

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, August 15, 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
William Ferrell, Board of County Commission Appointee
Christian Hendricks, BCC Appointee
Richard Gillmor, City of Sebastian Appointee
David Barney, BCC Appointee
Richard Winger, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointees
Joel Tyson, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Commissioner Peter O'Bryan, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

Members Absent:

Howard Thrailkill, Town of Orchid Appointee
Mark Tripson, BCC Appointee
Commissioner Tim Zorc, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

IRC staff present were:

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

Others present were:

CBI Consultants: **Michelle R. Pfeiffer, P.E.**
Will Reilly, P.E.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2016

ON MOTION BY Mr. Barney, SECONDED BY Mr. Tyson, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of July 18, 2016 with a correction to add Mr. Smithson as being present at the meeting.

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 with 7,060 so far for 2016. This is a significant increase over the previous record of 6,643 Loggerhead nests in 2012. She added that there have been 165 Green and 34 Leatherback nests for 2016 in addition to the Loggerheads. Ms. Cope noted that this is being seen in other areas and it is an optimistic sign that the conservation efforts for sea turtles are starting to show benefits in the population. She advised that nests are hatching and reminded that it is important to keep lighting reduced and to leave the hatchlings unless they are disoriented or struggling. She added that many of the lifeguard stations are equipped with holding boxes to assist the hatchlings when found so they can be taken to the Marine Lab, where they are cared for and released back to the ocean once they are healthy.

Ms. Cope updated the committee on the “Turtle Dig” program which has been very successful in educating the public about sea turtles. Commissioner O’Bryan stated that he had attended one of the digs and it was a great opportunity to learn about the nests and sea turtles.

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

1. CBI Consultants:

Mr. Gray introduced two engineers, Will Riley and Michelle Pfeiffer, with CBI Consultants, who have been contracted to provide engineering service for the Sector 3 and Sector 5 beach restoration projects. Each of the engineers gave a brief outline of their qualifications and experience.

2. 30th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School Seminar:

Mr. Gray reported on issues discussed at the 30th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School Seminar which was held in Orlando from July 20 through 22, 2016. Issues included discussion of Amendment 1, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative; Addressing Sea-Level Rise and Climate Change; Regulatory Updates and the Nationwide permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers; and upcoming issues expected for the next Legislative session.

The Committee members discussed how any of the changes to Amendment 1 affected the schedule outlined in the County’s 2015 beach restoration plan. Mr. Gray indicated that they do not change the schedule, adding that if the County does not get funding from Amendment 1 funding, the work will continue with the State through Change Orders to pay for the monitoring of Sector 3. With regard to Sector 5, there will be funds from the County for design and they will then request reimbursement. The design phase will take about three years.

The Committee members discussed writing letters of support to Senator Negron and other legislators in December 2016 and January 2017 on beach restoration efforts. Mr. Ochsner noted that the beach needs to be taken care of regardless of whether more funding is received from the State.

Mr. Gray noted that the Board of County Commissioners is very support of the beach program. The amendment 1 funds for beach and shores needs to be at an appropriate percentage rate to the rest of the projects.

Mr. Ochsner asked if there was any update on the algae problems in the Lagoon. Mr. Gray stated that there was a lot of discussion at the FAC but there will need to be implementation to address the algae. Commissioner O'Bryan noted that it may take 5 to 10 years before there is a noticeable improvement as such large projects that would be needed take a long time to become effective.

3. Sector 3 Post Construction Monitoring:

Mr. Gray provided an update on the required Sector 3 Post Construction monitoring which is on schedule and shows a 70% completion rate for Sea Turtle nest monitoring; 95% completion for Beach Profile Surveys; 90% completion of Offshore Hardbottom biological monitoring and 95% completion of the aerial photography.

4. 2016 Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association Annual Conference:

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.

5. Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB) – International Coastal Cleanup:

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.

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 was not present at the meeting to provide a report.

Committee Members Matters

Mr. Ferrell provided information on a ½¢ sales tax that will be on the upcoming ballot in November in Brevard County that will provide funding for river projects and water quality. This will include septic conversion and other projects to improve water quality.

Commissioner O'Bryan stated that Indian River County has the 1¢ sales tax that is up for renewal on the November ballot that allows for up to 20% of the revenue to be directed to Lagoon projects.

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 3:47 p.m.

The next meeting of the Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee is scheduled for **September 19, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501.