

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 18, 2006, in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Bill Glynn, David Barney, Bob Anderson, John Berrigan and Cheryl Gerstner, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee; and Robert Tench, Town of Orchid Appointee.

Absent were Ralph Sexton, BCC Appointee; Council Member Nathan McCollum, City of Sebastian Appointee; Councilman Paul Johnson, Town of Orchid (all excused); Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; and Mayor Sarah Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee (both unexcused).

Also present were IRC staff: Commissioner Liaison Art Neuberger; Joseph A. Baird, County Administrator; Jason Brown, Management and Budget Director; Jim Davis, Public Works Director; James Gray, Coastal Engineer; and Terri Collins-Lister, Staff Assistant IV. Others present were Michael Walther, President, Coastal Technology Corporation (Coastal Tech); Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Don Dexter, City of Vero Beach; Henry Stephens, Press Journal; Sheryl Koenes, Disney's Vero Beach Resort; Kevin Sweeny, Legislative Assistant for Representative Stan Mayfield; Lawrence Brashears, George O'Malley, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order – Chairman Bill Glynn

Chairman Glynn called the meeting to order and noted Mayor White would like to share with the Committee, a video called "Saving our Beaches" by Sterling Building Specialists, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. The presentation entailed the concept of the HESCO Bastion Concertainer, a prefabricated, multi-cellular barrier protection system to protect beaches, land and buildings from coastal erosion and flooding.

Mayor White proposed Mr. James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer and Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager to look further into barrier protection for the dune restoration project. Mr. Gray stated he had a couple of contacts and but felt the concept may be a temporary structure and noted The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would be more accepting of the

project during a hurricane response under the Habitat Conservation Plan which allowed a temporary structure for ninety days. Chairman Glynn emphasized several factors would have to be considered such as weighing the costs, the DEP position, and whether it was something the County could use. He stated the main problem was getting enough beach for people to be able to use it. Chairman Glynn suggested having Sterling Building Specialists present the logic of this barrier protection system for IRC at the October 16, 2006 Beach meeting.

Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2006

Chairman Glynn indicated on Page 3, Paragraph 4 under Discussion of Appropriate Sector Boundaries and Beach Management/Erosion Control Objectives and Strategies by Sector should read:

“He remarked our beaches brought in approximately \$50,000,000 a year into the County’s economy, and the property the beaches bordered on the barrier islands represented 41% of all the advalorem taxes and without some type of replenished beach, there would be nothing to take their place.”

He also stated the change on Page 6, under Chairman’s Matters, the discussion of beach restoration should read:

“Jeanine Kenworthy, 1820 E. Pebble Path, Vero Beach, said she strongly supported the renourishment program and hoped to complete the plan soon.”

ON MOTION by Mr. White, SECONDED by Mr. Anderson, the Committee voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the meeting minutes of August 21, 2006 as amended.

Chairman Glynn introduced and welcomed Ms. Cheryl Gerstner to the Beach Committee. He stated Ms. Gerstner was a business person and very active in what was happening in IRC as well as the past President of South Beach Property Owners Association.

Status of Sectors 1 & 2 Renourishment and Sector 7 Restoration – James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer on behalf of Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager.

Mr. Gray stated the most critical remaining item necessary to receive a permit for Sectors 1 & 2 and the notice to proceed with Sector 7 was Biological

Monitoring. He reiterated the challenge with the monitoring was the requirement of a visual inspection of the near shore habitat. Mr. Gray indicated the permit of the monitoring plan specifies a visual inspection and no equipment could be used with the exception of the fathometer test; however he mentioned the test would not provide them with an idea of the characteristics of the reef. Chairman Glynn asked how long it would be before the monitoring could be completed. Mr. Gray summarized conditions were reported to the contractor performing the biological monitoring, Continental Shelf Associates daily. Mr. Gray pointed out the problem with completing the monitoring wasn't just specific to IRC, but regional. He indicated Brevard and St. Lucie Counties were having issues and told the committee he hoped for a couple of clear days so the monitoring could be completed.

A discussion ensued on the issues of beach projects on reef habitat.

Mr. Barney questioned how long would it take to perform the monitoring and how many clear days were needed. Mr. Gray responded the contractor would have to setup project controls both within and outside the project area and estimated one good week of clear monitoring. Mayor White was concerned what would happen if the monitoring was not completed before the dredging or the pumping of sand started. Mr. Gray responded other approaches would have to be pursued. Mr. Gray informed the committee there was a modification to the existing permit stating the monitoring must be done. He added Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, LLC (Great Lakes), the contractor performing the sand pumping, were ready to mobilize in November, 2006, and noted IRC was first on their schedule.

Ms. Gerstner inquired who decided on what was considered a clear day and acceptable monitoring. Mr. Gray replied there must be 6 to 8 feet of visibility to set up controls in order to get a characterization of the reef. The question was raised whether the visibility had to be over a period of a week or in succession. Mr. Gray responded no, the contractor could set the pins on one day and then come back another day. He noted there had been a couple of days of monitoring already performed.

Lawrence Brashears, 915 Ladybug Lane, Vero Beach told the committee he had been surfing on the south side over the Section 1 and 2 reef and observed the reef was 100% covered with sand and stated whatever was left of the hard bottom is dead and the turbidity in the water had increased dramatically. He concluded any little motion with all the silt from the sand pumping that had spread out to the farthest reefs could take years for the turbidity to go away.

Mr. Brashears reported he had been informed by a park ranger the turtle

count was down 40% this year. He felt there had been some backwashing of the sand from south to north, opposite from the normal north to south direction due to south swells which had a major impact on turtle nesting in the area.

Mr. Brashears asked for the committee's comments on the turbidity from the sand pumping on the south side which had not gone away and what was their opinion on when it might be subsided enough to get someone out to see that all the reefs were covered with sand. Chairman Glynn stated the same problem was north of the inlet and far beyond where the sand pumping would reach. He concluded turtle nesting for the entire area was down. Mr. Brashears detailed the turbidity in the water upsets marine creatures and they were unable to adapt. A discussion ensued in regards to sand pumping and the Artificial Surfing Reefs (ASR).

Mr. Gray reported on Sector 7 and stated it was the same as Sectors 1 and 2, however he noted there was a permit for Sector 7, but no notice to proceed and no permit for Sectors 1 and 2 or notice to proceed. Chairman Glynn inquired if there would be any type of monetary charge from Great Lakes if we are not allowed to go ahead with the contracts set up for the dredging. Mr. Gray stated he would contact Marian Fell, IRC Assistant County Attorney, but felt the way the contract was written there may be some alternatives.

Sector 3 Design and Sector 5 Federal Assistance Update – James Gray on behalf of Dr. Jonathan Gorham

Mr. Gray announced Mr. Michael Walther, Coastal Tech would update the Sector 3 design. Mr. Walther reported the Sector 3 design would follow the Beach Preservation Plan update and the details would be followed from the concept in strategies that were embraced for the Sector 3 project. He expected the work would get underway next month and noted in accordance with their schedule, they were formulating strategies informally with the County staff for all of the sectors. Mr. Walther mentioned there had been some informal discussions with state and federal regulatory agencies and he intended to bring forward a draft of the recommended plan for the committee's consideration at the October 16, 2006 meeting. He remarked the Sector 3 project would then move forward aggressively from that point.

Chairman Glynn asked Mr. Walther if he had made a decision on changing the northern boundary of Sector 3, as it had been previously discussed to change the northern boundary taking in the areas up to Sanderling. Mr. Walther responded in the affirmative, the recommendations were incorporated into the plan as stated.

Mr. Gray reported Sector 5 was not presented at the Senate Appropriation Committee in 2006 due to a late start; however, it was indicated IRC along with the lobbyist, Marlowe and Company, would have the appropriation to reauthorize Sector 5 ready for January, 2007. Mayor White told the committee that every county on the east coast of Florida had an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) project except IRC. Chairman Glynn led a discussion regarding the reason IRC did not have a Corps project. Mayor White raised the issue of Sector 5 being a federally designed beach and the Corps should automatically take on the project. Mayor White said he had met with individuals from the Corps and was advised they would help push the Sector 5 project through and have the design completed as soon as possible. Mr. Gray recommended having IRC's consultants design the Sector 5 project and have the Corp as a funding partner.

Chairman Glynn inquired if Congressman Weldon's office had been contacted in regards to obtaining federal funds for Sector 5 and suggested a resolution from the City of Vero Beach be sent to Congressman Weldon to see if he could help us obtain the lost federal funds from the past.

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

Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director, stated a preempt conference was held last week regarding Wabasso Beach Park, moving it on to design permitting and noted the site plan application was in. He reported Coastal Tech was working on the permitting to rebuild Wabasso Beach Park and all other IRC parks were opened to the public. He indicated Turtle and Seagrape trails had been resurfaced and was part of the completion of the dunes projects. Chairman Glynn inquired on the estimated date Wabasso Beach Park would be up and running and Mr. Davis suggested Mr. Walther update the committee on the status of Wabasso Beach Park. Mr. Walther replied they were waiting on a survey at this point to initiate the permit application, which should be around the first of 2007 if everything aligned with the permits. He remained optimistic the project should be under way in spring 2007.

Update on Projects for Sectors #1, 2, & 7 Funding – Jason Brown, IRC Director of Management and Budget, on behalf of Joseph Baird, IRC County Administrator.

Mr. Brown distributed a handout on the Beach Restoration Funding, which is on file in the County Commission office. He said the handout included the major projects for the Beach and Dune Restoration and reviewed the sources and uses of funds. Mr. Brown noted the total funding was about \$17,000,000 with a surplus of \$82,287 which included Sector 7. Mr. Brown told the committee State Representative Stan Mayfield assisted in a \$2.5 million legislative

appropriation which helped fund the beach projects. A discussion ensued regarding the budget and Mr. Brown reiterated the funds were available for Sectors 1, 2 and 7. Chairman Glynn commended Representative Stan Mayfield and Senator Ken Pruitt for their efforts in Tallahassee in acquiring those funds and the IRC staff for their work in getting the funds together.

Ms. Gestner asked whether there was a similar funding sheet available with the costs of rebuilding the parks that were damaged from the hurricanes. Mr. Davis stated for the County parks, part of the delay had been getting a resolution from the insurance company. He indicated between Federal Emergency Management Agency and the insurance company, the reimbursement amount was up to \$600,000 of the \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 for Wabasso Beach Park, not counting local sources. Ms. Gerstner inquired what would be the remaining amount and Mr. Davis concluded the County would have to come up with \$400,000 and would have a better idea of the costs once the final design was complete.

Committee Members Matters

Mr. Barney led a discussion on the Beach Preservation Plan and beach access. He stated that it seemed to be the state's point of view, the less impact on a beach, the better, and Sector 7 was acquired by switching the project to zero impact. Mr. Barney emphasized in the case of Sector 7, no state or federal funds were received because there was no beach access. He expressed finding those areas of critical erosion with an updated beach plan and recommended the BCC use the funds from the Land Acquisition Bond to obtain beach access. Mr. Barney pointed out getting state and federal agencies involved could alleviate some costs.

Chairman Glynn expressed sending a request to the BCC for a study to be done to identify possible areas for beach access. Mr. Walther indicated Coastal Tech was under contract with IRC to document all the known beach accesses within IRC as part of the plan update. He confirmed they would look at the potential of purchasing additional beach access in order to provide beach access where there was none, not only for the public's benefit but to provide a basis for increasing state and federal cost sharing. Mr. Walther mentioned the plan would be presented to the committee at the October 16, 2006 meeting.

A discussion ensued on whether county parks were considered access points.

Mr. Barney raised the question to Mr. Walther if the water quality monitoring would be part of the Beach Preservation Plan. Mr. Walther replied it

was indirectly, and added it must be demonstrated in the permitting process not to violate the state's water quality standards. He pointed out this did not entail water quality monitoring except to address turbidity issues in the normal and customary form associated with construction activities.

Mr. Barney expressed an interest in ways to reduce the impacts that the development on the beaches would have on the water quality and stated health advisories had been posted at Wabasso Beach Park, among others. He felt there should be something in the plan where the County required new construction to be hooked up to sewer or a high performance based septic system and require the septic system have a greater set back.

A discussion ensued regarding the water quality problem and what needed to be addressed.

Chairman Glynn felt the water quality issues were much more of a problem in the Indian River Lagoon than in the ocean and was something that would need to be looked at in the near future. He suggested taking a look at the lagoon water and starting to plan for improving and protecting the Indian River. A discussion ensued on the City of Vero Beach's active plan to convert septic systems to sewer.

Chairman Glynn asked Mr. Gray if the restoration of Jungle Trail had been completed and Mr. Gray responded in the affirmative.

Other Matters

Mr. Gray gave an update on the 2006 Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association Conference (FSBPA) held September 13 - 15, 2006 and reported Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resource Manager, had been elected to the FSBPA Board of Directors. He reported IRC had been a selected county to be evaluated on property values of nourished beaches versus non-nourished beaches.

Mr. Brashears questioned the \$2,364,697 amount in the Beach Restoration Funding Balance. Mr. Gray responded it was from an amount in the current Beach Preservation Plan account resulting from an accumulation of taxes and revenue. Chairman Glynn explained the amount came from a percentage of tourist development tax and the seven-cent sales tax. A discussion followed.

Mayor White informed the committee he had looked into the ASRs and stated the west coast of Florida was using Geotiles which were performing well in the Gulf of Mexico. He added they were being presently experimented with on

the wave action on the east coast and it was not known if it would work. Mr. Brashears remarked he was trying to obtain a piece of the material and was told Geotiles somehow released oxygen under water that was very susceptible to marine growth. Chairman Glynn stated they were made of a very strong material and it would not come apart if scraped by a boat. A discussion followed.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District Commission

Mr. Barney asked Mr. Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Tax District, since Sectors 1 and 2 may be held up due to monitoring if The District would be obligated to dredge the trap this year. Mr. Smithson replied the issue would delay them as well, and The District had met with the federal government concerning this matter. He stated an application had been submitted to the Corps for long term dredging and had expressed that come November, 2006, someone had to put sand on the beach, but pointed out the dire situation for the trap to be dredged.

Mr. Barney wanted to know the estimate of the dredge; Mr. Smithson explained a buffer had been set because of the fear of getting into the soft coquina rock so the volume taken out would be about 105,000 cubic yards where in the past 200,000 cubic yards were removed including chunks of rock. Mr. Smithson stated there are more focuses on the quality of the material on the beach, so the engineer drew a protection elevation to avoid rock. He felt through discussions with the National Fisheries Research Institute, they would like to see more frequent smaller projects in order to minimize the impacts on the reef.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.