

## **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, July 17, 2006, in the First Floor Conference Room "A" of the County Administration Building, 1840 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Bill Glynn, Ralph Sexton, David Barney, Bob Anderson and John Berrigan, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee; Mayor Nathan McCollum, City of Sebastian Appointee; Jason Nunememaker, Alternate for Mayor Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee; and Robert Tench, Town of Orchid Appointee.

Absent were Frederick Dillon, BCC Appointee; Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; Commissioner Liaison Art Neuberger; and Mayor Sarah Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; James Gray, Coastal Engineer; Rick Herren, Environmental Specialist, Public Works; and Victoria Phillips, Staff Assistant IV. Others present were Michael Walther, President, Coastal Technology Corp.; Beth Mitchell, Commissioner, and Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District; Don Dexter, City of Vero Beach; Ken Zeuner, John Brehmer, George O'Malley, Norm and Barb Lange, Joe Conlan, Sheryl Koenes, and Bill Johnson, Interested Citizens.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Glynn called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the May 15, 2006 Meeting**

**ON MOTION by Mayor White, SECONDED by Mr. Anderson, the Committee voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of May 15, 2006 as presented.**

### **Update on Sector 7 Restoration and Sectors 1 & 2 Renourishment – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resource Manager**

Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resource Manager, reported staff continued to lay the groundwork for the two projects, and had received the

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit on the Sector 7 restoration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) was now finalizing their permit. He continued construction easements from all the oceanfront property owners were about 90% complete, and the project was still on track with a November 1, 2006 completion date. Dr. Gorham noted since questions about biological monitoring continued to be the big tripping point for these projects insofar as permitting, a Biological Monitoring Plan had been established. He felt the organization of the Plan should clear up the last remaining issues on the federal and state side with regard to Sectors 1 and 2.

Chairman Glynn asked if Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company LLC (Great Lakes) had been contacted concerning the time schedule for the completion of the projects. Dr. Gorham responded the last e-mail received from them three weeks ago stated we were on their schedule for the upcoming dredge window. He said the contract specified they would start sometime after November 1, 2006, and finish before May 1, 2007, and Great Lakes recognized the fact they needed to build both projects sometime during that period.

Mayor White asked about the status of the appropriation from Congress to start the process of reevaluating the Sector 5 project. Dr. Gorham informed him he had a meeting with Marlowe and Company (Marlowe), our lobbyists, and the appropriation for the Corps to reauthorize the project did not make it to the House or the Senate because the process got started fairly late, despite the amount of letters and phone calls to the legislative aides. He said according to Marlowe, there was still a chance these bills could go through the Appropriations Committee; however, if that failed, the process to get them in next year's bills would begin in January 2007.

### **Sector 3 Beach Renourishment Scope and Schedule – Michael Walther, President, Coastal Technology Corp.**

Mr. Michael Walther, President, Coastal Technology Corp. (Coastal Tech), distributed the Sector 3 Design & Permitting – Project Schedule with Attachment 1, a copy of which is on file in the County Commission office.

Mr. Walther remarked a DEP and Corps permit would be required for the project, and the Corps permit would involve obtaining an environmental impact statement which could take about 18 months, once it was decided what needed to be done to initiate the process.

Mr. Walther believed if the plans lined up as well as expected, it would be possible to begin putting sand on the beach in Sector 3 by November 2008, which was an aggressive but doable schedule if everyone worked together and

advanced the formulation and permitting of the plan.

Mr. Tench asked if the main project in Sector 3 was just to bring the sand on the beach, or if it involved the dunes as well. Mr. Walther believed the original plan identified a dune maintenance program in the northern portion of Sector 3, and a beach renourishment project in the southern portion of Sector 3.

Mr. Sexton inquired where the north and south boundaries of Sector 3 were located now that they had been changed. Mr. Walther informed him they had not yet been formally changed, but the current thinking was, Sector 3 would begin on monument R-17, south of the Sector 2 project and extend down to R-46, which was near the south end of Sea Oaks. Mr. Sexton asked if it encompassed Wabasso Beach and the Disney Resort. Mr. Walther responded affirmatively.

Chairman Glynn asked for confirmation Mr. Walther would be coming back in August and making the other part of his presentation. Mr. Walther informed him those were his plans, which he would coordinate with him and County staff.

### **Jungle Trail Shoreline Stabilization Project – James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer**

Mr. James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer, stated about two months ago, IRC had contracted with Lucas Marine Construction to stabilize the western shoreline of Jungle Trail south of County Road 510. He indicated the shoreline had been stabilized with limestone boulders and subsequently revegetated with native grasses along the shoulders and some mangrove plantings. Mr. Gray noted the intent was to hide the rock riprap along the shoreline to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Mr. Gray reported the main goal of stabilization was to protect the unpaved roadway along Jungle Trail, and to-date, the project was substantially completed one month ahead of schedule and because less stone was required, it came in approximately \$8,000 under budget.

Mr. Gray mentioned the next step was to submit a Financial Reimbursement Request by September 1, 2006 to the Florida Inland Navigation District, who was cost-sharing 50% of the project costs. He reported the holdup now with final acceptance was the review of the as-built construction drawings, and since there was a 90-day warranty period on the vegetative plantings, staff would hold off until inspection of the plants was completed.

Chairman Glynn stated as a matter of information, he received a letter of resignation from Fred Dillon, who was stepping down because his business requirements were being expanded and he did not have the time to make the

meetings.

**2006 Sea Turtle Nesting Update for 2006 – Rick Herren**

Mr. Rick Herren, IRC Environmental Specialist, Public Works Department, reported he surveyed 8.5 miles of beach every day, seven days a week, and nesting of green turtles, leatherbacks and loggerheads had been down all across the board, which also seemed to be the case in other areas southeast of Florida.

Mr. Herren remarked he also documented fires, trucks, and other activities on the beach and would be submitting a report to Code and Law Enforcement regarding the violations taking place. He realized people did not understand they were not supposed to build big bonfires on the beach in the middle of nesting season.

Chairman Glynn asked if the lack of turtle nesting could be reasonably equated with the amount of erosion which had been taking place on the beaches. Mr. Herren responded contrary to what people might think, the majority of nesting in South County was in the most highly eroded Sector 7 area. He explained there presently existed 133 nests on the beach and most of them were loggerhead nests, some of which were in front of seawalls.

Mr. Herren noted turtles liked nesting in narrow moderately-sloped beaches, and the best nesting beaches in the State of Florida were located in Brevard County because the beach slopes were more attractive. He continued the City of Vero Beach had a lot less nesting which was attributed to many lights and buildings and the amount of people who went out at night to walk on the beach, which scared turtles off.

Mr. Tench asked if the downturn in the nesting was mainly attributable to people on the beach more than anything else. Mr. Herren informed him nesting over time fluctuated upon a lot of factors, and the best he could reply was to say ten years of data would be needed in order to look at trends. He pointed out just because it was a low leatherback nesting year did not mean next year there would be more. Mr. Herren added proportionately, loggerheads were the highest density abundant nesting turtle in the state and they had been going steadily down nesting-wise.

Mr. Herren remarked it appeared the beaches recovered from the hurricanes in a lot of areas, and there was a lot of turtle nesting in front of the seawalls. He went on to say the only problem was late season hurricanes or tropical storms would come and wash over those nests at the seawalls.

## **Discussion of Seawall Applications**

None

## **Status of County Beach Parks – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, for Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director**

Dr. Gorham mentioned design work was underway at the Wabasso Beach Park, which was the only park which would not open in its previous form as a result of the storms. He related Seagrape and Turtle Trails, which had been used by the dump trucks for the sand hauling projects, would be completely renovated and resurfaced by Friday, July 21, 2006.

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

Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District, reported four new larger and more visible buoys had been placed at the Sebastian Inlet (Inlet), so now there was a clearly marked channel through the Inlet. He noted the areas around the edges of the Inlet where people anchored up to fish were now in a slow speed zone.

Mr. Smithson explained the channel completion work had been submitted, and they were getting much closer to permitting. He indicated although it was a costly project, mitigation would be quite beneficial in protecting Pelican Island by growing seagrass to offset the damage which would occur by dredging the channel.

Mr. Smithson related they were working with the state park and expected a report this week on the geotechnical evaluation of the disposal area on the north side of the Inlet, which was about three acres. He announced the proposal was to move the disposal area slightly to the north to get away from the vegetative area so that it could be used to store material; therefore, he had been banking on the success of the monitoring program so that dredging could occur in November. Mr. Smithson concluded he would be submitting the application to the Corps on the long term channel dredging maintenance.

Chairman Glynn referred to the article in the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers dated July 16, 2006, a copy of which is on file in the County Commission Office. He asked Mr. Smithson to comment on the article entitled "Sebastian Inlet's south jetty may be extended".

Mr. Smithson mentioned the only thing he would be able to say was, it was

very premature, and the article should have read "Sebastian Inlet's south jetty may or may or may not be extended". He explained his discussion with the reporter dealt with the fact there were a lot of big projects and with escalating costs, he was concerned that by the time permits were obtained, there would be insufficient funds to complete them. Mr. Smithson continued they talked about some other things which were being evaluated, such as the extension of the south jetty.

Chairman Glynn remarked he hoped everyone would look deeply into it before the proposed extension went too far, because there was a group of experienced residents who would go to court if it ever came to fruition. Mr. Smithson informed him it would be one of the issues which would be looked into since many different components of sand transfer were being evaluated, as well as bypass and management.

Beth Mitchell, Commissioner, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District, mentioned she was pleased with the decision made on the millage rate and the fact it was reduced to 20% below rollback. She explained the reason for the reduction was because over the last two years, overt issues had been resolved, and felt it was time to give the taxpayers a break.

### **Chairman's Matters**

Chairman Glynn read a press release dealing with monies from the state legislature which had been awarded to the Treasure Coast area for beach restoration projects. He mentioned Indian River County would be receiving \$2,500,000 which would make up the shortfall on the projects which had already been permitted and ready for construction; therefore, IRC's funding was in place, as a result of Representative Stan Mayfield's efforts.

### **Other Matters**

Mr. Anderson commended Coastal Tech for making it easy for the members to evaluate the Sector 3 Design & Permitting Project. He believed it should be the standard going forward for whatever tasks everyone was working on.

Mr. Tench inquired if the charrette on the Sector 3 project was going to take place at a special meeting. Dr. Gorham informed him it had been originally envisioned there would be a couple of meetings, a public meeting and a Beach Committee meeting. Mr. Tench asked if the goal of the charrette was for Mr. Walther to provide a scope of what was being envisioned, as part of the project. Dr. Gorham informed him the purpose at the preliminary stage was to receive input from as many stakeholders as possible, including all the municipalities on

what everyone saw was needed in their particular section.

Chairman Glynn was certain Mr. Walther was cognizant of the fact this Committee had expressed serious interest about having the northern boundary of Sector 7 extended to make sure it incorporated the Town of Orchid. Mr. Gray said he had discussed this issue with Coastal Tech and had been looking at it as a possibility.

Bill Johnson, Sea Oaks, inquired if there were any plans to continue the Jungle Trail Stabilization Project. Mr. Gray responded the project took into account the worst case scenario and stabilized 150 feet of the roadway, but the area south of Sea Oaks had a significant mangrove population, which in a sense naturally stabilized the roadway to some degree. He added although it was close to the shoreline, there were more natural corrosion protection measures.

Mr. Gray summarized the mangroves which were planted in the pockets of the current project were the result of a permit condition by the Corps and the St. Johns River Water Management District to hide the rocks as much as possible and try to make it more natural. He indicated although there were no current restoration projects, it might be something which could be further explored with future funding.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.