. I hope this email answers your question. If not, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Best wishes,

Dana



Dana A. Souza  
City Manager  
City of Sanibel  
800 Dunlop Rd. – Sanibel, FL 33957  
[dana.souza@mysanibel.com](mailto:dana.souza@mysanibel.com) [www.mysanibel.com](http://www.mysanibel.com)  
PHONE: 239-472-3700 |

*Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from the City of Sanibel regarding City business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications, including your email address, may be subject to public disclosure*

---

**From:** Heidi Mazel <heidi.mazel@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 12:10 PM  
**To:** Dana A. Souza <Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Dredging Assessment

---

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Ms. Souza, our address is 6447 Pine Avenue, Sanibel, FL 33957. I have received information from the neighbors that a mailing was sent regarding a significant assessment to cover dredging of the canal and surrounding waterways. I did not receive that mailing. However, from what I understood the assessment would be levied on all Del Sega residents, and the amount is approximately \$11,000, with a recurring annual assessment of a lesser amount. Please let me know if that understanding is correct. If so, my comment is that it is becoming impossible to remain a resident of Sanibel. Tourism is drastically down. Both insurance costs and property taxes are becoming prohibitively expensive. Repairs on the house are also increasing in cost. If the idea is to chase everyone off the island so that it is vacant, then the dredging assessment makes sense.

Additionally, whom does this dredging benefit? I don't use the canal. We aren't on the canal. Is the assessment levied on everyone on the island who also does not utilize the canal?

Please let me know the answers to my questions. Thank you.  
Heidi Mazel

**From:** Courtney Lawton <court4jr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 6:23 PM  
**To:** citymanager <citymanager@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Wulfert/Dinkens Bayou Dredge Question

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello Ms. Souza,

My husband and I are in an assessment area and are wondering if Blind pass will also be dredged or is it just the channels? We're hoping the entire entry through Blind Pass (up to the bridge) to our homes is addressed since it's so shallow. Just wanted to confirm.

Sincerely,

Courtney Lawton

**From:** Michael Kluth <kluthdds@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:27:36 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Please read before June 3 City Council Meeting

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hello,

Please see attachment I am sharing, which was written by our neighbors, the Hinckleys. The letter is very well written and well stated and research was done. I could not share my thoughts as well as as expressed in this letter so I am attaching it for your review.

That being said, I would like to add my own thoughts as a homeowner on Sanibel Island since 2012. The letter we received regarding the assessments arrived at our Indiana address only a few days ago. Very little time to prepare a response let alone be able to attend the council meeting tomorrow. We were quite appalled that this meeting is occurring at a time when very few homeowners are present on the island. And we are appalled at the short notice given. Let alone the contents of the letter. After three hurricanes in the past few years, redoing our landscaping and restoring our house to the tune of \$600,000, we are TIRED. We are WEARY. And we are going broke trying to stay on the island.

The letter we received felt like a gut punch. We get the dredging needs to occur. Perhaps find A BETTER WAY TO FUND IT than sticking it to Sanibel homeowners.....again.

Joni Kluth  
6407 Pine Ave

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



The Sanibel City Council  
800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

Sunday, June 1, 2025

RE: The Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project and Special Assessment District

Dear Council Members,

While the navigation issue may be real, we do not feel this SAD is the appropriate solution.

**We are writing to oppose the Special Assessment District as currently proposed.**

- The notice period for this meeting agenda on June 3<sup>rd</sup> was way too short. Many affected residents did not receive this notice in time to prepare to comment in an informed manner.
- If you make an approximate count of the affected abutters (i.e., those with boats large enough to encounter problems navigating the Dinkins Bayou entrance or Wulfert Channel) we feel that it will be a small percentage of the affected abutters. Suppose it might be 40 users, yet another 160 abutters are being asked to pay to solve this issue. We have personally navigated all the canals off Dinkins Bayou often, and while we have never counted the number of large draft boats, it is not enormous.
- One resident abutting Dinkins Bayou asserts that he has had no issues using a 28 ft. Dauntless in the waters.
- We have not received a copy of the legal reasoning whereby Sanibel decides that this is its problem.
- Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou are Navigable Waters within the meaning of the act, and as such are the responsibility of the USACE (US Army Corps of Engineers); please see sections of the US CFR attached.
- Abutters are being asked/told to pay for work which will not benefit most of them; however, this dredging project will benefit many non-Sanibel residents, who will not be required to pay for any of this work. This project is at a minimum one which should be funded by Lee County and the State, not by local residents of Sanibel.
- Mention is made of protecting property values of abutters. Is protection of property value actually one of the responsibilities of the City of Sanibel?
- If a future claim is made by a boater alleging that the dredging is improperly done, will abutters in the SAD be liable?
- Sanibel has experienced three hurricanes in three years. The waters of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico are warming so fast that hurricanes now develop independently in those seas, without having begun off the west coast of Africa. Two of those storms (Ian

and Milton) had enormous effects on the profiles of the Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou channels. The proposed 10 year planning horizon is meaningless when we contemplate that more such hurricanes are highly likely to occur within that horizon. What happens then? Will dredging be done sooner than 2035? Who will then pay for it?

- The last dredge of Blind Pass and part of the Wulfert Channel was in 2017. Following that there was a comprehensive, and very public, process to review the dredging template for future work. Those of us who participated provided input to the planning firm about the historic pattern of flows through Sunset Bay. When the firm ran their model with that modification, they found that adding to the dredging template to include Sunset Bay would significantly improve flows through Blind Pass.
- For those interested in the dredging history of Blind Pass, please visit [this page](#).
- The last dredging was done for environmental reasons, not to improve navigation.
- The 2019 management plan in which many of us participated, is reported [here](#). If you scroll down to page 10 of that report, you will see the final preferred option, Figure 5. **That option would resolve whatever issues boaters may feel they now face.**
- The current proposed dredging and funding is a short-sighted effort, with no apparent responses to a re-occurrence in a period less than the 10 year planning horizon. Meanwhile, abutters are expected to pay an annual tax which will not suffice to respond to re-occurring storm changes. When this navigation problem happens again in 5 years, will the SAD feel obliged, or be allowed to make additional assessments?

We urge the Council to at a minimum table this project until answers to these points are more carefully researched. Fundamentally, this dredging should not be undertaken by the City of Sanibel when it so clearly benefits many users from other communities, and so few of the abutters.

If the Council decides to proceed with this effort, then at a very bare minimum the affected abutters should have the opportunity to vote on this proposal; to do otherwise amounts to taxation without representation.

---

US CFR:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-II/part-329>

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/regulatory/regs/33cfr329.pdf>

#### **§ 329.4 General definition.**

Navigable waters of the United States are those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. A determination of navigability, once made,

applies laterally over the entire surface of the waterbody, and is not extinguished by later actions or events which impede or destroy navigable capacity.

**§ 329.7 Intrastate or interstate nature of waterway.**

A waterbody may be entirely within a state, yet still be capable of carrying interstate commerce. This is especially clear when it physically connects with a generally acknowledged avenue of interstate commerce, such as the ocean or one of the Great Lakes, and is yet wholly within one state. Nor is it necessary that there be a physically navigable connection across a state boundary. Where a waterbody extends through one or more states, but substantial portions, which are capable of bearing interstate commerce, are located in only one of the states, the entirety of the waterway up to the head (upper limit) of navigation is subject to Federal jurisdiction.

**329.12 Geographic and jurisdictional limits of oceanic and tidal waters.**

(a) ***Ocean and coastal waters.*** The navigable waters of the United States over which Corps of Engineers regulatory jurisdiction extends include all ocean and coastal waters within a zone three geographic (nautical) miles seaward from the baseline (The Territorial Seas). Wider zones are recognized for special regulatory powers exercised over the outer continental shelf. (See [33 CFR 322.3\(b\)](#)).

Sincerely,

Katherine and Dan Hinckley  
2498 Harbour Lane  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

**From:** Taylor Heilpern-Baxter <jthbax@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:23:22 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>; Dana A. Souza  
<Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting- Dredging Assessment

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Dear Sanibel City Council Members,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed dredging assessment that would require 202 property owners to pay over \$10,600, with an additional \$1,200 annually starting in 2026. The maintenance of public waterways (accessed by ALL, residents and non-residents), should not be the responsibility of a select body of residents. I would like to know of the 202 residents, how many own boats and how many care for this proposed plan to come to fruition? Have you completed a survey? How did you determine who and who not to include in the financial responsibility of this? We did not even receive a letter notifying us of this assessment, and we do not own a boat.

As home owners on this island, we care deeply about preserving it and doing all that we can to be valuable members of this community. However, there is a right and wrong way to go about city proposals. We are hearing of this plan for the first time within the last 48 hours and it was through word of mouth.

We respectfully ask that you pause this proposal in its current form and take the time needed to thoughtfully revisit how our public resources are funded- with full transparency and proper notice for all island residents.

Thank you,  
The Property Owners of 6424 Pine Ave

**From:** mike kluth <mikekluth@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:20:07 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Wulfert/ Dinkins dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

To the city leaders of Sanibel ,

I am writing this letter in strong opposition to the proposed dredging of the waterways around our homes .

There are several factors involved in my decision .

1. This is being imposed on residents unfairly and should not be shouldered only by the immediate homeowners . Everyone in a vessel on the waterways can use these areas and should therefore not be paid by a select few residents
2. This is taxation without representation and you are possibly exposing the city to a wide range of lawsuits , both class action and individual .
3. This is “ rushed “ in my opinion and should at least be tabled for further review
4. Imposing an additional annual tax on our homes for “ future work “ is not only burdensome but unfair and will also be fought in the courts . How can we be assured this assessment will not be unilaterally raised whenever the council deems necessary ?
5. I feel our island , and you as city leaders , are entirely focusing on the wrong targets. This particular project does not even dredge out Blind Pass . (The only area that has very shallow water for the majority of the project area and affects passage to Pine Island Sound and the gulf . ) The areas that some residents are complaining about have been that way since we bought on Sanibel 15 years ago. The hurricanes did not severely change these areas . The jetty on Captiva did and our lack of installing the same type of jetty on Sanibel.
6. The Very short time frame for this vote seems “ preplanned “ the majority of us residents are at our summer residents or working since this is at 9:00 am . I personally still work and will be treating patients and can not attend . That is just not right .

Professionally yours ,  
Michael Kluth , DDS

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Bill Baumgartner <wbaumgar@jhmi.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 4:23 PM  
**To:** Dana A. Souza <Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com>  
**Cc:** Betsy Baumgartner <betsy.baumgartner@gmail.com>; Mike Miller <Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Your recent letter

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Dana,

Thank you for your letter regarding the potential assessment for dredging activities in waterways that fall under state or federal jurisdiction. We appreciate the city's effort to address long-standing concerns related to navigability and environmental conditions in these areas.

However, we would like to respectfully raise a concern regarding the proposed financial responsibility being placed on local waterfront residents for a project involving state or federal waterways. As these waterways are not privately owned and are under the regulatory authority of higher levels of government, it is unclear why local residents should bear the cost of a project that arguably serves a broader public interest—particularly when dredging may support commercial navigation, public safety, ecological restoration, or tourism.

We believe it would be more appropriate for the city to first seek support, funding, or cost-sharing agreements from the relevant state or federal agencies before considering local assessments.

We respectfully object to the ongoing tax to pay for future dredging. Having residents' money sit in your bank account obtaining interest doesn't seem right. No one can predict whether current residents will still be in their homes several years from now. Future dredging and its payment methodology should be addressed at that time.

Finally, it seems to us, the timing of this email-notice and the subsequent planned Council meetings to discuss this assessment seems rushed and at a time when many of the affected residents are away for the summer.

We respectfully request that the city provide additional information about addressing funding strategies and potential alternatives. Before moving forward, opportunities for

public discussion should be provided during the upcoming season when the majority of residents have returned to the island.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to continued dialogue.

Sincerely,  
Bill and Betsy Baumgartner  
2469 Blind Pass Court  
Sanibel, FL

**From:** Jeff Cavanagh <[jeffcava64@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcava64@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 4:02 PM  
**To:** John Henshaw <[John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com](mailto:John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com)>; Holly Smith <[Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com)>; Richard Johnson <[richard.johnson@mysanibel.com](mailto:richard.johnson@mysanibel.com)>; Laura J. DeBruce <[laura.debruce@mysanibel.com](mailto:laura.debruce@mysanibel.com)>; Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>; Mike Miller <[Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com](mailto:Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Dinkin Bayou Dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki Smith and City Council Members,

Thank you for the work that has been done to address the need to dredge Blind Pass and eventually Dinkins Bayou. I have been communicating the need for dredging Blind Pass for almost a year now with Holly Milbrandt of the city and Steve Boutelle of Lee County. I am sorry but I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow as I will be traveling and I just received the letter from you last week. I want to convey my thoughts as this subject is very important to me. Dredging Dinkins and not Blind Pass is putting the cart before the horse. As long as one sticks to the west shore of Dinkins there is not an issue unless it is during the lowest of tides. However, even at the highest of tides, my 23 foot center console will run aground in the marked channel crossing Blind Pass or exiting to Pine Island Sound.

**1. What is the scope of the project and what are the full benefits of it?**

Will the engineering report and the proposal for the work to be completed be shared with residents before this is approved so that residents can make a more informed decision regarding this project? A cost-benefit analysis seems like it would be important for a project of this magnitude and expense. For example, is the proposed dredging area in line with the area(s) of concern and are there additional benefits such as water quality and storm resilience?

**2. The proposed Assessment District seems too limited.**

Are there benefits to water quality and /or storm resilience as a result of this project? If this is the case, it seems that the Assessment District should be expanded to include the largest landholders along the Bayous: Lee County, US Fish and Wildlife as well as property owners on Clam Bayou.

Further, there are two communities with community boat ramps that access Dinkins Bayou. It does not appear that these properties are included in the Assessment District, which makes the number of properties in the District smaller than it should be and therefore the cost higher per property owner.



Beyond this, this is not a closed waterway. It is enjoyed by boaters and fishermen from all areas and adds to the appeal of Lee County which makes it a tourism issue as well. It seems that more needs to be done to expand the group of contributors to this project so that the cost is shared more fairly.

**3. Is this proposal the most cost effective way to address navigation concerns? Could there be federal funding available to assist?**

I understand that an engineering firm prepared a study and that a contractor provided a cost proposal. Is this the most cost effective way to achieve the desired result? Would there be any federal funding available particularly if much of the need to dredge is a result of recent storms?

**4. Proposed tax increase.**

I understand that this current proposed project is expected to be effective for the next ten years. The proposed tax increase asks that current property owners pay for a project that benefits owners from 2025- 2035 AND property owners that own property from 2035-2045. IF dredging is necessary in 2035, the people that own property in 2035 should pay for that project at that time.

Any number of environmental issues/ events may occur between now and 2035 that may affect whether dredging will be necessary or how extensive any dredging project must be at that time. It does not seem reasonable for current owners to fund an additional future project that is not known in scope or necessity at this time. Many current owners will not even own property on these waterways during 2035-2045.

Regards

Jeff Cavanagh  
5690 Sanibel Captiva Rd  
Sanibel FL 33957

jeffcava64@gmail.com  
616-836-2857

**From:** [kebeane@gmail.com](mailto:kebeane@gmail.com)

**Date:** June 2, 2025 at 3:47:09 PM EDT

**To:** [citymanager@mysanibel.com](mailto:citymanager@mysanibel.com)

**Subject:** Fwd: proposed dredging assessment 05/21/2025

Douglas & Karen Beane are owners of 2539 Coconut on Sanibel and have not (even as of this date) received any letter [notifying.us](https://www.notifying.us) of this proposed dredging assessment.

Several of our neighbors have been in touch jUNE 1, 2025, so we now have a copy of this full letter with a proposed \$10,000 assessment amount going to 202 residential property owners. There is also a \$1200.00 year amount added to taxes for maintenance of this work. With this short notice I have some questions and concerns especially where I would not be able to make the June 6th meeting

1. Why was not enough notice given (some like us not at all ) to these 202 properties in order to attend a meeting June 6th? I would also think that at least 40% of these property owners are not in Sanibel at this time of year.
2. We are currently (as of yesterday June 1st) to be in the 2025 hurricane season so any proposal or any work performed prior to November or December this year might be useless or of no value. Has this proposal gone out to bid to several contractors?
3. This proposal opens up public water access. Why do the 202 residential people who have already incurred such terrible property damage and costs targeted be the largest contributor?
4. Is this the result of the beach nourishment prior to Ian which after Milton and Helene filled the bayous?
5. Doesnt Lee County, Captiva, and DES have a say in all of this?

Shouldn't this be postponed for a later date with open forums for all of us (missing or local) to hear and respond to?

Sincerely,

Karen Beane



Karen Beane  
Broker/Owner  
Blue Water Realty Group LLC  
office: 603-293-0171  
cell: 603-387-6966  
email: [Karen.Beane@BWRsells.com](mailto:Karen.Beane@BWRsells.com)  
[www.BWRsells.com](http://www.BWRsells.com)

**From:** John Alam <[joalam@verizon.net](mailto:joalam@verizon.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 3:18 PM

**To:** John Henshaw <[John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com](mailto:John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com)>; Mike Miller <[Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com](mailto:Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com)>; Holly Smith <[Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com)>; Richard Johnson <[richard.johnson@mysanibel.com](mailto:richard.johnson@mysanibel.com)>; Laura J. DeBruce <[laura.debruce@mysanibel.com](mailto:laura.debruce@mysanibel.com)>; Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>; Cindy Alam <[cindyalam01@gmail.com](mailto:cindyalam01@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Support for Wulfert Channel & Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Everyone.

Thank you for your work representing the city of Sanibel.

While dredging the bayou is a good idea, it seems to me this is the job of an HOA. When an HOA is not available the neighbors can get together and arrange it. This would be more fair and better for the home owners.

Not clear from your letter is whether a bidding process was performed. Also not clear is whether a way to minimize the effort has been considered.

An HOA would serve me better and it would help me control more closely this for ever fund.

Thanks again.

John Alam  
5850 San Cap.

**From:** Heidi Wegryn Gross <[grosstacular@gmail.com](mailto:grosstacular@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 3:09 PM

**To:** Sarah Lopez <[throughthelens528@gmail.com](mailto:throughthelens528@gmail.com)>; Marcel Ventura <[marcelventura@prodigy.net](mailto:marcelventura@prodigy.net)>; Alex Herrey <[awhq@generalmail.net](mailto:awhq@generalmail.net)>; Alan Antley <[anb1040@gmail.com](mailto:anb1040@gmail.com)>; William & Muriel Primm <[cmwy10a@msn.com](mailto:cmwy10a@msn.com)>; Janis Gregg <[sanibeljanis@gmail.com](mailto:sanibeljanis@gmail.com)>; Judy Bellistri <[judy.bellistri@gmail.com](mailto:judy.bellistri@gmail.com)>; Joan and Steve Szynal <[szynals@hotmail.com](mailto:szynals@hotmail.com)>; Rig Baldwin Sr. <[RBaldwinSr@baldwin-seraina.com](mailto:RBaldwinSr@baldwin-seraina.com)>; Babs Maughan <[barbara@maughan.com](mailto:barbara@maughan.com)>; Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>; Melissa Lehman <[malehman@icloud.com](mailto:malehman@icloud.com)>; Steven Triantafyllou <[STriantafyllou@comcast.net](mailto:STriantafyllou@comcast.net)>; Jeff D Harvey <[jdharvey11@gmail.com](mailto:jdharvey11@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Dredging of Dinkins bayou etc.

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Heidi Gross

first amendment to submission

Please be advised that I am not opposed to dredging of dinkins bayou and blind pass. But I do not feel that adequate notice has not been given to the residents who are affected pursuant to our existing statutes considering the gravitas of this monumental endeavor. At this time of the year, many of our residents rely on mail forwarding and may have had no notice at the time of the hearing nonetheless, they will be affected by your decisions.

Further you are not just removing silting caused by your connecting clam bayou to dinkins bayou but creating new pathways that never existed. Thus creating additional

You relied on inaccurate information from the private engineering firm that has caused not only significant silting by opening clam bayou into Dinkins Bayou but profound erosion of private property. The residents have not been informed if other solutions have not been pursued.

To my knowledge, you have not asked Captiva or Lee County, both of who benefit from this project to participate in the economic impact.

Further the assessment on homeowners is a taxation. As a taxation residents have not been given adequate information regarding the proposal by publication in the local newspapers and by letter within the time frames as required bylaw. This meeting should not go forward until those requirements have been met.

Please refer to Ord. No. 18-002, § 2, 4-3- 2018 sec 94-37 forward to the requirements. Including SEC 58 and section 82-4 22 regarding schedule and notice.

We need more information and we need time to understand the consequences of these decisions before we do more irreparable damage and incur more expenses in trying to maintain navigable waterways.

Respectfully submitted.

Heidi Wegryn Gross, retired Esq. Fl. & N.J.

**From:** Jennifer McSorley <[jenmcsorley@embarqmail.com](mailto:jenmcsorley@embarqmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 1:48 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Cc:** Mike Miller <[Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com](mailto:Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com)>; John Henshaw <[John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com](mailto:John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com)>; Holly Smith <[Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com)>; Richard Johnson <[richard.johnson@mysanibel.com](mailto:richard.johnson@mysanibel.com)>; Laura J. DeBruce <[laura.debruce@mysanibel.com](mailto:laura.debruce@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Dredging Project

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Vicki Smith and City Council Members,

Thank you for the work that has been done to address the concerns that you have received regarding the need to dredge in the Blind Pass and Dinkins Bayou areas.

I am not a boater but do live in the proposed Assessment District. I did not receive a letter explaining the project but fortunately one of my neighbors sent a copy of it to me.

I am not questioning that there is a need for dredging. I understand that crossing Blind Pass from Roosevelt Channel into Dinkins Bayou is quite shallow and difficult to navigate. I experienced this personally when coming to the island by boat after Ian.

However, I do have a few concerns with the proposal.

**1. What is the scope of the project and what are the full benefits of it?**

Will the engineering report and the proposal for the work to be completed be shared with residents before this is approved so that residents can make a more informed decision regarding this project? A cost-benefit analysis seems like it would be important for a project of this magnitude and expense. For example, is the proposed dredging area in line with the area(s) of concern and are there additional benefits such as water quality and storm resilience?

**2. The proposed Assessment District seems too limited.**

Are there benefits to water quality and /or storm resilience as a result of this project? If this is the case, it seems that the Assessment District should be expanded to include the largest landholders along the Bayous: Lee County, US Fish and Wildlife as well as property owners on Clam Bayou.

Further, there are two communities with community boat ramps that access Dinkins Bayou. It does not appear that these properties are included in the Assessment District, which makes the number of properties in the District smaller than it should be and therefore the cost higher per property owner.

Beyond this, this is not a closed waterway. It is enjoyed by boaters and fishermen from all areas and adds to the appeal of Lee County which makes it a tourism issue as well. It seems that more needs to be done to expand the group of contributors to this project so that the cost is shared more fairly.

**3. Is this proposal the most cost effective way to address navigation concerns? Could there be federal funding available to assist?**

I understand that an engineering firm prepared a study and that a contractor provided a cost proposal. Is this the most cost effective way to achieve the desired result? Would there be any federal funding available particularly if much of the need to dredge is a result of recent storms?

**4. Proposed tax increase.**

I understand that this current proposed project is expected to be effective for the next ten years. The proposed tax increase asks that current property owners pay for a project that benefits owners from 2025- 2035 AND property owners that own property from 2035- 2045. IF dredging is necessary in 2035, the people that own property in 2035 should pay for that project at that time.

Any number of environmental issues/ events may occur between now and 2035 that may affect whether dredging will be necessary or how extensive any dredging project must be at that time. It does not seem reasonable for current owners to fund an additional future project that is not known in scope or necessity at this time. Many current owners will not even own property on these waterways during 2035-2045.

Additionally, an added tax bill may negatively affect property values for owners in the Assessment District. Some buyers may consider homes without this expense since many homeowners in this area are not boaters but simply prefer the west end location.

Thank you for all the work that you are doing to address the concerns about the west end waterways and for all you do to make Sanibel such a wonderful place to live.

Thank you,

Jen McSorley  
5776 Sanibel Captiva Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
239-560-2355



**From:** Matt Funchion <[mfuncion@pennbeer.com](mailto:mfuncion@pennbeer.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 1:23 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Cc:** Christopher M. Kelly <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>; 'Diana Funchion' ([dianafunchion@gmail.com](mailto:dianafunchion@gmail.com)) <[dianafunchion@gmail.com](mailto:dianafunchion@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Wulfert/Sunset BAY dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello Vicki, My name is Matt Funchion, and I own a home at 2494 Blind Pass Court in Sanibel. My wife Diana, our children and 8 grandchildren are avid boaters and fishermen. We keep our boat in the back of our house at 2494. We all wholeheartedly support the City of Sanibel plan to begin and complete the dredging project in Wulfert Channel. Completion of this project will enhance boater safety, navigational ease, full enjoyment of our beautiful waterways, protection of our investment in Sanibel and tourism attraction. This plan and funding strategy makes great sense, and we fully endorse beginning the project as soon as possible.

I am planning to be in Sanibel for July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, and please let me know if you need any other information from me prior to that meeting. As a very committed member of the community, I am very appreciative of your work and support in getting this very important project completed. Thank you very much. Matt Funchion.

**From:** NAnCy KRAHMER <krahmer6@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 12:39 PM  
**To:** Dana A. Souza <Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com>  
**Cc:** Chad Krahmer <ckrahmer@baystatefinancial.com>  
**Subject:** Sanibel dredging questions

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Chad and nancy krahmer reach as directed with our questions and concerns regarding the Santiva dredging project.

**Funding Sources**

- **Why was this dredging project not funded under Hurricane Ian recovery efforts? Were other island sand displacement projects covered under Ian recovery funds? If so, which ones?**
- **Why weren't Helene or Milton emergency funds utilized for this project? We are still within the two year window to apply for funding. What is being done?**
- **How was the Clam Bayou breach and berm rebuild funded? Was this project managed differently, and if so, how?**
- **What grants or state/federal aid were applied for before costs were passed on to homeowners? Please provide specific information on applications and outcomes.**

**Bidding and Cost Transparency**

- **Was the dredging project subjected to a competitive bidding process?**
- **How many bids were received, and what was the cost range per cubic yard of dredging?**
- **The current cost appears inconsistent with similar projects —what explains this discrepancy?**
- **Who is financially responsible if the project goes over budget?**
- **If an accident occurs in the Bayou, and homeowners are considered contributors to its upkeep, who holds legal liability?**

**Access and Fairness**

- **Henderson is a public launch accessible to all Florida residents. Will there be a launch fee in the future to help offset the annual maintenance costs?**
  - **Is Blind Pass Channel included in the dredging scope?**
- This is a significant concern for the boating community.**
- **On the East End, marinas share in dredging costs. Will Castaways Marina contribute its proportionate share (reportedly over 30%)?**

- Will Castaways residential properties also contribute as homeowners?

#### **Equity Among Residents**

- Why are all residents being charged equally, when the majority of the dredging seems concentrated in specific areas?
- Will residents of Captiva, particularly those across from the Coconut District, be contributing to the project as well?

**Thank you for your review  
Nancy and Chad krahmer  
2444 Harbour Lane**

**From:** Nicholas Weyers <[captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellenthfishing.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 12:12 PM

**To:** Mike Miller <[Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com](mailto:Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com)>; Holly Smith <[Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com)>; Laura J. DeBruce <[laura.debruce@mysanibel.com](mailto:laura.debruce@mysanibel.com)>; John Henshaw <[John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com](mailto:John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com)>; Richard Johnson <[richard.johnson@mysanibel.com](mailto:richard.johnson@mysanibel.com)>; Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>; citymanager <[citymanager@mysanibel.com](mailto:citymanager@mysanibel.com)>; Dan Hinckley <[dbh@suiattle.org](mailto:dbh@suiattle.org)>

**Subject:** Dinkins Bayou dredging project concerns

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello,

I hope you're all well this Monday afternoon. My name is Nick Weyers and I live full time with my wife and 2 kids at 2540 Coconut Drive down by Blind Pass. I own a marine construction business (Santiva Marine Recovery) and run offshore fishing charters full time. To say that I'm familiar with Dinkins Bayou and that entire area, would be an understatement. I have physically walked most of Dinkins and Blind Pass in waders. My company was responsible for the waterway cleanup from Cayo Costa all the way down to the lighthouse. If you saw the barge and accompanying landing craft picking through the mangroves, that was us. I am in support of fixing the problem but, what is being presented is not a solution. I would love to help in any capacity that I can.

My concerns with this dredging project are many so I guess I'll just start listing them off while trying not to take up too much of your time.

1. The area surveyed for the project does not include any areas that are preventing gulf access for Del Saga and half of the Sanctuary. The issue is much farther back in Dinkins bayou which would only affect residents on Pine Tree, not our neighborhood. The spot that blocks everyone in, isn't even on the survey map. It's in Blind pass.
2. Many residents, while thinking they need dredging, just need their boat slips blown out. Dinkins Bayou is navigable for any size boat that anyone has back there. I've driven massive boats back there with out any issue. Most of Dinkins has a depth of 4' or more. The Sand just moved with the past 2 storms and people don't know the route. I'd be happy show them or place markers to assist.
3. The real problem is in Blind Pass, not Dinkins Bayou. Where you come into Blind pass, the channel markers will force you to run aground. I have found another route that provides plenty of water until you get to the actual problem area. The area is about 20'x40' and is only restrictive

during low tide. That is the area that I brought up at a council meeting, nothing in Dinkins.

4. As you know, the beach renourishment project at Blind Pass is never-ending. As more material is brought in to renourish that beach without there being anything to hold the sand there, or course it ends up in the channels and pass. One tropical storm and that sand is gone and piling up in the backbay where it has caused the channel to be unnavigable. In order to fix this problem, there is only one solution that makes sense to me and that is to mirror Captiva and build a jetty on our side to stop the sand from washing through the pass. It would allow the pass to open up more naturally and improve water quality dramatically for our end of the island and Captiva.
5. The environmental concerns for dredging Dinkins bayou is massive due to all the life that accumulates back there. There are oyster beds everywhere throughout Dinkins. There's an amazing amount of stone crabs and healthy fish populations that come back there. Dredging it would effectively turn it into a mudhole and kill any natural filtration we have.
6. The area that needs to be dredge in the pass has no seagrass or oysterbeds within it. It is truly just beach sand that piled up. This is not a \$3,000,000 fix. This is a job that one crew and an excavator can perform in about 4 days. The navigation markers should be moved to reflect the actual path through.
7. Correct me if I'm wrong but Dinkins and the pass are both naturally formed which would make them state waters and DEP territory. The city assessing us to fix a problem that is possibly out of it's jurisdiction seems problematic to me. I understand that Sanibel owns all the man-made canals but the natural formations connected to the sound seem like state territory to me. But, if you're willing to help, we'll take it.
8. An assessment coming at this time of year when most of the residents down here are gone, has rubbed some people in a certain way. I can only speak for myself and friends in my neighborhood but we do not have an HOA and we like it that way. The idea that we can be assessed for a problem that was caused by a project that wasn't completed in the correct manor by the city is problematic. As section 4 points out, this was 100% caused by the beach renourishment and anyone that lives down here full time, saw it happen in real time. While we appreciate your attention to maintaining our beach, I view it as a massive waste of time and funds until there is a jetty at the bridge. And to shift 66% of the cost to the neighborhood doesn't feel right considering the cause of the problem. As many who came before us, there's no sense in doing a job if it's not going to be done right. \$3,000,000 for a one-time permanent solution, we're all open to that. \$3,000,000 for a band-aid that will fall off in a year

doesn't seem like a good idea and opens up a whole can of worms down the road.

In closing I just wanted to offer my experience and assistance with anything moving forward. Whether that be having my crew dig it out or donating my time to show the necessary people where the issues lie, I'm at your disposal. I intend to attend the meeting tomorrow to voice my concerns both to you and the public in person. I look forward to finding a real solution to this issue and working together to make sure our island stays special. Feel free to call at any time with questions.

Regards,

Capt. Nick Weyers  
Santiva Marine Recovery  
Most Excellent Fishing  
(239) 699-7023  
[www.mostexcellentfishing.com](http://www.mostexcellentfishing.com)  
[nick@santivamarine.com](mailto:nick@santivamarine.com)  
[captnick@mostexcellentfishing.com](mailto:captnick@mostexcellentfishing.com)

**From:** MERRAY HARRIS <[merrayharris@hotmail.com](mailto:merrayharris@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:17 AM

**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>

**Cc:** joanne Harris <[mucmuc1@comcast.net](mailto:mucmuc1@comcast.net)>; Laura J. DeBruce <[laura.debruce@mysanibel.com](mailto:laura.debruce@mysanibel.com)>; Holly Smith <[Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com)>; Mike Miller <[Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com](mailto:Mike.Miller@mysanibel.com)>; Richard Johnson <[richard.johnson@mysanibel.com](mailto:richard.johnson@mysanibel.com)>; Dana A. Souza <[Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com](mailto:Dana.Souza@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** \$10,000 Tax assessment plus \$1200 a year tax increase

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Joanne and I are 24/7/365 Sanibel Residents and vote every election

We have been hit hard by Milton, Helene and Ian

We are appalled at receiving a snail mail letter and short notice on this tax increase.

Bullet points

1. We see no value in the dredging to our Family.
2. Housing market is Del Segal has collapsed. A tax increase will not help
3. 300,000CY of silt trucked to a landfill via Henderson Rd????
4. We are paying \$17,000 in taxes for a 1300SF home.
5. We NEED walkable restaurants and a convenience store.
6. I have not found any support among my Neighbors for the dredging
7. We are organizing to fight this TAX INCREASE

Merthyn and Joanne Harris (Merray and Jo)  
2464 Blind Pass Ct  
Sanibel FL 33957  
215-872-1797

**From:** Arielle Cohen <arielle@cohensalesllc.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 10:05 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Support for Wulfert/Dinkins Dredging

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Hi Vicky,

I am writing in support of the proposition to dredge Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou. This action is necessary for safe waterway navigation in these areas.

Thank you,

**Arielle Cohen**  
5847 Pine Tree Dr.  
Sanibel, FL  
33957



**From:** [megvborn@icloud.com](mailto:megvborn@icloud.com) <[megvborn@icloud.com](mailto:megvborn@icloud.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 6:10 PM

**To:** citymanager <[citymanager@mysanibel.com](mailto:citymanager@mysanibel.com)>; Holly Smith <[Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:Holly.Smith@mysanibel.com)>; Laura J. DeBruce <[laura.debruce@mysanibel.com](mailto:laura.debruce@mysanibel.com)>; [mikeimiller@me.com](mailto:mikeimiller@me.com); John Henshaw <[John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com](mailto:John.Henshaw@mysanibel.com)>; sancouncil <[sancouncil@mysanibel.com](mailto:sancouncil@mysanibel.com)>

**Subject:** The Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project and Special Assessment District

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Vote NO

The Sanibel City Council  
800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

Sunday, June 1, 2025

RE: The Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou Dredging Project and Special Assessment District

Dear Council Members,

A quick review of Coconut Drive residents shows we never received your mailing regarding the dredging project and assessment. Did you miss a street? Or are you intentionally providing us with too short a time to respond to this proposal? Was it mailed so we would receive it after the meeting? Are you trying to push this through illegally without proper notice? Is there an under-the-table reason for your urgency, similar to what South Seas attempted? Are you behaving like Lee County in this rushed project?

It is rumored that this project is at the special request of only a few of our residents who have deep-water boats; again, comparisons can be drawn between the South Seas and Lee County situation.

The general feeling is that the Sanibel City Council and the City of Sanibel do not have the interests of the West End at heart and that you show favoritism toward the East End. For instance, the City's payment for the Periwinkle bridge is a prime example. That bridge is unnecessary, as the East End can be accessed via Lindgren and East Gulf Drive. It should not be paid for by the City of Sanibel. You are demonstrating favoritism. Comments were made on the bridge favoritism before learning of the dredging project.

A large portion of the boaters using Wulfert Channel are not residents of our neighborhood. In fact, we must keep a watch to ensure these boaters do not come ashore and steal from us. My neighbors and I must lock up everything to prevent theft. Nothing is safe. Therefore, we do not want to dredge the channel to aid and abet thieves.

I recall the rational and reasonable concerns of larger boat owners regarding the ability of any boats to exit and make a right turn towards the Bay into the blind pass strait from Dinkins. Now, I believe the cost to address that area, which absolutely needs to be dredged for anything larger than a canoe to use, is \$50,000. However, it seems that the only area not scheduled for dredging is that very location. The only other "terrible" areas, in my opinion, are the far end of Pine Tree and Sunset Bay (although Sunset needs to be reopened at the Bridge, as it was until Charlie, to allow for proper flushing). Previously, that dredging was part of a city/county/Federal project intended to dredge Blind Pass in 2026 without assessments. I'm attaching the plans below, but it may be a jurisdictional issue, and the County must dredge the affected area necessary to escape Dinkins Bayou while the City thinks it's helping.

While the navigation issue may be real, we do not feel this SAD is the appropriate solution.

**We are writing to oppose the Special Assessment District as currently proposed.**

- The notice period for this meeting agenda on June 3<sup>rd</sup> was way too short. Many affected residents did not receive this notice in time to prepare to comment in an informed manner.
- If you perform an approximate count of the affected abutters (i.e., those with boats large enough to encounter problems navigating the Dinkins Bayou entrance or Wulfert Channel), we believe that it will represent a small percentage of the affected abutters. Let's say it might be 40 users, yet another 160 abutters are being asked to pay to resolve this issue. We have frequently navigated all the canals off Dinkins Bayou, and while we have never counted the number of large-draft boats, it is not considerable. One resident abutting Dinkins Bayou asserts that he has had no issues using a 28 ft. Dauntless in the waters.
- We have not received a copy of the legal reasoning by which Sanibel determines that this is its problem.
- Wulfert Channel and Dinkins Bayou are navigable waters as defined by the act, and are therefore the responsibility of the USACE (US Army Corps of Engineers); please see the attached sections of the US CFR.
- Abutters are being asked or told to pay for work that will not benefit most of them. However, this dredging project will benefit many non-Sanibel residents, who will not be required to cover any of this work. This project should, at a minimum, be funded by Lee County and the State, not by local residents of Sanibel.
- If a future claim is made by a boater alleging that the dredging was done improperly, will the abutters in the SAD be liable?
- Sanibel has experienced three hurricanes in three years. The waters of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico are warming so rapidly that hurricanes now develop independently in those seas, without originating off the west coast of Africa. Two of those storms (Ian and Milton) had significant effects on the profiles of the Wulfert and Dinkins Bayou channels. The proposed 10-year planning horizon is meaningless when we consider that more such hurricanes are likely to occur within that period. What happens then? Will dredging be done before 2035? Who will pay for it?
- The last dredging of Blind Pass and part of the Wulfert Channel occurred in 2017. Following that, there was a comprehensive and very public process to review the dredging template for future work. Those of us who participated provided input to the planning firm regarding the historic pattern of flows through Sunset Bay. When the firm ran their model with that modification, they discovered that expanding the dredging template to include Sunset Bay would significantly improve flows through Blind Pass.
- For those interested in the dredging history of Blind Pass, please visit [this page](#).

- The last dredging was done for environmental reasons, not to improve navigation.
- The 2019 management plan in which many of us participated, is reported here. If you scroll down to page 10 of that report, you will see the final preferred option, Figure 5. That option would resolve any issues that boaters may feel they currently face.
- The current proposed dredging and funding efforts are short-sighted, lacking any apparent strategies to address a recurrence within a period shorter than the 10-year planning horizon. Meanwhile, property owners are expected to pay an annual tax that will not be sufficient to respond to recurring storm changes. When this navigation problem arises again in 5 years, will the SAD feel obliged or be permitted to make additional assessments?

We urge the Council to, at a minimum, table this project until the answers to these points are researched more thoroughly. Fundamentally, this dredging should not be undertaken by the City of Sanibel, especially when it clearly benefits many users from other communities and so few of the abutters.

If the Council decides to proceed with this effort, then at the very least the affected abutters should have the opportunity to vote on this proposal; to do otherwise amounts to taxation without representation.

---

US CFR:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-II/part-329>

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/regulatory/regs/33cfr329.pdf>

#### **§ 329.4 General definition.**

Navigable waters of the United States are those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. A determination of navigability, once made, applies laterally over the entire surface of the waterbody, and is not extinguished by later actions or events which impede or destroy navigable capacity.

#### **§ 329.7 Intrastate or interstate nature of waterway.**

A waterbody may be entirely within a state, yet still be capable of carrying interstate commerce. This is especially clear when it physically connects with a generally acknowledged avenue of interstate commerce, such as the ocean or one of the Great Lakes, and is yet wholly within one state. Nor is it necessary that there be a physically navigable connection across a state boundary. Where a waterbody extends through one or more states, but substantial portions, which are capable of bearing interstate commerce, are located in only one of the states, the entirety of the waterway up to the head (upper limit) of navigation is subject to Federal jurisdiction.

**329.12 Geographic and jurisdictional limits of oceanic and tidal waters.**

(a) ***Ocean and coastal waters.*** The navigable waters of the United States over which Corps of Engineers regulatory jurisdiction extends include all ocean and coastal waters within a zone three geographic (nautical) miles seaward from the baseline (The Territorial Seas). Wider zones are recognized for special regulatory powers exercised over the outer continental shelf. (See [33 CFR 322.3\(b\)](#)).

Sincerely,

Meg Born  
2628 Coconut Dr.  
Sanibel, Florida 33957

**From:** Cooley, Thomas <[cooley.1@osu.edu](mailto:cooley.1@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 7:51 PM  
**To:** sancouncil <[sancouncil@mysanibel.com](mailto:sancouncil@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** proposed assessment for dredging Wulfert Channel

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Dear Council Members:

Received your letter outlining the proposal. As an avid non-boat owner, I live on Dinkins Bayou for the beautiful scenery and the wildlife, neither of which, I believe, is likely to benefit from dredging the channel. Please consider abandoning the proposal. Thank you.

Thomas Cooley  
2720 Coconut Dr.  
Sanibel, FL 33957

**From:** August Borschke <ajborschke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 4:15 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Cc:** Susan Borschke <suebsfo@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** 6494 San Cap

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Vicki. This is a rather poor quality picture of a large wall photo that we have. We know the photo was taken before the mid-1990s, because that is when we acquired the picture. You can see the shape of Sunset Bay at that time. Also, you can see the two rather large channels out of the bay. Gus Borschke. 6494 San-Cap

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Stafford, Arthur <artstaf@staffordmfg.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 8:09 AM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Cc:** dianestafford2020@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Assessment District

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello Vicki,

As regards the proposed dredging, how was it funded when last done in 2014? Was there a \$10,000 assessment then or is this a new twist?

We agree that the dredging necessary, to maintain the property values on the affected parcels, but those property values already pay additional taxes based upon the assumption that they have access to navigable water. Should this change, there would be a cry for tax decreases --- so, in effect we're being asked to pay twice.

Also, the annual add-on to our Lee-County tax of \$1200 to prepay for a cost that may or may not be necessary and may or may not cost the estimated amount again seems like the wrong approach. We strongly object to this.

Arthur and Diane Stafford  
2423 Blue Crab Court  
Sanibel, FL



**From:** rsbcsb <rsbcsb@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 8:31 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Dredging assessment

Dear Ms. Smith/ City manager Souza: I have received your 21 May 2025 dredging assessment notice. I find it unfathomable that a project of this scope and cost to all property owners was initiated by "requests from residents", rather than a survey  
ZjQcmQRYFpfptBannerStart

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

ZjQcmQRYFpfptBannerEnd

Dear Ms. Smith/ City manager Souza:

I have received your 21 May 2025 dredging assessment notice. I find it unfathomable that a project of this scope and cost to all property owners was initiated by "requests from residents", rather than a survey of all residents. So, some residents have started a process that will impose a large and continuing cost to all residents without any say from all of us. Talk about lack of due process. After major damage from 3 hurricanes, I am fairly certain that few of us have that kind of funding to spare, especially for a project that will not benefit any who do not have a boat. I do not support this assessment and if able to vote, vote no.

A few questions:

Can the state or federal government provide support in any capacity.

Why are private citizens funding repair of areas owned by the state.

If citizens fund repairs are they then liable should an injury occur from those repairs ( I assume the city and/or county are liable now).

The costs of recovery from 3 major storms have affected all involved and driven some away. This added cost will surely do more of the same, last straw type of mentality. I am not sure why private homeowners are asked to fund a project involving property not owned by them, especially since the benefits of said repairs will benefit more than the 202 property owners.

The cost should be born by the municipalities involved not the property owners who do not own the waterways.

Again, I vote no.

Robert Berger

2470 Harbour lane

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 5:01 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <[vicki.smith@mysanibel.com](mailto:vicki.smith@mysanibel.com)>  
**Subject:** Support of Dredging Plan

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Dear Vicki and Members of City Council:

I currently reside at 6012 White Heron Lane and am writing to you to strongly support the proposed dredging plan for Wulfert Channel and related tax assessment zone. As you may know, I have been one of the residents who has worked with the City Manager and City Staff to develop this plan and I truly believe it represents the best solution for the serious navigation issues we are facing as well as improve water flow and related environmental conditions in the bayou. I won't belabor the points for supporting, others in the community I know have it far better than I could have in emails to you.

From where I sit-based on numerous emails, phone calls and meetings-the communities surrounding Dinkins strongly support the the dredging and assessment zone plans. There are, however, some that do not. Their objections include:

1. My boat can currently get through the problem so I don't want to pay;
2. These waterways are the responsibility of the Federal, State and County governments so we shouldn't be taxed by the City for this;
3. Homeowners on Captiva that have to use Wulfert Channel to get out should have to contribute;
4. We shouldn't have our taxes raised by the City;
5. The dredging plan does not cover the problem areas, and the the problem areas are smaller than the plan calls for; if the channel markers are correctly placed the area in question is much smaller.
6. The dredging plan is too expansive in the bayou and not needed.
7. The problem is caused by the beach renourishment projects on Captiva and Sanibel, and the lack of a jetty on the Sanibel side. This does nothing to fix that.

Some of these objections obviously don't deserve a response ( and some of those have been made by people with other agendas-they are trying to sell their houses right now and don't want an assessment). With respect to other objections, we have tried our best to educate the communities that it is, unfortunately, the City's responsibility to deal with these waterways. As you might expect, some don't want to hear that. However, we all would like to see the City push the County for some reimbursement for the Captiva

residents' "share", or work with the county to establish a wider tax assessment zone that includes those residents. We recognize that this is part of a longer term solution and should not affect the approval before you.

The dredging plan is comprehensive; if minor adjustments need to be made before the actual dredge because of shifting bottoms that should not be an issue. However, we residents feel strongly that the size of the area in Wulfert to be dredged is appropriate. We hit bottom all over that area right now when it is lower than mean tide and this plan solves that issue. I'm sure an expert guide who is on the water everyday can navigate through the eye of a needle but for the vast majority of us that is not the case.

The objectors are right, this plan doesn't solve what many many residents over the last couple of decades believe, that beach renourishment and lack of a jetty are the causes of all of this. But we need to fix the current problem and tackle that problem at the same time.

I am sorry I cannot be at the Meeting Tuesday, I will be travelling to Ireland for a work matter. Thank you for your strong leadership on this issue, this solution helps everyone and makes for a better Sanibel.

Chris Kelly

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

**From:** Robert Pascotto <[rpascotto88@gmail.com](mailto:rpascotto88@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 3:51 PM

**To:** Kelly, Christopher M. <[ckelly@jonesday.com](mailto:ckelly@jonesday.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Fw: Wulfert Channel/Dinkins Bayou Dredging Plan

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

If you are concerned about the message's content, highlight the email in your inbox and click "Report Suspicious" in the Outlook ribbon -or- contact 6Help.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hello Chris thank you so much for including me in this email chain. Please feel free to forward it to all interested parties. As I type this, we are idling out Wulfert Channel and as the new homeowner of a house on White Heron Lane I am 100% supportive of dredging the channel and the discussed surrounding waterways.

Thank you so much. I hope to talk to you soon.

Robert Pascotto

\*\*\*This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.\*\*\*

**From:** Donna <don.db5151@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 1:04 PM  
**To:** Vicki L. Smith <vicki.smith@mysanibel.com>  
**Subject:** Dinkins dredging

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

[Report Suspicious](#)

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Vicki

I support the dredging project. I would like to have seen more transparency with regard to the bidding process. We should have been given that information at the time we were told to pay our \$11,000! Hopefully it was competitive and based on more than just one bid.

Thank you,

Donald Bishop

2443 Blue crab ct.