

BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (Beach) met at 3:00 p.m. on **Monday, April 18, 2016**, 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/2016.

Present were:

Mike Ochsner, Chairman, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee Councilman

David Barney, BCC Appointee

William Ferrell, Board of County Commission Appointee

Christian Hendricks, BCC Appointee

Richard Winger, City of Vero Beach Appointee

Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointees

Howard Thrailkill, Town of Orchid Appointee

Joel Tyson, City of Fellsmere Appointee

Members Absent:

Bob Anderson, BCC Appointee

Mark Tripson, BCC Appointee

Richard Gillmor, City of Sebastian Appointee

Commissioner Tim Zorc, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

IRC staff present were:

James Gray, Coastal Engineer

Kendra Cope, Environmental Specialist

Kate Cotner, Assistant County Attorney

Lisa Hill, Commissioner Assistant, Transcribing Secretary

Others present were:

None

Call to Order

Chairman Ochsner called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2016

ON MOTION BY Mr. Thrailkill, SECONDED BY Mr. Tyson, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of March 21, 2016 as presented.

Presentation by Patty Goffinet on Blue Tube Program, a beach cleaning product

Ms. Goffinet presented a PowerPoint presentation, which is on file in the Board of County Commission Office, on the effects of plastics and other trash on marine mammals, fish and birds. This causes many health issues in these creatures, which is then, in turn, affects humans who eat and interact with them. Ms. Goffinet stated that there are specific studies on plastics and how they are broken down into smaller pieces. She stated that by taking the effort to clean up the beaches, it eliminates at least some of the plastics and other trash

entering the waterways. She is promoting a way to help beachgoers to more easily pick up trash through the Blue Tube initiative. The program provides a blue box of bags at beach access points which people can use to clean up along the beach. The bags are then put into recycling or trash bins, eliminating those items from getting into the ocean. The program uses volunteers to replenish and check on the supplies in the Blue Tubes. Ms. Goffinet stated that she would like to start this program in Indian River County along the beaches. She advised that it would be necessary to obtain permission from all of the different jurisdictions and homeowners associations. Ms. Goffinet stated that the tubes can be sponsored by different businesses, individuals or cities at a cost of \$120 per year per tube.

Ms. Cope stated that this program and the cleaning up of the beaches could be incorporated into the educational programs for sea turtles.

The Committee discussed whether there were statistics available on the amount of trash that has been collected and how successful the program has been in other jurisdictions. Ms. Goffinet stated that she believes the program has been very successful and that there are currently 60 Blue Tube sites so far, but it is difficult to get quantitative data.

Coastal Engineering Division Updates - James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer

Mr. Gray handed out a printed copy of his report, which is on file in the Commission office. The Committee was briefed on the following items:

A. Update on 2016 Sea Turtle Season

Kendra Cope, Environmental Specialist, advised that there have been nine Leatherback turtle nests so far in the 2016 season and two Loggerheads. She anticipates that more turtles will be coming to nest as the season progresses. Ms. Cope advised that she has one more 5th grade class presentation for the current year. Ms. Cope reiterated the stranding number 1-888-404-FWCC (3922), which not only assists with stranded sea turtles, but also other animals and marine wildlife.

B. Update on 2016 Lionfish Tournament and Festival

Kendra Cope updated the Committee on the upcoming Lionfish Tournament which is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2016. Ms. Cope stated that they have received the funds needed to put on the Lionfish event through sponsorships and donations. This will allow for the education to the public about the need to remove lionfish from the waters in the area. Ms. Cope noted that a press release will be sent out on Tuesday, May 19 for the event.

In response to a question from Mr. San Miguel, Mr. Gray advised that the FWC has information for anglers for a cost on the location on where the fish are located.

C. Developments in the Sand Wars, James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer

James Gray provided an update on the ruling by the Federal Government regarding the restoration of beach projects for Miami-Dade. He advised that the Federal report identified two source for the said, one in Martin County and one in St. Lucie County. Mr. Gray reminded the Committee that the Board of County Commissioners had issued a proclamation to the Army Corps of Engineers against using the sand in the region for the

Miami-Dade area. He advised that the current concern is that the NEPA process was approved and now the Federal government can go through the process of removing sand from the Federal waters. He added that there is a provision prohibiting the use of sand from areas outside of the United States. Mr. Gray stated that Martin and St. Lucie Counties are working with Indian River County in relation to the Federal assessment as a regional concern.

Mr. Hendricks suggested that there needs to be a coordinated effort with the other counties at the Federal level to solicit help from the Senators and Representatives to change the law to allow for off shore sourcing of sand. The letters should also go to the Office of Management and Budget, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Interior and use political will to get formal complaints and receive a formal response.

It was noted by Mr. Gray that the Federal requirements have the last say on the issue of where jurisdictions can obtain sand. Mr. Gray reviewed the BOEM Rules regarding the Negotiated Noncompetitive Leasing for the Use of Sand, Gravel and Shell Resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (Federal Register/Vol. 81, No. 55 dated March 22, 2016), a copy of which is on file at the Board of County Commission Office. This document codifies the sand processes and is issued through the Department of the Interior and Congress. Other documents submitted for information related to the issue, which are on file at the Board of County Commissioners Office include, "Findings of No Significant Impact: from the Department of the Army on the Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, Contract J, Miami-Dade County, Florida; a copy of Resolution No. 2016-007 dated January 12, 2016, from the Indian River County Board of County Commission expressing opposition to dredging and removal of bulk ocean sand from Martin and St. Lucie Counties, and; a copy of a presentation from the Army regarding the Dade County BEC&HP Project Sand Need.

There was discussion by the Committee about the identification of the needs in Miami-Dade County and how they view the type of sand and source that would satisfy the requirements for their sand problems.

Kate Cotner, Assistant County Attorney, stated that a coalition needs to be developed with Miami-Dade County who do want to use Bahamian sand for their project as it is cheaper, better and a more appropriate match to native sand in Miami-Dade County.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hendricks, SECONDED BY Mr. Tyson, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve moving forward with a coordinated response with Martin and St. Lucie Counties through applicable County regulations to the State and then to the Federal offices, representatives, Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget and request a hearing for open public discussion on the proposal. Additionally, the comments identified by Indian River County Coastal Engineering Division staff, James Gray, should be incorporated in the request for review. The specific comments are noted in the General Comments submitted as back-up to the discussion of this item, a copy of this is available at the Office of the Board of County Commission. The Committee members also discussed getting Congressman Murphy into a coalition with the Counties.

D. Sector 5 Beach Restoration Design and Permitting, James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer

Mr. Gray updated the Committee on Sector 5 (City of Vero Beach, JC Park to South Beach) Beach Restoration Design and Permitting proposal. Mr. Gray stated that the project is moving forward after receiving approval from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) with the design and permitting phase of the project. He added that the process takes some time, with a range of 4 to 5 years to construction. With respect to Sector 3, there has been ongoing monitoring of the hard bottom. A scope of work for Sector 3 will be brought before the BCC if continued work is required.

Status of County Beach Parks

Mr. Gray reported that all county beach parks were open and operational. He advised that after the most recent storm, there was rough surf, however there was no significant areas of concern other than some ridging.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet District Commission (the District)

Mr. Smithson advised that they are advertising for coastal engineering services through a bidding process. He acknowledged that Mr. Gray will be on the selection committee. In follow-up to information regarding video surveillance at the Inlet discussed at the previous month's meeting, Mr. Smithson advised that they have added security cameras and will be placing signs and rules that will, hopefully, change the behavior of visitors to the Inlet.

Committee Members Matters

Mr. Tyson acknowledged that Kendra Cope made a great presentation to the Sebastian Chamber of Commerce that was very educational.

Mr. Ferrell discussed the numerous articles and conflicting information presented by the media regarding the expected rising of sea levels. He stated that it is important to verify where the information and data are coming from and that the information presented by NOAA is more important to study.

Commissioner's Matters

There were no Committee Member Matters.

Chairman's Matters

There were none.

Public Discussion Items

There were none.

Adjournment

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

The next meeting of the Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee is scheduled for **May 16, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501.