

BEACH AND SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (Beach) held a Special Call Meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2009, in the County Administration Building, Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2009.

Present were Chairman Bill Glynn, Robert Lindsey, Cheryl Gerstner, and Bob Anderson, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Vice Mayor Tom White, City of Vero Beach Appointee; Councilmember Joel Tyson, City of Fellsmere Appointee; Councilmember Dale Simchick, City of Sebastian Appointee; Robert Tench, Alternate, Town of Orchid Appointee; and Councilmember Mike Ochsner, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee.

Absent were David Barney and Stephen Krasco, BCC Appointees and Councilmember Paul Johnson, Town of Orchid Appointee (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan; Mike Zito, Assistant County Administrator; Jim Davis, Public Works Director; Chris Mora, Public Works Assistant Director; Dr. Jonathan Gorham, Coastal Resource Manager; James Gray, Coastal Engineer; and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4.

Others present were Councilmember Bill Troxell, Town of Orchid; Marty Smithson, Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (The District); Don Dexter, City of Vero Beach; Sheryl Koenes, Disney's Vero Beach Resort; Steve Boehning, Coastal Waterways; Peter Young, John's Island Properties; Ann Bolduc, Senator Joe Negron's Office; Chuck Cramer, Fischer & Sons; Bob Schafer and Fred Walton, Ranger Construction; Nick Stewart, Stewart Mining, Steve Smith, Ranch Road Sand Mine; Michael Walther and Tem Fontaine, Coastal Technology, Inc.; and Bill Stoddard, Marianne Manning, Doug Distl, Bob Bruce, Peter Fallon, Chris Hendricks, Ernest Thomas, Gayle LeGore, Janyne Kenworthy, Barbara Lange, Carol and Philip Glade, Lee and Donna Cockey, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order

Chairman Bill Glynn called the meeting to order.

Sector 3 Beach Restoration Project Construction Contract Award – Dr. Jonathan Gorham, IRC Coastal Resources

Dr. Gorham indicated the construction contract award for the Sector 3 Beach Restoration Project was on the BCC agenda for the September 8, 2009 meeting. He discussed the evaluations of the various bids and proposed sand fill sources to be provided under the bid. He pointed out the Sector 3 Bid process had been unique because of both upland and offshore contractors with different sand sources were being considered in the same process for the same project.

Dr. Gorham gave a recap of the Sector 3 bid process and reviewed the information in the PowerPoint Presentation, Sector 3 Bid Beach & Dune Restoration Project Update, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Michael Walther, Coastal Technology, to present the results of the evaluation conducted under the ranking criteria contained in the bid documents.

Mr. Walther reviewed the information in his memorandum regarding the Sector 3 Beach and Dune Restoration Project – Application of Ranking Criteria, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He went over the proposed sand fill versus the native beach sand and the renourishment interval in years.

Dr. Gorham detailed the permitting process and timeline for the Sector 3 Beach Project as well as outlined the permit modification process if an upland sand source was awarded. He gave an overview of the funding for the Sector 3 and stated there was no state cost sharing commitment for this year, but the Federal Department of Environmental Protection agreed that the project qualified for 50% state cost sharing. He added under the rules of the state cost sharing program, the County may opt to construct a project using its own funds and had up to three (3) years to seek reimbursement. He concluded The District has committed to providing \$4.68 million towards the local share of the Sector 3 construction costs. He indicated if the County was successful in securing state cost sharing reimbursement in combination with the \$4.68 million from The District, a project costing up to \$9.36 million could be constructed at no net cost to the County.

Dr. Gorham concluded in considering the factors such as permit timing, funding, evaluation of the various bidder's materials, there were many factors other than bid prices to be considered in the award of the contract and the following alternatives would be presented to the BCC for their consideration:

1. If the project construction with completion this year between November 1,

2009 and May 1, 2010 was determined by the BCC to be the overriding factor in their decision, staff's recommendation was to award the contract to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company (Great Lakes) under their base bid of \$8,938,566.

2. If economics and the maximization of potential economic stimulus to the local economy was the overriding factor in the BCC decision, staff's recommendation was to award the contract to Stormwater and Underground under their alternate bid of \$8,548,746.42 for construction between November 1, 2010 and May 1, 2011.
3. The BCC may consider awarding the contract to Stormwater and Underground under their base bid of \$7,680,022.42 for construction between November 1, 2009 and May 1, 2010.

Among the issues raised, it was felt there was a lack of consideration to the fact that the offshore sources could be run 24 hours a day without impacts to the roads and traffic. Dr. Gorham stated that was another factor the BCC might want to weigh in their overall decision. He added staff had prepared some analysis of the expected amount of traffic during the construction. Another concern raised was the performance of upland sand compared to native sand. Mr. Walter stated with all of the upland sand suppliers, the quality of sand in the ground was not as good as the quality of sand they proposed to provide. He added the upland sand supplier would need to process their sand through various mechanisms to produce quality beach compatible sand.

Councilmember Simchick felt the committee had no authority to make a recommendation of any of the bidders for the Sector 3 Beach Project to the BCC. She stated if there was a vote for a recommendation, she would abstain from voting.

A discussion ensued on the permitting and the criteria in the evaluations of the bidders for the Sector 3 Beach Project. Dr. Gorham noted as part of the County's evaluation, each of the bidders submitted examples of similar projects they had constructed in the last five years, references, and information on the capacities of their physical plants.

A question was raised which bid, the alternate or base would apply if an upland sand source was awarded the bid and the permits were in place to begin construction this year, but were unable to complete the project. Dr. Gorham stated if the County were to award under the base bid, then the base bid would apply. He added if the County then would suspend construction after the May 1,

2010 deadline and would remobilize the next year, the contractor would be due consideration of a change order for remobilization mostly likely under the terms of their alternate bid for the balance of the material.

Dr. Peter Fallon, Ambersand Beach, asked why would the County need to go through the process of modifying the permit if there were no distinguishable significant difference between the offshore sand source and the upland sand source after processing. Mr. Walther opined the County had to give the State assurance that the mining process would yield the equivalent sand.

Ms. Gayle LeGore, Baytree Resident, wondered if the offshore contractors in the past had spent money in the County for supplies, restaurants, hotels, etc. Dr. Gorham replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Steve Smith stated Stormwater Underground sand source mine site was neither an active ongoing mining operation nor had the capability to perform the Sector 3 project. A discussion followed on the Stormwater Underground's upland sand source credentials.

A lengthy discussion ensued on whether the Beach committee should make a recommendation for the bid award for the Sector 3 Beach Project. Vice Mayor White and Councilmember Simchick felt the committee did not have the expertise or the information to make a recommendation for the bid award. Commission Liaison O'Bryan advised the committee to make a recommendation on their highest priority for the Sector 3 Beach Project. He continued the committee's highest priority meaning to complete the Sector 3 Beach Project this upcoming season or the economics of using an upland sand source.

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Ochsner, SECONDED Vice Mayor White, the members voted (7-2) to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that the time factor for the completion of the Sector 3 Beach Restoration Project in the year 2009/2010 be the priority when awarding the bid contract. Councilmember Simchick and Mr. Lindsey opposed.

A question was raised concerning the quality control to assure that the material from an offshore sand source met the mean grain size material and would there be in place the same quality control levels as an upland sand source. Dr. Gorham replied in either the upland or offshore sand source, quality control and quality assurance would be incorporated in the permits issued for the project.

Commissioner Liaison O'Bryan agreed that the timeline for the completion of the Sector 3 Beach Project was critical with the remaining hurricane season and the damage done by nor'easters during the winter months. He pointed out the Sector 3 bid process had been a good learning experience for all involved and recognized the fact that with the upland sand sources bidding in the Sector 3 Beach Project was a big factor in the lower bids from the offshore sand sources. He thanked all of the upland sand sources, The District and staff for all of their work with the Sector 3 Beach Project.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.