

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, December 18, 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, Robert J. Lindsey and John Berrigan, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Councilman Paul Johnson, Town of Orchid Appointee; Councilman William Ahrens, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee; Andrea Coy, Alternate City of Sebastian Appointee and Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee.

Absent were Council Member Nathan McCollum, City of Sebastian Appointee (excused) and Mayor Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere Appointee (unexcused).

Also present were IRC staff: Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan, Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; James Gray, Coastal Engineer; and Terri Collins-Lister, Staff Assistant IV. Others present were Julia Thompson and Walker Dawson, Coastal Technology Corporation (Coastal Tech); Beth Mitchell, Commissioner and Marty Smithson, Administrator, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Sheryl Koenes, Disney's Vero Beach Resort; Norm Lange and John Burns, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order – Chairman Bill Glynn

Chairman Glynn called the meeting to order and welcomed Commissioner Peter O'Bryan, Andrea Coy, and Robert Lindsey to the Beach Committee.

Approval of the Minutes of November 20, 2006

ON MOTION BY Mayor White, SECONDED BY Mr. Anderson, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to approve the minutes of November 20, 2006 as presented.

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

Dr. Gorham gave an update on the Sectors 1, 2 and 7 Beach restoration segments currently under contract with Great Lakes Dock and Dredge, Inc. (Great Lakes) and were awaiting final permit authorizations in order to start the projects within the marine turtle construction window of November 1, 2006 through May 1, 2007.

Dr. Gorham reported on Sector 7 and noted the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has accepted the Biological Monitoring Data as sufficient for the issuance of the notice to proceed. He indicated the engineering consultant, Applied Technology and Management (ATM) was working on drafting a limited notice to proceed for Great Lakes, so they could commit to their schedule and start mobilizing the major pieces of equipment in place. He informed the committee, a full issue to proceed would follow after the pre-construction conference on January 4, 2007.

Dr. Gorham explained there was 90% of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding available to replace the losses in the Sectors 1 and 2 project and for two years the County had been working on getting a modification of the existing permit to allow for additional sand to be placed at those sectors. He informed the committee, the issuance of the draft permit for Sectors 1 and 2 was promised by the DEP before the end of November, 2006, however just recently the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems in Tallahassee had called ATM to inform them the sand trap was located within an aquatic preserve. He remarked that special variances would be required for the dredging and the County would need to apply for the variances, since they were not in place. A discussion ensued and Dr. Gorham stated he would keep the committee updated as more information became available. Mr. Marty Smithson, Administrator, The District, stated they were surprised of Dr. Gorham's news of the aquatic preserve; however this would not affect the channel dredging at the Sebastian Inlet.

Dr. Gorham stated Coastal Tech was working with the County to design and permit the Sector 3 project. He mentioned there was a pre-application conference with the DEP on November 15, 2006 to let them get a first look at the plan and to find out what their concerns were. He pointed out the next step was to submit a joint coastal permit application by the end of January, 2007 and was looking at conducting the biological study and preparing the environmental impact statement by the summer, 2007 with a target date for construction of November, 2008. He confirmed Michael Walther from Coastal Tech would give the committee a first look of the Sector 3 Project design at the January 15, 2007

Beach meeting. A discussion ensued on the Sector 3 boundaries.

Mayor White asked if the process had begun for the funding of the Sector 5 project. Dr. Gorham responded in the affirmative and stated the County had retained, the lobbyist, Marlowe and Company, to attempt to get federal authorization in the 109th Congress and was not able to get the funding for Sector 5 in the Water Resources Development Act Bill; however it did not matter since the 109th Congress did not pass the Water Resources Development Act Bill. He detailed Marlowe and Company were currently working with the 110th Congress, which would convene in January, 2007 to get it in their appropriations. Dr. Gorham informed the committee, the County has had conversations with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Corp) Planning Staff and they had agreed to start negotiating these project collaboration agreements in advance of the actual federal authorization. The Corp's Planning Staff felt the earliest date for the construction to begin for Sector 5 would be November, 2011.

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

Mr. Davis reported the County had applied for the DEP permits to reconstruct Wabasso Beach Park and had met with Sheryl Koenes, Manager, Disney Vero Resort, to update her on the final design and permitting. He stated the Disney Vero Resort had an interest in keeping the northern part of the Wabasso Beach Park open for sand nourishment. He mentioned the architects, Donadio and Associates and Coastal Tech Engineers were finalizing the working drawings for Wabasso Beach Park and as soon as the County obtains the DEP permits the project would go to bid in March, 2007 to reconstruct the park. A discussion ensued regarding construction at Wabasso Beach Park during turtle season.

Mr. Davis mentioned the County had obtained permits to extend the boardwalks along Golden Sands and Treasure Shores Parks due to the escarpments.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District Commission

Mr. Smithson briefly discussed the news from Dr. Gorham on Sector 1 and 2. Chairman Glynn pointed out an article in the Press Journal regarding The District's dredging for the connecting inlet in the spring and asked whether they would run into a turtle problem during the dredging. Mr. Smithson replied no because of two reasons; one being the dredging would take place in the Indian River Lagoon, so it was not in the nesting area. The other reason was the discharge of that material was not beach quality, but layers of finer mucky type materials in dredging the channel extension which would go into the disposal

area at the St. John's Water Management District that was use for the Sebastian River muck dredging.

Mr. Smithson mentioned there was an inter-local agreement between The District and the County on the December 19, 2006, BCC meeting agenda. The agreement states The District was to cooperate in providing cost share money of \$750,000 toward the construction of the main relief canal storm water project and The District would receive a credit towards mitigation. He explained the main relief canal storm water project was a great project and would remove a lot of the pollutants flowing to the Indian River Lagoon. He continued another mitigation requirement was to repair the prop scars on the grass beds, set up protection zones and were looking at establishing combustion engines exclusion zones.

Ms. Beth Mitchell, Commissioner, The District, indicated a state of the art web cam was installed at the Sebastian Inlet State Park and could be accessed via the website, www.sebastianinletcam.com. A discussion ensued on the webcam.

Ms. Mitchell reiterated it may be too soon to determine what action needed to be taken with Sectors 1 and 2 and The District would continue to monitor and assist with whatever they could. Chairman Glynn thanked The District for their cooperation and the effort being brought forth by The District's Commission at the Sebastian Inlet.

Chairman's Matters

Chairman Glynn wished everybody a Happy Holiday and New Year and thanked the Beach committee for their help and efforts this year.

Other Matters

Dr. Gorham gave a Power Point Presentation of the highlights in the Beach Preservation Plan (BPP) Draft, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He stated as the committee moves forward with the BPP draft, the final draft would be presented to the BCC for the approval and adoption as IRC Beach Management Strategy.

Dr. Gorham gave a summary of the presentation which included a shoreline change analysis, erosion projections, recommended changes to the beach management sector boundaries, engineer's cost estimates for all the various sectors up to the next 30 years and discussions of existing and potential funding sources. He emphasized 70% of IRC Coastline was considered by the State of Florida as critically eroded.

Dr. Gorham pointed out in the BPP Draft; it was being looked at subdividing Sector 1 into Sectors 1A and 1B. He referred to Sector 1B which included the majority of the Sebastian Inlet State Park Territory and the recommend strategy was a sand transfer renourishment with beach restoration and dune maintenance projects in alignment with The District. He reviewed Sector 2 and the recommendation was to shorten the southern boundary slightly to T17 to conform to the area restored in the year 2003 to include a sand transfer renourishment with beach restoration to continue to maintain that restored beach. He detailed in Sector 3, the proposed new boundaries were extended 1000 feet to the south instead of terminating at R45 and were separated into two different beach management strategies, one being at the northern portion from T17 south end of Ambersands down to the Town of Orchid Island was proposed for dune maintenance including sand transfer.

Dr. Gorham continued with Sector 3B from the Town of Orchid down to the northern portion of Indian River Shores where there had been progressive erosion and shoreline and dune retreat. He indicated the County was proposing a beach restoration project and told the committee at the January Beach meeting; Mr. Walther would present a design for beach restoration with a sand retention structure.

Dr. Gorham went over Sector 4 boundaries in the revised BPP and noted it was shortened due to little volumetric loss and very little shoreline retreat. He indicated Sector 5 within the City of Vero Beach remained unchanged from the current BPP and Sector 6 was a natural beach area. He pointed out the boundaries in Sector 7 had been adjusted slightly and the proposed sector boundaries conform to the limits of the beach restoration. He maintained that Sector 8 remained stable and the revised would increase the boundaries to keep a natural beach strategy.

Dr. Gorham emphasized the importance of updating the total and annual costs of the implementation of the proposed recommendations in the revised BPP draft due to the increase in construction and regulatory costs. He found it very interesting in the BPP draft, an analysis of how the sector boundaries fit in with the state's cost sharing plan under the Beach Erosion Control Program. He explained the program required the location to be critically eroded and must contain public access within the beach sector. He mentioned a number of funding sources including state and federal funding, but in particular the local funding options that the County could consider to pay for the implementation of BPP. He stated the final draft of the BPP would contain a recommended funding strategy to cover the estimated implementation costs.

Dr. Gorham advised a draft of the BPP would be posted on the IRC

website and to refer any comments to Mr. Walther at Coastal Tech at the address provided or via e-mail.

Mr. Anderson inquired if there was anything in the BPP regarding the value of the property because the ocean had moved almost to the river over a thirty year period and what was the value of those properties if nothing was done to protect the property and to justify the project by the money lost in property taxes. Dr. Gorham replied, he had not seen a benefit analysis and it was part of a special federal permitting to demonstrate the benefits of the proposed projects. The committee agreed a cost analysis should be part of the BPP. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Norm Lange, 8880 Sea Oaks Way, Vero Beach, wanted to know the timeline in which the BPP draft would become final. Dr. Gorham felt the County was half way through the process and the final stage would be the submittal to the BCC for approval and estimated sometime late spring or early summer.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.