

BEACH AND SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee met at 3:00 P.M. on Monday, January 16, 2006 in the First Floor Conference Room "A" of the County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Bill Glynn, Frederick Dillon, David Barney, John Berrigan, Ralph Sexton and Bob Anderson, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Vice Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee; Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; Robert Tench, Town of Orchid Appointee; Mayor Nathan McCollum, City of Sebastian Appointee and Mayor John McCants, City of Fellsmere Appointee.

Also present were Arthur Neuberger, Commissioner Liaison; IRC staff: Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; James Gray, Coastal Engineer; Rick Herren, Environmental Specialist and Reta Smith, Assistant to the Executive Aide. Others present: Beth Mitchell, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Julia Thompson, Coastal Technology Corporation; John Burns, South Beach Property Owners Association; Ken Zeuner, Town of Orchid; John Burns, South Beach Property Owners Association; Bill Johnson and Norman Lange, Sea Oaks; Lee Cockey, Interested Citizen; and Henry Stephens, Press Journal

Call to Order

Chairman Glynn called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes of December 19, 2005

ON MOTION by Mayor McCollum, SECONDED by Vice Mayor White, the Committee voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the minutes of December 19, 2005 as presented.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Council Ahrens, to reelect Mr. Bill Glynn as Chairman for the year 2006.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Sexton, SECONDED BY Councilman Ahrens, the Committee voted unanimously (11-0) to close the nominations.

Chairman Glynn noted the nominations had been closed unanimously and he was therefore elected unopposed.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Sexton, SECONDED BY Councilman Ahrens, the Committee voted unanimously (11-0) to reelect Vice Mayor White as Vice Chairman for the year 2006.

Introduction of David Barney as a New Member on the Committee

Chairman Glynn introduced new member David Barney to the Committee.

Sectors 3 and 5 Dune Restoration Construction Report – James Gray

Mr. Gray distributed an update on dune restoration and a copy is on file in the Commission office. He confirmed the contractor had placed approximately 170,000 cubic yards of sand on Sectors 3 and 5, and the project was 85% completed to date. He reported no major erosion of the new sand had occurred and there were no major escarpment formations.

The proposed restoration project at Humiston Beach Park was discussed.

Sector 7 Beach Restoration Progress – Dr. Jonathan Gorham

Dr. Gorham recapped the Sector 7 project covered approximately 2.5 miles of beach in southern Indian River County and it was solely a County project. He detailed the pre-bid conference was held on January 4, 2006 and the project was currently out to bid, with the bid opening to be held on January 25, 2006. Dr. Gorham related on January 4, 2006 the County had also completed a state required Erosion Control Line hearing, which was necessary as a Notice to Proceed item and to gain authorization from the state. He indicated the County was also working on getting easements from all the riparian land owners and hoped to have those out by the end of next week.

Dr. Gorham continued the remaining permitting issue with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) related to the draft permit conditions, and he had not yet received a response from them on our suggested changes. He discussed the bid procedure and the various scenarios connected to the bids.

Sectors 1 and 2 Beach Restoration Progress – Dr. Jonathan Gorham

Chairman Glynn expressed anger about the Press Journal article of January 15, 2006, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office. Dr. Gorham explained there were issues with the project funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to replace the storm losses to the Sectors 1 and 2 beach project, which was built in 2003. He clarified with this funding, FEMA and the state would pay 95% of the cost for the project and the County wanted to make sure those federal funds were used. He recapped FEMA had authorized us to place 290,000 cubic yards of sand on the beach to replace sand washed away by the hurricanes, and the County had applied to the DEP for modification of the existing permit under the belief it would be a fairly straightforward procedure.

Dr. Gorham referred to the correspondence packet he had distributed to the members, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office. He summarized the DEP only wanted to authorize 50% of the amount of sand FEMA had already committed to pay for because of an alleged failure to properly monitor the earlier beach restoration project. He explained there were problems with the visual biological monitoring required by the DEP due to murky conditions of the water and unfavorable local conditions. Dr. Gorham was concerned the latest challenges might interfere with the timeline for renourishment in the spring and was considering the possibility of moving ahead with the Inlet sand trap dredging portion of the project and remobilizing in the fall for placement of the additional offshore material when all the differences with the DEP had been worked out.

Dr. Gorham noted at the last two Committee meetings he had related Sector 7 seemed to be presenting the major issues for us to move forward in a timely manner and Sectors 1 and 2 were fairly straightforward, but it was now looking as though that project would be a bigger challenge.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Barney felt it would be better to go forward with Sector 7 even if Sectors 1 and 2 could not be done at the same time. He said if Sectors 1 and 2 were going to hold up the whole project, we ought to try to get some sand in Sector 7 now for protection and possibly do part of Sectors 1 and 2 using the Inlet sand. Dr. Gorham pointed out the big issue with Sector 7 was not so much DEP authorizations, but with the bid prices. He specified when the bids were opened up it would be clear if we would be getting very high prices to work now

as opposed to fall, because the County was very sensitive to prices since there was no cost sharing involved.

Dr. Gorham explained the DEP did not feel comfortable about what the effects of the Sectors 1 and 2 projects were, but even if we had provided them with the monitoring after the hurricane it would not have been much use to them because we would really have been monitoring the effects of the two hurricanes rather than effects of the beach project.

Chairman Glynn wanted to know if we were going to do Sector 7 this spring regardless of what happened. Dr. Gorham reiterated it depended on the bid prices, because if the bids came in at \$15 million to do the project in the spring but it would cost \$6 million to wait until the fall, we would have no choice but to do it in the fall. He mentioned we also had some issues with the DEP on the Notice to Proceed centering about preconstruction biological monitoring, which the County contracted for this summer and were still trying to do. Dr. Gorham cautioned we may get good bid prices and not be able to get Notice to Proceed this spring for Sector 7 because of the lack of monitoring data.

The problems associated with doing the biological monitoring were discussed.

Dr. Gorham related Mr. Marty Smithson, Administrator of The District, had been looking into an underwater version of ultrasound with very high frequency sonar that was accurate enough to pick up things like the amount of algae cover on the reefs. He thought another option might be rather than sending a diver down to count how much material was growing on a rock we could put down a settling plate and look at it under a microscope to see what had settled on it.

Chairman Glynn suggested Dr. Gorham continue doing what he was doing, and urged the members to contact our representatives in Tallahassee to see what they could do to help. He indicated this was completely unacceptable because Sector 7 had been promised for a number of years and it was the most eroded area in the County, adding this one situation would have a domino effect as far as the entire beach restoration effort was concerned.

Dr. Gorham stated he would prefer to take an approach whereby the County decided what the impacts were going to be and mitigate for those impacts, rather than decide what the impacts would be, mitigate for them and then monitor them in great detail. He specified the monitoring was quite expensive and estimated the Sector 7 monitoring would be over \$400,000. He understood as a resource protection agency why the DEP wanted the monitoring done, but it certainly made it difficult to move forward on a project.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Mitchell stated The District was very concerned about not getting the sand trap pumped out this spring. From their perspective, it was a public safety issue since the trap had not been dredged since the 1997 and 1998, and in addition they were mandated by DEP to put a certain amount of sand on County beaches ever year, so this created a conundrum with one side of DEP saying they must put sand on the beach and the other side telling them they could not do it. Ms. Mitchell indicated they were in the process of permitting a channel extension project and the first step in that project was to have the trap dredged so they could get to the material below that to build a shoal at Pelican Island.

Ms. Mitchell referred to the letter dated December 27, 2005 written by County Administrator Joe Baird to Representative Stan Mayfield, a copy of which is contained in the backup on file in the Commission office. She felt the letter summed up the problems and suggested if any of the members called their representatives they should use the letter as a reference point in terms of describing the issues. She stressed time was very short in terms of making something happen.

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

Mr. Davis noted sand placement on County beach parks was almost complete and they were planning on getting some new pavement as part of the sand replacement, because the trucks using the beach accesses at Sea Grape and Turtle Trail had worn out the roads and parking lots. He reported Mr. Walther of Coastal Technology Corporation had submitted DEP applications for structures landward of the Coastal Construction Control line at Wabasso Beach Park and proposals had been received for the buildings and the site work. Mr. Davis summarized the rest of the parks were open to the public and fully functional.

Status of Permitting Process and Estimated Stating Date for Sector 3

Dr. Gorham recapped the County had recently brought under contract additional coastal engineering firms to move forward with the Sectors 3 and 5 projects. He admitted they had been a little preoccupied with the issues of Sectors 1, 2 and 7, but intended very shortly to ask those firms to provide scopes of work for design of a project and acquisition of the permits for Sector 3. He added they would also ask the firms to provide a timeline schedule from the initiation of design up to the initiation of construction. Dr. Gorham hoped to bring

this information back to the Committee by the March 20, 2006 meeting, but estimated from his experience it would be a three to five year process.

Chairman Glynn pointed out this whole thing started in 1996 and now it appeared if we were lucky we were looking at a 20 year window. He was relieved we had not had worse erosion because we could have lost a lot of shoreline and tax base.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District Commission

Ms. Mitchell explained the reason The District needed to do the channel extension was for public safety and environmental protection. She explained there was sea grass in the channel area and on the one hand the DEP wanted them to do everything they could to protect it, but they did not want The District to go in and dredge without doing mitigation. Ms. Mitchell indicated The District would be doing some mitigation ahead of time for the sea grass by building a shoal at Pelican Island for protection of the wildlife refuge. She said it appeared there was some resistance to doing advanced mitigation, so they were going forward with the dredging of the channel with the intention of doing further mitigation later on down the road.

Mr. Sexton asked Vice Mayor White if the City of Vero Beach had done any surveying yet on the PEP reef. Vice Mayor White responded he had put the request in with city staff, but as of yet nothing had been done.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.