

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, February 27, 2017**, 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.

Members 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
Linda Kinchen, City of Sebastian Appointee
Mark Tripson, Vice-Chairman, BCC Appointee
Bob Anderson, BCC Appointee
Howard Thrailkill, Town of Orchid Appointee
Commissioner Susan Adams, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

Members Absent:

Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointees
Joel Tyson, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Richard Winger, City of Vero Beach Appointee

IRC staff present were:

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

Others Present were:

Tom Pierro, CB&I
William Reilly, CB&I

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2016

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tripson, SECONDED BY Mr. Ferrell, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes of December 19, 2016 as presented.

Approval of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Mr. Barney, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve Mr. Ochsner as Chairperson.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Barney, SECONDED BY Mr. Tripson, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve Mr. Ferrell as Vice-Chairperson.

Coastal Engineering Division Updates - James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer

A handout were presented for the meeting by Mr. Gray and a PowerPoint presentation was provided by CB&I on the update of the Sector 5 Project, which are on file in the Commission office. The Committee was briefed on the following items:

A. Post Hurricane Matthew Beach Restoration

James Gray, Coastal Engineer, discussed the ongoing beach projects post Hurricane Matthew and progress on obtaining funding from FEMA. He noted that any FEMA funding will be at a cost share of 75% Federal, 12.5% State and 12.5% Local. Funding commitment will occur once the worksheets are approved by FEMA.

NOTE: Mr. Thrailkill arrived at approximately 3:12 p.m.

Mr. Gray provided an overview of the State Funding legislation for the upcoming session. He advised that Governor Scott was recommending an overall budget for beach projects of \$111 million, with \$60 million toward hurricane repair and the remaining \$50 million for other projects.

Mr. Gray noted a City of Vero Beach project in the amount of \$275,000 provided assistance due to storm damage and erosion to Humiston Park and the boardwalk.

B. Sector 5 Project Update – Tom Pierro and Will Reilly, CB&I

Mr. Pierro and Mr. Reilly reviewed the history of the Beach Preservation Plan, which includes strategies for improvements to Sector 5, an area running from north of Tracking Station Park (R70) to Rio Mar (R-86). Improvements are as necessary due to the FDEP designation as a Critically Eroded area. Several designs were reviewed with the differences to the elevations and profiles and how each would provide the best preservation of the hardbottom, while replenishing the dunes and beach areas. Other considerations included constructability, avoidance of sea turtle nesting areas and maintain as much recreational beach as possible. The preferred alternative, Number 7, included due and transition slope from +10.5 to +8.0 (1V:6H); Flat Berm at +8.0 (12' wide); Offshore Slope (1v:8H) with a volume of 234K cubic yards of sand.

CB&I reviewed the next steps in the process of improvements to Sector 5 which includes the completion of the feasibility report in April, 2017, Application for permits through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers. They noted that it would take about 18 months for permit processing and that they hope to have the ability to move forward in early 2019.

C. Sea Turtle Information – Kendra Cope

Kendra Cope, Environmental Specialist, noted that the County received an Environmental Award from Keep Indian River Beautiful (K.I.R.B.) for the Lionfish Festival. She advised that the second annual Lionfish Festival will be on May 20 and 21 at Captain Hiram's with 6 restaurants participating in the cooking competition, at least 12 educational booths and 2 days of fishing.

Ms. Cope announced that the Sea Turtle Nesting Season starts on March 1 and will run through October 31. She reminded everyone that lighting ordinances will go into effect during nesting season in order to reduce lighting impacts on sea turtles.

Ms. Cope explained that the Sea Turtle Program runs on volunteer assistance with four specific teams. The teams provide specific assistance in nesting; education, including turtle release and nesting study; stranded turtle assistance and lighting ordinance review.

Ms. Cope provided an overview of the Turtle-Friendly Business Program which encourages beach front businesses to make an extra effort to reduce lighting impacts, landscaping, filling in and flattening the sand to make it natural, removing litter and recycling waste. She noted that there is a total of nine businesses in the City of Vero Beach in the program, and that she hopes that the program can expand to different areas of the County along the beaches in the future.

The members discussed the impact of Hurricane Matthew on the natural foliage and how that would affect the sea turtle nests.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet District Commission (the District)

Mr. Smithson was not in attendance to provide an update

Status of the Beach Parks -- James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer

Mr. Gray reported on the beach recovery efforts following Hurricane Matthew. He acknowledged that repairs are moving forward and that Sea Grape Trail is still closed through March 1, 2017. Mr. Gray noted that there was recently an area off of the Wabasso Causeway on the southeast side where it was determined that an old fishing pier was damaged and will need to be removed. At this time, however, boats and other marine vehicles will need to be kept away from the area until the pier can be removed from the water as it has been deemed a navigation hazard. He added that a permit has been received from the Army Corps of Engineers to temporarily mark the navigation hazard with buoys or signs and is waiting on the US Coast Guard for approval of the navigation aids.

Committee Members Matters

There were no Committee Member matters.

Commissioner's Matters

There were no Commissioner matters.

Chairman's Matters

Mr. Ochsner advised that Indian River Shores Town Council voted to provide a five foot right-of-way on the south edge to link up to the entrance to Tracking Station Park with a proviso that the County work with Indian River Shores to provide access to the beach through a dune crossing.

Mr. Barney stated that he was not in favor of the County granting access across public land from the Town of Indian River Shores land. However, Mr. Barney is in favor of the provision of a five foot wide right-of-way access to the beach.

Public Discussion Items

There were no Public Discussion matters.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Ochsner adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:41 p.m.

The next meeting of the Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee is scheduled for **March 20, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501.