

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, November 20, 2006, in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

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

Absent were Commissioner Liaison Arthur R. Neuberger; Council Member Nathan McCollum, City of Sebastian Appointee; Councilman Paul Johnson, Town of Orchid Appointee; Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; and Mayor Sarah Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; and Terri Collins-Lister, Staff Assistant IV. Others present were Julia Thompson, Coastal Technology Corporation (Coastal Tech); Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Rob Bolton, Manager of Planning, Engineering and Support Operations, Sharon Penrose, Management Analyst, and Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, Public Works Department, City of Vero Beach; Henry Stephens, Press Journal; Sheryl Koenes, Disney's Vero Beach Resort; Lawrence Brashears, Norm Lange, John Burns, and Bill Johnson, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order – Chairman Bill Glynn

Chairman Glynn called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes of October 16, 2006

ON MOTION BY Mayor White, SECONDED BY Mr. Anderson, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of October 16, 2006 as presented.

Update on the Status of Sectors 1, 2 & 7 Beach Restoration – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources Manager

Dr. Gorham reported Sector 7 Underwater Biological Monitoring had been

completed and the DVD of the Biological Monitoring was submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems in Tallahassee for review. He stated the County could revisit the monitoring sites again, depending on the feedback from Tallahassee. He noted Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, LLC (Great Lakes) would submit a list of items required under contract for the County's review prior to issuing Great Lakes the notice to proceed with the dredging. He concluded the dredging was on schedule for a start date of January 1, 2007.

Dr. Gorham indicated during the dredge season, the County was looking at a limited renourishment on Sectors 1 and 2. He remarked as soon as the Sector 7 Underwater Biological Monitoring was completed, the attention shifted to Sectors 1 and 2 Biological Monitoring. He indicated 90% of the Underwater Biological Monitoring was completed for Sectors 1 and 2, and the only task remaining was delineating the hard bottom edge which should take up to one day in the field. He mentioned there was an unusual last minute twist on Sectors 1 and 2, when finalizing the permits with the DEP. Dr. Gorham stated the DEP had asked the County to consider expanding the project area down to R17, which were the southern limits of the original Sectors 1 and 2 project. He related on November 14, 2006, that he and the Management Engineers from Applied Technology went to Tallahassee to present what the revised project design for Sectors 1 and 2 would look like and the DEP accepted the design. He concluded the application was deemed complete and the County should receive the draft permit for Sectors 1 and 2 by November 23, 2006.

Dr. Gorham expected that Sectors 1 and 2 would go to construction immediately following Great Lakes completion of the Sector 7 segment. Mr. Barney asked how long it would take to complete Sector 7. Dr. Gorham replied it was weather dependent, but was looking at somewhere between 45 to 60 days. Mr. Barney asked if the project would be completed before the 2007 turtle season. Dr. Gorham responded the project should be completed prior to the turtle season.

The City of Vero Beach's position on the Waste Facility – Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach

Mayor White told the committee there had been a lot of talk about the City of Vero Beach's Shore Plan and what the City was planning on doing. He asked Rob Bolton, Manager of Planning, Engineering and Support Operations, City of Vero Beach, to give a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office, to the committee on the City of Vero Beach's plan for the waste facility.

Mr. Bolton summarized the City of Vero Beach started talking about the relocation of the waste facility and septic tank issues after the Sustainable Treasure Coast Report was finalized. The report mentioned promoting septic tank inversions in sensitive areas and to promote regulations of wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), regionalization, and to look at moving wastewater treatment plants away from the Indian River Lagoon area. He pointed out another issue was the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Draft that was released, and in the TMDL study it talked about the pollutants and the different allowable loads for nitrogen and phosphorus. Mr. Bolton mentioned one of the main concerns from the Sustainable Treasure Coast Report was what would happen if there was a category 4 or 5 storm and how it would affect the Indian River Lagoon and the surrounding community if the WWTP was shut down.

Mr. Bolton summarized four WWTP options; one option was to do nothing, the second option would be to harden the existing WWTP, the third option was to relocate the WWTP to higher ground, and the final option was collaboration with Indian River County Utilities. He mentioned to convert the existing 1,477 septic tanks to municipal sewer was approximately \$22,155,000. He discussed the state and federal funding opportunities request for the Septic Tank Replacement Program.

Mayor White asked Mr. Bolton to explain what was being discharged into the Indian River Lagoon. Mr. Bolton explained excess reused water was being discharged into the Indian River Lagoon, and informed the committee the discharged water had been treated through secondary treatment, chlorinated and stored in tanks. He detailed the reused water was the irrigation water being used on the island. He outlined the final step of chlorination prior to pumping to those tanks, adding if there were no customers using the reused water it would then be discharged to the river after it was dechlorinated. He emphasized no raw sewage had been discharged into the Indian River Lagoon.

Mr. Barney asked if phosphorus and nitrogen were removed from the reused water before being discharged into the Indian River Lagoon. Mr. Bolton replied the average amount of nitrogen permitted to be discharged was 45,000 pounds (lbs) and the City of Vero Beach only discharged under 10,000 lbs of nitrogen. A discussion ensued on the TMDL becoming more stringent with the amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus being discharged, and Mr. Bolton noted there was a study being done over the next 75 days to look at the key issues and identifying some of the future regulatory changes that may occur.

Mr. Lawrence Brashears, 915 Ladybug Lane, Vero Beach brought up the issue of 83% of the pollutant coming into the Indian River Lagoon was from the canals and wondered if it was possible to treat the storm water or canal water,

reduce the sediment runoff and clean the Indian River Lagoon. Mr. Bolton replied the most recent St. Johns Water Management District report stated that this year the sea grasses were growing better than ever, and indicated one of the reasons was due to the recent hurricanes.

Mr. Brashears questioned what would happen if a major hurricane occurred and the runoff from the WWTP would go into the river and eventually into the Atlantic Ocean. He felt it would be easier to cleanup the Indian River Lagoon, then if the WWTP was moved out to the west where there was not a place to runoff. He wondered how the spill could be cleaned up and would it affect the water in a deep ejection well. Mr. Bolton replied in the affirmative that it would be hard to clean up the spill unless there was some type of impoundment area designed. Mr. Brashears inquired if a deep water injection well would rise up and pollute the drinking water. Mr. Bolton responded the deep water injection wells were underground about 3,000 feet and were mechanical integrity tested every two years to make sure they were not leaking back up into the aquifer. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Barney asked Mayor White what was the City of Vero Beach's position on the relocation of the WWTP. Mayor White replied the City of Vero Beach had authorized for consultants to look into the relocation of the WWTP.

Mayor White explained to the committee whether it was decided to collaborate with the County or relocate the WWTP, it would take seven or eight years for the process. He expressed in the meantime, the City of Vero Beach had started a program to beautify and harden the WWTP structure. He emphasized the need to make sure the funding was available, because of the slowdown of the economy and real estate market, not as much funding may be available as in the past year, according to the state. A discussion followed regarding the WWTP and collaboration with the County.

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

Mr. Davis informed the committee of the Stormwater Initiative and reported the County was out to bid for an Algal Turf Scrubber for the Stormwater Treatment Program. He pointed out the County had a 40 acre site located at 74th Avenue in Vero Beach and were converting this site to a stormwater park to treat the stormwater from the 55,000 acre Indian River Farms Water Control District watershed to remove the nitrogen and phosphorus through the Algal Turf Scrubber. He explained the Algal Turf Scrubber was an algae growing membrane that about 10,000,000 to 20,000,000 gallons a day of stormwater would be cast over the membrane to remove nitrogen. He indicated the technology was used in the Everglades National Park cleanup and noted the

County had received \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 in grants to build the Algal Turf Scrubber.

Mr. Davis told the committee the County had also built the tilting flood control gates that tilt from the top down on the Indian River Farms Main Canal and the South Relief Canal. He concurred the tilting gates would allow the retention of much of the silt than the radio gates that opened from the bottom up. He pointed out the County was looking at doing some additional treatment in the main canal and the North and South Relief Canals to clean up the nitrogen and phosphorus. He indicated the County had been proactive in the Stormwater Initiative for the last five to six years. He mentioned the County built the Gifford, Roseland, and the Vero Lake Estates Treatment Ponds, as well as several other projects.

Mr. Davis summarized on the status of the Wabasso Beach Park and reported the survey work by Morgan & Eklund, Inc. had been completed. He noted the information was given to Coastal Tech and the permit application would be submitted to the DEP for the Coastal Construction Permit. He detailed the architect was working on the drawings and the project would be out to bid as soon as the County received the permits, around January 2007, to restore the park.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District Commission – Mr. Marty Smithson, Administrator, The District

Mr. Marty Smithson stated The District was extremely pleased with the news of Dr. Gorham's meeting in Tallahassee. He indicated The District's Commissioners authorized a single source agreement with the contractor, Subaqueous Services, Inc., to dredge the sand trap.

Mr. Smithson reported as part of The District's mitigation reform for the channel extension, The District's Commissioners authorized contributing up to \$1,000,000 to the County for the main relief canal stormwater treatment project.

Committee Members Matters

Mr. Barney announced an organization meeting on November 20, 2006 at 7 p.m. for the Local Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation at the Merrill Lynch Building and invited members of the Beach committee to attend.

Chairman Glynn remarked that Mr. Michael Walther, Coastal Tech, was scheduled to attend the November 20, 2006 Beach Meeting with an updated plan on Sector 3 and asked Dr. Gorham for input on the plan. Dr. Gorham stated

there was a pre-application conference in Tallahassee on November 15, 2006 with the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He noted the pre-application conference was the first step before Coastal Tech could come before the committee with a recommended design to take to permitting. He told the committee the purpose of the pre-application conferences was to get an early start with the regulatory agencies to obtain feedback on what additional data was needed to be generated for the permit application. He reported the conclusion from that meeting was there was enough current information to initiate the permit applications, however, more data on the hard bottom communities would be needed early in the review process. Dr. Gorham indicated Coastal Tech was working on the preliminary design evaluations and anticipated submitting joint Coastal Permit Applications in January, 2007.

Dr. Gorham provided the committee with a brief annual report from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office, and felt the report had some interesting projections for what they perceived as the big issues for the coming year.

Chairman's Matters

Chairman Glynn regretted to announce Mr. Ralph Sexton had resigned from the Beach Committee and stated he has been very instrumental to the committee.

Adjournment

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