

BEACH AND SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (Beach) met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2007, in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee; Bill Glynn (arrived 3:17 p.m.); Bob Anderson, David Barney, John Berrigan, Cheryl Gerstner, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Mayor Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee (arrived 3:17 p.m.); Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; Council Member Dale Simchick, City of Sebastian Appointee and Councilmember Paul Johnson, Town of Orchid Appointee.

Absent was Robert Lindsey, BCC Appointee (unexcused).

Also present were Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan, IRC staff: Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; James Gray, Coastal Engineer; and Terri Collins-Lister, Staff Assistant IV. Others present were Michael Walther, Coastal Technology Corporation (Coastal Tech); Beth Mitchell, Commissioner and Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Louise Schmitt, Bill Johnson and George Malloy, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order – Chairman Tom White

Chairman White called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes of March 19, 2007

ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Mrs. Gerstner, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of March 19, 2007 as presented.

Sector 7 Beach Restoration Construction Schedule – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager

Dr. Gorham reported Sector 7 beach renourishment was behind schedule because of previous permitting issues and logistical delays, with weather and mechanical problems coming into play once the project had gotten underway.

He related the first shipload of sand had been pumped out on April 4, 2007, but mechanical delays had prevented the second load from hitting the beach until April 9, 2007, and recent inclement weather had created rough seas, making it impossible to dredge. Dr. Gorham said ultimately there had been less than five full days of work done on Sector 7 so far, with an estimated 45,000 cubic yards of the projected total of 360,000 cubic yards of sand being placed on the beach.

Dr. Gorham clarified this translated to the project being 10% to 15% complete, with only around 15 days left before turtle season. He confirmed completion of the work was going to critically depend on receiving a time extension from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS), and to this end a meeting had been set up with the USF&WS and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for Monday, April 23, 2007.

Dr. Gorham outlined in the event the project could not be finished in the allotted time the options would be to remobilize the contractors next fall at a cost of close to \$2 million; to build the unfinished portion as a truck haul project; or to shorten the project length to the segment that was completed in the initial stage. He summarized at the next meeting he would know where the project stood and would be looking for guidance from the Committee.

Chairman White welcomed Council Member Dale Simchick from the City of Sebastian and Councilmember Paul Johnson of the Town of Orchid as new members of the Committee, and Dr. Gorham briefly described the Sector 7 project for them. Mr. Anderson asked Dr. Gorham what his feelings were on the likelihood of getting an extension from the USF&WS. Dr. Gorham thought the chances were pretty good, but did not know how long a period of time would be involved. He mentioned it might be helpful for local residents to contact Mr. Spencer Simon of the local USF&WS office and stress the importance of the extension.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Mr. Berrigan, the Committee voted unanimously (8-0) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners contact the local United States Fish and Wildlife Service office about receiving an extension of time for the Sector 7 project.

Mr. Anderson inquired what percent of the project Dr. Gorham estimated would be completed if the extension was not obtained. Dr. Gorham clarified the contractor would need to cease placing sand no later than April 25, 2007, in order to be off the beach by the start of turtle nesting season on May 1, 2007, and guessed the project would be no more than 25% or 30% complete by that

time. Mr. Anderson wondered if the County would obtain any refund from the dredging company if that turned out to be the case. Dr. Gorham explained under the contract terms the County would simply pay them for the volume of sand that was placed plus mobilization costs. He advised the extension would entail being able to place sand until May 15, 2007, with an additional five days to demobilize.

Dr. Gorham related the unit cost of trucking sand in Sector 7 would be higher than using the offshore source, and the decision of how to complete the project would depend on how much was done in the initial stage. He did not think it would make sense to remobilize the dredging equipment if the project was 75% or 80% complete. Mr. Gray added the urgency in getting the Sector 7 project done or extended this year was because special legislative funding and hurricane recovery funds the County had received would very likely not be there in the future.

Mr. Anderson requested Dr. Gorham notify the Committee members after the meeting on April 23, 2007, and suggested Chairman White call a special meeting if the extension was rejected.

The problems connected with pumping or trucking in beach sand in that area were discussed. Mrs. Gerstner said she would work on getting the residents to be more supportive of completing the project, rather than focusing of disruptions caused by the contractors.

Sectors 1 & 2 Beach Restoration Construction Schedule – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager

Dr. Gorham reported Sectors 1 & 2 renourishment was underway with the dredging of the sand trap inside Sebastian Inlet. He noted this project was also behind schedule, with the first sand hitting the beach on March 24, 2007. He related work was progressing reasonably well with few shut downs due to turbidity regulations, but there was a lot of down time due to having to clean the dredge equipment because of debris from the sand trap. Dr. Gorham estimated the volume of sand placed on the beach was 40% to 45% complete at this time.

Dr. Gorham advised the County would be looking for the same time extension for Sectors 1 & 2 as they would ask on Sector 7. He noted the issues surrounding non-completion of this project were a little more straightforward because a second phase was planned for November, 2007, and it would be a simple matter to add any additional work and volume to the offshore sand portion of the project at that time. He stressed both the County and The Inlet wanted to get the full volume of sand from the sand trap, but in terms of building the beach template it would not present a great hardship. Mr. Smithson showed pictures on

Sectors 1 & 2, which are on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Glynn inquired if putting in a lesser amount of sand on Sectors 1 & 2 would affect the model of the shoreline in the event of severe weather. Dr. Gorham acknowledged a lesser volume would not have as much storm protection value; however he observed some of the sand that had eroded off the beach during the hurricanes had not gone very far offshore and would tend to work in a beneficial way towards storm protection.

Update on Permitting for Sector 3 – Mr. Michael Walther, Coastal Technology Corporation

Mr. Walther explained the permitting process involved to implement work on Sector 3. He advised the agencies involved wanted an updated mapping characterization of the shoreline hardbottom before considering a permit application. He stressed the timing of a mapping effort was very critical and they were aiming for May and June of this year to do the work in order to complete the application down the road. Mr. Walther stated Coastal Tech would not resubmit the permit application to the State until the summer of 2008, but in the meantime the Federal process would move forward. He anticipated they would finish the State permitting process about six months before the Federal permit, but it depended on how the agencies responded to their analysis and the data.

A discussion followed.

Status of County Beach Parks – Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director

Mr. Davis stated the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) wanted a new survey of the Coastal Control Construction Line (CCCL) and the County was in the process of issuing a work order to update the survey. He noted this delayed the timing of the DEP completing a review of the application to replace the infrastructure at Wabasso Beach Park, and he felt it would be next fall before the County could go to construction.

The CCCL was discussed.

Mr. Barney noted Wabasso Beach Park had been closed since 2004, and wondered if there was any way the Committee could recommend having the legislature bring some pressure to speed things up. Mr. Walther did not think legislative input would be all that beneficial, but perhaps a letter encouraging the DEP to exercise its discretion to more favorably allow for restoration of the park might be worthwhile.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Barney, SECONDED BY Mr. Glynn, to recommend the Committee send a letter to the DEP.

Mr. Glynn felt it would be better to direct the BCC to forward a letter in that regard.

ON AMENDED MOTION BY Mr. Barney, AMENDED SECOND BY Mr. Glynn, the Committee voted unanimously (10-0) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners send a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection in order to expedite reconstruction of Wabasso Beach Park.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District Commission

Mr. Smithson discussed mitigation and monitoring responsibilities The Inlet would be required to initiate in relation to the channel work. He confirmed The Inlet had its five year review with DEP for its long term bypass permit, and felt it was important for the County and The Inlet to work together to achieve the goal of placing 90,000 cubic yards of sand per year on the beaches.

Mr. Glynn opined it would be ideal if The Inlet and the County could have their own method of transporting sand from the north side of the Inlet to the south side. Chairman White described the system in place at Port Canaveral and wondered if IRC could get something similar. Mr. Glynn noted if we had our own equipment it could be used for the sand trap and to remove silt from the river.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Berrigan, SECONDED BY Mr. Glynn, the Committee voted unanimously (10-0) to create a Sub-Committee to look into the feasibility of Indian River County obtaining its own dredging equipment.

Chairman White asked for volunteers for the Sub-Committee. After a discussion about the Sunshine Law, Mr. Anderson said he would be glad to do the initial groundwork and bring information back, along with Mr. Barney and Mr. Berrigan as other members of the Sub-Committee. It was the consensus of the Committee that this should be done, with Terri Collins-Lister serving as the staff liaison.

Committee Members Matters

Mr. Walther brought up the prospect of The District potentially placing sand on IRC beaches further south than had historically been done. He thought it was worth considering having trucks place sand on Sector 3 upland of the mean high water line prior to a large scale beach renourishment project. He suggested since funding was still an outstanding issue for the implementation of the County's Beach Preservation Plan (BPP), perhaps The Inlet might contribute to the funding of the Sector 3 project as a means of offsetting supplemental sand requirements by the State.

Mr. Smithson said he could not speak for all the Inlet Commissioners, but personally he thought it was a good concept to buy credits.

A discussion ensued.

Chairman's Matters

Chairman White inquired if anything had been done about the permit for Sector 5. Dr. Gorham responded not a lot of progress had been made since the last meeting. Mr. Glynn asked if it would be possible to get a report on Sector 5 at the next meeting. Dr. Gorham promised to bring something to the next meeting, along with a report regarding funding for the BPP.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.