

## **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, September 17, 2007, in the County Administration Building, Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - [www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2007](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2007). Please note listed at the end of each agenda item refers to time on the recorded minutes.

Present were Chairman Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee; Bill Glynn; Bob Anderson, David Barney, Stephen Krasco, Cheryl Gerstner, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Mayor Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee; Council Member Dale Simchick, City of Sebastian Appointee; Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee and Robert Tench, Alternate, Town of Orchid Appointee.

Absent was Robert Lindsey, BCC Appointee and Councilmember Paul Johnson, Town of Orchid Appointee (both excused).

Also present were Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan, IRC staff: Jim Davis, Public Works Director; William K. DeBraal, Deputy County Attorney, James Gray, Coastal Engineer; and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant. Others present were Michael Walther, Coastal Technology Corporation (Coastal Tech); Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Don Dexter, City of Vero Beach Public Works, Bill Johnson and Barbara Lange, Interested Citizens.

### **Call to Order – Chairman Tom White** (00:00:10)

Chairman White called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of the Minutes of May 21, 2007** (00:00:23)

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Ms. Simchick, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to approve the minutes of May 21, 2007 as presented.**

Commissioner O'Bryan introduced and welcomed Mr. Krasco to the Beach Committee.

**Sectors 1 & 2 - Phase II Beach Construction – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager** (00:03:11)

Dr. Gorham briefly discussed the second half of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funded renourishment of Sectors 1 & 2. He noted the 175,000 cubic yards of sand for phase II would come from an offshore borrow area and would be constructed from November 1, 2007 through May 1, 2008.

Dr. Gorham pointed out the underwater bio-monitoring work which was 100% complete and was required in order to get the notice to proceed for Phase II Beach construction. Commissioner O'Bryan asked if Dr. Gorham would keep a timeline of the final permit application submittals to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**Sector 3 Design and Permitting Update – Mr. Michael Walther, Coastal Technology Corporation** (00:07:06)

Mr. Walther gave the committee a brief update on the Sector 3 Design and Permitting. He stated with the good weather this summer, Continental Shelf Associates, Inc. the contractor, was able to conduct the video transects of the hard bottom and the surveys of the beach was performed by Morgan and Ekland, Inc., which would then be presented to the DEP for the permit application.

Mr. Glynn asked what would be the estimated time to start the construction for Sector 3 once the permits were obtained. Mr. Walther felt construction could begin next year and noted the key element would be demonstrating to both the DEP and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers that there would not be any impact to the hard bottom.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the timeline for construction and funding for Sector 3. Chairman White requested Mr. Joseph Baird, County Administrator and Mr. Jason Brown, Budget Director attend the October 15, 2007 meeting to explain the funding and how much infrastructure money has been set a side for beach projects.

**Summer 2007 Biological Monitoring Summary – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager.** (00:20:09)

Dr. Gorham mentioned the large volume of various biological efforts conducted due to the favorable weather conditions during the summer 2007.

Dr. Gorham concluded the County had received a grant for \$250,000 from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to look at alternative

means of conducting underwater monitoring that was not so dependent on good visibility. The contract was awarded to the Florida Institute of Technology.

**Summerplace Seawall** (00:28:13)

Commissioner O'Bryan stated in response to Mr. Barney's motion at the May 21, 2007 Beach Meeting, he had met with Dr. Gorham and Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Department to discuss seawalls. He mentioned in the County Ordinance, there was wording where the County could seek damages for loss due to the adjacent seawall, however it would be hard to document exactly what could be natural erosion or loss by a seawall in place.

Mr. William D. Debraal, Deputy County Attorney, updated the committee on the options the County could follow if the Beach committee opted to pursue the matter further.

A discussion ensued.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Ms. Gerstner for the Beach and Shore Preservation Committee not to take any further action on the Summerplace seawall issue.**

**Under discussion**, Chairman White felt the Beach Committee had made the County Attorney's Office aware of the issue and it would be their discretion whether to pursue it from the County level.

Commissioner O'Bryan pointed out there was a County Ordinance and the Beach committee would need to resolve whether the ordinance should be enforced and the mechanism to measure whether there had been a violation of the ordinance.

There was a lengthy discussion on seawalls and whether seawalls caused beach erosion.

Mr. Anderson withdrew his motion and restated it. Mr. Barney felt any committee member that had a seawall should refrain from voting. Chairman White felt it should be at the discretion of Attorney DeBraul.

Attorney Debraal stated it would be considered a conflict of interest for a person to vote if that person was directly influenced by a committee recommendation.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Mr. Ahrens, the members voted (7-2) for the Beach and Shore Preservation Committee not to advise the County Commission to move on the seawall issue because of the committee's lack of knowledge and expertise on the impacts that seawalls have on beach erosion. Mr. Barney and Ms. Savage opposed. Mr. Glynn refrained from voting.**

**Status of County Beach Parks – Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director**  
(1:11:56)

Mr. Walther updated the committee on the Wabasso Beach Park and noted there would be a meeting on the Wabasso Beach Restoration 60% Design Review on Friday, September 29, 2007. He hoped to submit the application to the state after the review and once the state deems the application complete, they would have 90 days by law to issue a permit.

Mr. Walther mentioned because the Wabasso Beach Park was small, there would be some period of time in which the park would be closed for a couple of weeks in order to modify the parking area to improve its efficiency and expand the number of parking places.

There was concern that if Wabasso Beach Park closed there would be no other surfing beach with a lifeguard and it was discussed whether the County could appoint an alternate park as a surfing area and it was determined that it would need to be addressed by the IRC Recreation Department.

**ON MOTION BY Council Member Simchick, SECONDED BY Mr. Glynn, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to advise the Indian River Recreation Department to designate another surfing beach with a lifeguard attendant during the duration of the temporary closure of the Wabasso Beach Park for construction.**

Mr. Glynn asked if there was anything the committee could do to help to speed up the construction of the Wabasso Beach Project. Mr. Walther suggested a letter identifying the desirability that the DEP take action sooner than 90 days allowed by law to move the Wabasso Beach Project forward.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Glynn, SECONDED BY Mr. Anderson, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to draft a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection requesting to move the issuance of the permits for the Wabasso Beach Project prior to the 90 days allowed by law.**

**Update from the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District Commission** (01:23:35)

Mr. Marty Smithson, Administrator, The District, reported on the completion of dredging of the navigation channel connecting the Sebastian Inlet with the intra-coastal waterway in July, 2007. He mentioned the sand dredged from the channel was not suitable for the beach, however once the fine was separated out from the discharge pipe, the sand may possibly be beach quality. He noted the St. Johns Water Management District was doing some geo-technical work to see what the sand quality was and felt it could be used in smaller beach projects.

**Committee Members Matters** (01:31:01)

There was none.

**Chairman's Matters** (01:31:12)

There was none.

**Other Matters** (01:31:21)

There was none.

**Adjournment** (01:31:29)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.