

## **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, January 15, 2007, in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1840 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Bill Glynn, Bob Anderson, David Barney, Cheryl Gerstner, Robert Lindsey and John Berrigan, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Councilman Paul Johnson, Town of Orchid Appointee (4:00 p.m.); Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; Mayor Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee and Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee.

Absent were Council Member Andrea Coy, Alternate City of Sebastian Appointee (excused).

Also present were Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan and IRC staff: Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; and James Gray, Coastal Engineer. Others present were Michael Walther, Sally Davenport and Walker Dawson, Coastal Technology Corporation (Coastal Tech); Beth Mitchell, Commissioner, and Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Councilman Robert Tench, Town of Orchid; Norm Lange, Lee Cockey, Ralph Evans, Graydon Rogers, Lawrence Brashears, Louise Schmitt, Silas Axtell, William Ferrell, Catharine Ferrell, Bill Johnson and William Suddath; Interested Citizens.

### **Call to Order – Chairman Bill Glynn**

Chairman Glynn called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of the Minutes of December 18, 2006**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Mayor White, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of December 18, 2006 as presented.**

## **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Councilman Ahrens, to nominate Mayor Tom White as Chairman of the Beach Committee for 2007.**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Berrigan to nominate David Barney as Chairman of the Beach Committee for 2007. The motion died for lack of a second.**

The members voted unanimously (9-0) to elect Mayor Tom White as Chairman of the Beach Committee for 2007.

**ON MOTION BY Mrs. Gerstner, SECONDED BY Mayor White, to nominate Bob Anderson as Vice Chairman of the Beach Committee for 2007.**

The members voted unanimously (9-0) to elect Bob Anderson as Vice Chairman of the Beach Committee for 2007.

Chairman White thanked Mr. Glynn for his service as Chairman of the Committee during the last two years.

## **Update on the Beach Preservation Plan – Mr. Michael Walther, Coastal Technology Corporation**

Mr. Walther recapped the Beach Preservation Plan (BPP) was the conceptual planning document for beach preservation throughout the County.

Ms. Sally Davenport, Coastal Planner, Coastal Tech, explained Coastal Tech had worked with IRC staff to examine historical data on beach erosion and shoreline changes in the County, look at existing conditions, and project this information into the future so the plan the County decided to go with would make sense. She reviewed the information contained in her PowerPoint presentation on the final draft of the BPP, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office.

Ms. Davenport noted the initial cost for all of the projects would be approximately \$49.8 million dollars, with an annual cost of \$5.8 million for all the sectors. She continued the initial cost of Sector 3 restoration was estimated at \$25.4 million, with an annual cost of \$2.8 million. Ms. Davenport added the Sector 3 estimate included two structures at a cost of \$500,000 each, but it had not been determined if they would be necessary or permissible at this time, so that amount could be taken out of the configuration if they were not done.

Ms. Davenport emphasized we wanted the state to pay as much towards the project as possible, and their participation was determined by the amount of critical erosion of the shoreline and the amount and quality of public access. She indicated currently the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would contribute approximately 36% of the cost for all the projects. Ms. Davenport continued the County could possibly establish some potential new beach access points in order to try and raise the state's share of the total cost for all of the beach projects to 47%.

Mr. Barney commented he would like to include a review of the BPP every five years or after a major storm event that impacted the beaches. He felt the current DEP standards for evaluating sand obtained from borrow areas could be better, although he did not know how this could be brought about. Mr. Barney thought if the County was going to pursue having any structures in Sector 3, they should look at structures the DEP would approve. He suggested Coastal Tech should start reviewing the different types of structures available to see if there was any new data in this regard.

Mr. Walther agreed with Mr. Barney about the updating of the BPP and would incorporate it into the Plan. He acknowledged Coastal Tech had been asked to look at and evaluate sand retention structures, and he stated the final BPP would reflect its intent to do so.

Mr. Glynn recalled he was involved in the original BPP when funding for the Plan had been determined so ad valorem taxes were not involved. He pointed out the IRC Barrier Island paid upwards of 50% of the ad valorem taxes in the County even though it had only 4% of the infrastructure, which included the beach. He opined the original BPP was a good Plan that should go forward and continue what it was supposed to do.

A discussion followed about artificial surfing reefs.

### **Sector 3 Beach Restoration Preliminary Design – Mr. Michael Walther, Coastal Technology Corporation**

Mr. Walther advised Coastal Tech was staged to complete its Sector 3 design this month and, in collaboration with County staff, submit a permit application to the state in early February, 2007. He observed in order to restore Sector 3 beaches to the conditions that existed in 1972, it would take approximately 30 cubic yards per foot without impacting the hardbottom.

Mr. Walther gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Sector 3 beach restoration, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office. He

reviewed the conditions on the Sector 3 beach at the present time and explained how much sand would be placed in each section of the area. Mr. Walther noted in order for the County to justify a sand retention structure for state cost sharing and permitting, we would have to demonstrate it would cost less to maintain the beach with a structure than without it. This meant however much sand we might hold and keep on the beach, the cost of the sand would have to be greater than the cost of building the structures. Mr. Walther added we would also have to demonstrate to the state there would be no significant adverse downdrift effects associated with the structures. He pointed out two places where a sand retention structure might possibly be placed, one just south of Treasure Shores Park and the other a little south of Wabasso Beach Park.

Mr. Walther advised Coastal Tech had assumed in the planning and cost estimates reflected in the draft BPP to construct as many as three sand retention structures, each of which would cost around \$500,000. He continued at this juncture they were continuing to move forward with evaluation of sand retention structures, but had not yet found conclusive evidence to demonstrate a need or justification for them.

Mr. Walther anticipated Sector 3 might go to construction in 2008, and looking at the shoreline changes from 1986 to 2005, it was thought the sand might last as long as 20 years, barring too many hurricanes and extreme storm events.

Mr. Anderson wondered if there was any way to get a value of the properties along the Sector 3 beach, because he felt it would be important in stressing what might be lost if no action was taken. Mr. Walther thought some characterization of such a thing would be appropriate in refining the no action alternative as part of Coastal Tech's design document, and promised it would be included.

Mr. William Ferrell, a property owner in Sector 3, opined if nothing was done it would affect not only the beaches, but the whole county and the quality of life of the region.

Mr. Walther felt state permitting should be smoother for Sector 3 because Coastal Tech had outlined a nourishment project on the lower end of the spectrum in terms of what the state commonly saw; it would not impact the hardbottom; and the state had already approved the borrow area. On the federal level, assuming the analysis held up through the final design, he thought the proposed schedule could be met.

Mr. Brashears noted sand had accumulated at the north jetties in Fort

Pierce and he wanted to know if there was any conclusive evidence sand stayed in IRC's system and did not wash down further south. Mr. Walther opined the evidence pointed to the sand staying in our County's system.

Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director, remarked one year after the Sectors 1 & 2 project was completed, the dredging people had told him the borrow area was filled back in with sand very rapidly. Dr. Gorham agreed there had been a lot of infilling because there was a natural tendency for sand to accumulate in low spots, particularly in hurricane conditions. Mr. Davis wondered if the BPP should include a recommendation to periodically survey the offshore borrow areas to give us some comfort level as to whether we would have sand for the future. Dr. Gorham thought this would be a good idea.

Dr. Gorham noted the real last step before taking the BPP to the BCC was to identify a recommended funding structure. He explained staff was charged with working with the IRC Department of Management and Budget and the Attorney's office in that regard, and this had not been done.

The likelihood of a cut-back in state funding was discussed.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Glynn, SECONDED BY Mr. Berrigan, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to adopt Coastal Technology Corporation's proposal to redo the Beach Preservation Plan and have County staff work with them on a possible funding process, and bring this information back to the Committee no later than the next meeting.**

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

Dr. Gorham advised the County had received a Notice to Proceed on Sector 7 beach restoration from the state and Great Lakes Dock and Dredge (Great Lakes) had come up with a framework construction schedule, depending on the weather. He stated they felt the necessary pipeline, pumps and equipment could be mobilized to the beach sites by February 10, 2007, and were expecting the first sand pumping on or about February 15, 2007, with 45 to 60 days for completion of construction. Dr. Gorham confirmed Great Lakes was currently securing and preparing various areas in Sector 7 for upland access and staging areas, and the offshore equipment consisting of the booster pump and floating and submerged lines were en route.

## **Sectors 1 & 2 Beach Restoration Update – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager**

Dr. Gorham referred the members to the draft permit modification he had received from the DEP on January 9, 2007, and a copy of which is on file in the Commission office. He recapped he had been reviewing the conditions contained in the permit with the engineers to see if there were any big problems and the issues of water quality monitoring and turbidity monitoring at the dredge sites had arisen. Dr. Gorham explained since the inshore area proposed to be dredged for the Sectors 1 & 2 project was located in the aquatic preserve, the standard was zero elevation of turbidity. He did not see how it would be feasible to conduct dredging without elevating the turbidity at all.

Dr. Gorham continued the draft permit contained language that the state would issue a limited Notice to Proceed to IRC on February 1, 2007, to at least get the Sebastian Inlet sand trap dredging done and get that sand on the beach. He clarified the state insisted we provide them with a complete set of underwater monitoring data in order to get a full Notice to Proceed, but this had not been accomplished due to weather conditions. Dr. Gorham said this probably meant the second half of the project, consisting of the off-shore hopper dredging, would have to wait until after the 2007 turtle season.

Dr. Gorham announced a pre-construction conference for the Sebastian Inlet sand trap dredging was scheduled for January 19, 2007, with a goal of getting the sub-contractor's infrastructure on the beach to initiate placing a total of 100,000 cubic yards of sand on Sectors 1 & 2 by February 15, 2007, and completed before May 1, 2007.

A lengthy discussion followed about the time wasted by DEP.

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

Mr. Davis confirmed Coastal Tech had submitted the application for Wabasso Beach Park to the DEP, and hopefully the permits would be received within four to five months. He reported the architect was working on the final drawings so the County could get out to bid and rebuild the park.

Mr. Barney noted Wabasso Beach Park was the only legal surfing beach in the entire County and the park was scheduled to be closed during construction. He did not understand why surfing was not allowed at Treasure Shores or Golden Sands parks. Mr. Davis commented his department did not regulate surfing and suggested Mr. Barney talk to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

## **Update on the Sebastian Inlet Taxing Commission – Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District**

Mr. Smithson was excited things were moving forward with the Sebastian Inlet sand trap dredging. He expressed frustration about the turbidity situation and other issues raised by the DEP and noted their regulations in granting permits had created economic impacts and problems with contractors, etc. Mr. Smithson mentioned The District was trying to get permits for a channel extension at the Inlet and had submitted enough material to sink a sport fishing boat.

### **Committee Members Matters**

Mr. Glynn wanted to state for the record back in 1998/1999 when the County started on beach renourishment, someone he knew at DEP in Tallahassee told him they had been notified by certain heads of certain organizations they wanted all of IRC's work delayed, with the idea being if it was delayed long enough it would die. Mr. Glynn strongly suggested something be done with our representatives in Tallahassee to alleviate the burden placed upon us.

A discussion ensued.

Chairman White announced the annual Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association would be held at the Bahia Mar Hotel in Fort Lauderdale January 24-26, 2007, and he had reservation forms if anyone was interested in attending.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.