

BEACH AND SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (Beach Committee) met at 3:00 P.M. on Monday, April 17, 2006 in the First Floor Conference Room "A" of the County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Bill Glynn, John Berrigan, Ralph Sexton, Bob Anderson, David Barney and Frederick Dillon, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Mayor Tom White, Vero Beach Appointee; Mayor Nathan McCollum, Sebastian Appointee and Robert Tench, Orchid Appointee.

Absent were Councilman William Ahrens, Indian River Shores Appointee; (excused) and Mayor Sarah Savage, Fellsmere Appointee (unexcused).

Also present were Commissioner Liaison Art Neuberger and IRC staff: Mike Zito, Assistant County Administrator; Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; James Gray, Coastal Engineer; and Reta Smith, Assistant to the Executive Aide. Others present: Martin Smithson, Executive Director, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Robert Bradshaw, Town Manager, Indian River Shores; Don Dexter, City of Vero Beach Public Works Department; Julie Thompson, Coastal Technology, Inc.; Lawrence Brashears, Surfrider Foundation; John Burns, South Beach Property Owners Association; William Suddath, Al Stock, Bill Johnson and Laurie Schmitt, Sea Oaks; George O'Malley and Ken Zeuner, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order

Chairman Glynn called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes of March 20, 2006

ON MOTION by Mr. Anderson, SECONDED by Mayor White, the Committee voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of March 20, 2006 as presented.

John's Island Dune Restoration Update – James Gray

Mr. Gray reported the John's Island Dune Restoration project using approximately 43,500 tons of upland sand was almost complete, and they should be finished up with dune planting and restoration of access areas by Wednesday,

April 19, 2006.

Update on Federal Participation on Sector 5 Beach Restoration – Dr. Jonathan Gorham

Dr. Gorham related while recently attending the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association meeting in Washington, D.C. he had a chance to talk with some of the Corps of Engineers (COE) officials, as well as various lobbyists and consultants who specialized in federally authorized beach projects. He indicated Sector 5 in the downtown City of Vero Beach had originally been a federally authorized project back in the 1980's, and since it remained on the COE's list it was still eligible to become an active project.

Dr. Gorham explained the COE would need an appropriation from Congress to start the process of reevaluating the Sector 5 project, and after that it could go on the active list to be managed and constructed by the federal government, with Indian River County as the local partner. He continued if a federal project was approved for Sector 5, the COE would pay 65% of the cost, and the remaining 35% would still be eligible for the local partner to cost share at 50% with the State of Florida. Dr. Gorham summarized the downside of the above scenario was that it would take eight to ten years to build a beach, because the COE did not work very quickly.

Dr. Gorham recalled in the late 1980's when the COE had first gotten involved with Sector 5, they proposed a project so large it would have had 56 acres of reef impact. He added the quality of sand they proposed to use at the time was really what caused the City of Vero Beach, who was the local sponsor at that time, to pursue other options. Dr. Gorham noted in a restudy the COE came back and looked at a smaller project with a lot less reef impact and decided it would still be economically viable. He cautioned if this project took place the County would have to work closely with the COE to make sure they knew our concerns about reef impacts, etc.

Dr. Gorham mentioned he had received a proposal from Marlowe and Company, a lobbying firm specializing in securing federal authorizations for beach projects and working with the COE, and their services would be approximately \$3,500 per month. He intended to see if this was something the BCC wanted to pursue, and thought perhaps the Beach Committee would also want to give their input.

Chairman Glynn expressed concern about the length of time the project would take when working with the federal government. Dr. Gorham pointed out it might take that much time anyway with the County pursuing it as a local project, and suggested if we started the wheels in motion as soon as possible on the

federal side we might not lose that much time. Chairman Glynn asked if we could try doing it as both a federal and a state project and later on make a decision as to which way to go, in order to bring sand to the beach faster. Dr. Gorham noted in the earlier stages we would be duplicating efforts and spending money while the COE was designing one project and the County was pursuing its own.

A discussion followed.

Mayor White related for years the City of Vero Beach had donated all its annual Tourist Tax money, in the amount of approximately \$500,000 yearly, to the County's Beach Preservation Plan (BPP) in order to get this project done in a timely manner. He specified the year 2009 had been mentioned in the past when talking about Sector 5, and now we were looking at 2014 or 2015. He thought it was important to try and get the beach renourishment done in the most expedient way possible.

Mr. Barney wondered if it would be feasible to think about hiring a firm to do the designs for each sector now and get that process underway, and then worry about the funding for each project as it came along. Dr. Gorham pointed out that was what the County was doing with Sector 3, because even though we knew both the permitting and the funding were several years away, we were contracting for the design and permitting services now to have it ready to go. He added the hazard in doing that type of thing was the designs had a "shelf life" on them because conditions were constantly changing.

Mayor White mentioned some divers had told him the PEP reef was starting to move and tear down and would not be as effective as it was when it was first put in. He wondered if there was any way the federal government might do something to refurbish the reef as part of mitigation for the Sector 5 project. Dr. Gorham indicated fixing the PEP reef could become a component of the design for Sector 5, adding if the COE designed a project that had reef impacts they would have to mitigate for it as part of the project costs.

Chairman Glynn asked Dr. Gorham to explore the feasibility of proceeding with the federal government doing Sector 5 from a cost/benefit side, and trying to refine the timeframes a little better. He suggested it might help if Dr. Gorham contacted Congressman Weldon's office and explained the situation, to see if we could get any encouragement from them as far as a timeline went.

Update on Sector 7 Restoration and Sectors 1 & 2 Renourishment – Dr. Jonathan Gorham

Dr. Gorham recapped contractors were signed up for work to begin in

November, 2006 on Sectors 1 & 2 and 7, and all the construction easement letters had been mailed to those who would be affected by the Sector 7 project. As required by permit, preconstruction sea turtle monitoring had been underway since March 1, 2006 and the underwater preconstruction biological monitoring was scheduled for May and June, 2006. He confirmed the Erosion Control Line had been established for Sector 7 and there was little left to do to get ready for the project other than to secure and record all the easements.

Dr. Gorham reported they had unfortunately received Request for Additional Information (RAI) Number 5 from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Sectors 1 & 2. He specified the only outstanding item in RAI Number 5 was for submittal and approval of a biological monitoring plan, even though the DEP had previously agreed verbally that the biological monitoring plan could be taken care of before the start of construction, rather than having to be done earlier when conditions were not favorable. Dr. Gorham summarized the DEP had agreed to send their own staff down to make a site visit and see how the monitoring could be modified to be a little more workable. He specified the site visit was scheduled for April 20 and 21, 2006, and it was hoped the process could get moving quickly after that was done.

Sector 3 Design and Engineering Progress Report – Dr. Jonathan Gorham

Dr. Gorham stated the County had selected Coastal Technology, Inc. (Coastal Tech) to work on the design and permitting for Sector 3, which ran approximately from Orchid to John's Island, and they had come up with a pretty good scope of work that would take the County all the way up to permit issuance on the project. He continued the next thing we were expecting from Coastal Tech was a cost proposal and schedule, which would go to the BCC in the form of a work order to get them started.

Dr. Gorham explained part of the design services would be to look at the erosion rates and shoreline conditions in Sector 3, and decide how or if the boundaries should be moved. He noted the County's BPP, which pinpointed where the County's erosion was, where the vulnerable structures were located, and what was proposed to be done in terms of shoreline management, was getting rather old. Dr. Gorham stated the County had been working with Coastal Tech to update the BPP and would task them with updating the shoreline erosion analysis, which was last updated in 2001. He explained this would be put into the mix and we would see if the areas of erosion, stability and accretion in the County were moving, and if there were areas where erosion was getting worse or better.

Dr. Gorham explained this would enable the County to know where they should pursue a natural beach policy, identify places that would be appropriate for

a dune maintenance zone, and ascertain those sectors of the shoreline where we should be looking at large scale beach restoration. He added they would also be redrawing all the boundaries, based on updated shoreline conditions and vulnerability analysis. Dr. Gorham related the scope the County had with Coastal Tech would incorporate quite a bit of public input into the BPP through a series of planning charettes and the Beach Committee, and would also task Coastal Tech with looking at beach preservation funding options and recommendations.

Mr. Barney opined the BPP should be updated at least every five years because the shoreline was changing so radically.

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

Dr. Gorham explained Mr. Davis had a family emergency and could not be present today, so he would give the report for Mr. Davis. He announced all of the beach parks were open, except for periodic closures of Turtle Trail beach access as some of the last pieces of equipment for the John's Island project were mobilized and demobilized, but it was expected to be fully opened by this time next week. He confirmed Wabasso Beach Park was open as a public beach access, but it had not yet been rebuilt from the storms.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District Commission – Martin Smithson, Executive Director

Mr. Smithson stated the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District) was still negotiating with the state to try and swap out some property at the Sebastian Inlet (Inlet) for a disposal storage area. He indicated the idea was to dredge the Inlet and stockpile some good quality beach sand in order to work with the County on renourishment of the northern beaches. Mr. Smithson detailed The District was looking into the pros and cons of owning a dredge and had hired a consultant to come up with some facts and figures in this regard.

Mr. Smithson related they had a request in with the Coast Guard to put markers down through the middle of the Inlet to maintain a 30 mile per hour speed zone through the channel. He clarified right now the area was a Slow Speed Manatee Zone, but this had never been observed and The District was trying to alleviate the situation. He mentioned tomorrow they were shipping off to the DEP two three-inch binders full of information on the channel completion work, adding a lot of the information would help with future Inlet planning as it would help identify where the sand accumulated and where they could access sand deposits

Other Matters

Mt. Barney asked if there was enough sand in the borrow area for the County's future needs. Dr. Gorham responded we had enough for our 30-year planning horizon. He related Miami-Dade County was getting so desperate they were now looking at a shoal in offshore St. Lucie County to get some sand for their projects.

Mr. Sexton said he had heard the PEP reef was loaded with snook and wondered if that was true. Dr. Gorham related he had been out there a couple of weeks ago and noticed the PEP reef had almost disappeared in terms of being covered with sand, and he actually had to dig around to find it. He described a tremendous amount of sand had accreted up and over the reef to the point where just the tops were sticking out of the sand in front of Humiston Park.

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