

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, July 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
Bob Anderson, BCC Appointee
Mark Tripson, BCC Appointee
David Barney, BCC Appointee
Richard Winger, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointees
Joel Tyson, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Commissioner Tim Zorc, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

Members Absent:

William Ferrell, Board of County Commission Appointee
Christian Hendricks, BCC Appointee
Richard Gillmor, City of Sebastian Appointee
Howard Thrailkill, Town of Orchid Appointee

IRC staff present were:

James Gray, Coastal Engineer
Kendra Cope, Environmental Specialist
Lisa Hill, Commissioner Assistant, Transcribing Secretary

Others present were:

Marty Smithson, Sebastian Inlet District

Call to Order

Chairman Ochsner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2016

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tyson, SECONDED BY Mr. Tripson, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of June 27, 2016 as presented.

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

Kendra Cope, Environmental Specialist, updated the committee on the number of turtle nests, stated that it has been a record year for Loggerheads so far. Ms. Cope advised that

some of the earlier nests are starting to hatch. She noted that if a sea hatchling is not where it should be or is struggling, it can be taken to the Vero Beach Marine Lab located next to Tracking Station Park. At the Marine Lab, there is a specific box for the turtle hatchlings. The hatchlings are cared for and released back to the ocean once they are healthy.

Ms. Cope stated that the "Turtle Dig" program explained at the June 27, 2016, meeting had started with the next event taking place on Thursday, July 21 at 8:00 a.m. at Sexton Plaza Beach in Vero Beach.

Ms. Cope stated that the County received a grant providing a travelling educational program on sea turtles which will be used by teachers at various schools as part of the science curriculum. The program will show scientific methods of weighing, measuring and taking care of sea turtles.

B. Introduction of the new County Public Works Director, Richard Szyrka

Mr. Szyrka was introduced to the members of the Committee. He gave a brief background on his history, stating that he had been with the County for about 14 months as an Engineer, with prior experience in Brevard County.

C. Beach and Shores Update, James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer

1. Mr. Gray advised the Committee that two Local Government funding requests had been sent on Friday, July 15 to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for FY 17/18. He advised that the requests are for: 1) \$250,000 for the continued post construction permit required for monitoring the Sector 3 project area. The funding is split 50/50 with the State and Local governments each providing \$125,000, and; 2) \$200,000 is requested for the Design and Permitting phase of the Sector 5 Beach Restoration Project. This is also a 50/50 split with the State and Local governments each providing \$100,000. He noted that the budget request is due to the State on August 1, 2016 for the upcoming fiscal year. Once all of the funding requests are received by the Department of Environmental Protection, each request will be reviewed, ranked and scored. Those deemed to meet the requirements will then be forwarded to the Governor to be reviewed and submitted to the Legislature for final vetting.
2. Mr. Gray outlined the efforts for Sector 3 Post Construction Monitoring which includes: sea turtle monitoring; beach profile evaluation to determine physical conditions of the dunes; offshore hardbottom biological monitoring, and; aerial photography to determine any changes to the area. Additionally, the number of sea turtle nests has been monitored to determine if there is any impact due to the sand being in-shore sand. This does not seem to be affecting the nesting habits of the sea turtles.
3. Mr. Gray noted that Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB) will be sponsoring an International Coastal Cleanup on September 17, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. along the Wabasso Causeway Parks. The event will have Mr. Gray and Ms. Cope as Captains and volunteers are being sought to assist with the clean-up event.

4. Mr. Gray provided information on the upcoming 2016 Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) Annual Conference which will be held in Naples Florida, September 14-16, 2016. He advised that this was a very informative conference for learning about new technologies.

Status of County Beach Parks

Mr. Gray reported that all county beach parks were open and operational.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet District Commission (the District)

Mr. Smithson stated that there had been an election of the District Board, however, there were no changes to the members.

He stated that District is working on a Memorandum of Understanding related to preparations for any upcoming storms and the need for dredging and placement of sand in Sectors 1 and 2.

Committee Members Matters

Chairman Ocher requested information on the blue-green algae situation in the Indian River Lagoon and along the beaches south of Indian River County.

Mr. Gray advised that there have been no observations of the algae in Indian River County, however in late June there was observation near Lake Okeechobee of algae drifting to Bath Tub Beach and the park in Martin County. Mr. Gray stated that there has been reports of bacteria in the lagoon in other counties which is not healthy for humans or animals so there are precautionary closings of some areas outside of Indian River County. Indian River County will continue to monitor areas to determine if there is any concern in the County. Information is available from the Department of Health and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Committee members discussed whether the situation was worse this year than in previous years, the different types of algae and bacteria and their effects on the environment. Members relayed information on monitoring efforts in the area and possible means to reduce the flow of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding areas.

Mr. Gray stated that the Brevard Board of County Commissioners had tasked staff with looking into ways to improve water quality. This includes researching funding opportunities through taxes and other means. The staff will also be working with other agencies in the region to do strategic planning for better water quality.

Commissioner's Matters

There were no Commissioner matters.

Chairman's Matters

There were no Chairman matters.

Public Discussion Items

There were no Public Discussion items.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Ochsner adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:42 p.m.

The next meeting of the Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee is scheduled for **August 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501.