

## **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, March 20, 2017**, in the County Administration Building, Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2016).

### **Members Present were:**

**Mike Ochsner**, Chairman, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee Councilman  
**William “Tuck” Ferrell**, Vice-Chairman, Board of County Commission Appointee  
**David Barney**, BCC Appointee  
**Christian Hendricks**, BCC Appointee  
**Linda Kinchen**, City of Sebastian Appointee  
**Bob Anderson**, BCC Appointee  
**Francisco San Miguel**, BCC Appointees  
**Joel Tyson**, City of Fellsmere Appointee  
**Howard Thrailkill**, Town of Orchid Appointee  
**Commissioner Susan Adams**, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

### **Members Absent:**

**Mark Tripson**, Vice-Chairman, BCC 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:**

Marty Smithson, Sebastian Inlet Representative

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2017**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Tyson, SECONDED BY Mr. Barney, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of February 27, 2017 as presented.**

### **Coastal Engineering Division Updates - James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer**

#### **A. 2017 Legislation Review**

A handout of the Florida Legislative session was presented by Mr. Gray highlighting legislation being considered for the 2017 session pertinent to the Beach and Shores Advisory Committee mission. The following bills were reviewed:

- Vacation Rentals – SB 118 and HB 425 provided legislation disallow the ordinances passed by local governments prior to June 2011. The Indian River County Ordinance was passed after the noted date and is not affected by the bills.
- Indian River Lagoon – SB 982 and HB 1033 provide specific funding for lagoon enhancement projects.
- Beach Nourishment – SB 1590 and HB 1213 designate a tiered system for evaluating beach projects with specific measurements. The Senate Bill varies from the House Bill by designated an economic benefit for each of the Counties by comparing projects not at the State level but at the local level. The Senate Bill would be of specific benefit to Indian River County as the current request for the beach project for Indian River County is ranked number 23 of 27 projects proposed. The proposal also has an impact on the reassessment of inlet projects. The Committee discussed how the bills would affect Amendment 1 which is designed to assist with the lagoon. Mr. Gray noted that there is a portion of the Senate Bill which would designate \$50 million for projects, but not recurring appropriations like the House Bill. Mr. Gray noted that Senator Latvala and Senator Negrón have been very helpful in the past in providing more focus to beach projects and funding needs.
- Hurricane Matthew Beach Funding – The Governor is recommending \$61 million for Hurricane recover in addition to the funds that have already been released to assist those areas hardest hit by Hurricane Matthew.

Mr. Gray discussed how the Sector 5 beach project would be funded with assistance from the State. As it is currently ranked 23 of the 27 projects, the budget needs to be well over the \$50 million appropriation to get any funding under the current structure. The current project for Sector 5 is for a feasibility study, which is harder to get funded than an actual construction project. It would be helpful to move the ranking up and have the design phase started with FEMA funding.

- Tourist Development, Derelict Vessels and Fracking – These are other bills of interest, but do not directly affect the Beach and Shores Advisory Committee.

## **B. Artificial Reef Project – James Gray**

Mr. Gray advised that the County was seeking a new artificial reef site which will be located 5-8 miles south of Sebastian Inlet, approximately 304 miles offshore in the Atlantic Ocean. The scope of the project is 1900 acres with 12 separate reef sites of about 40 acres each using mixed media for the construction of the reef. He advised that this would be one of the largest artificial reef projects in Florida and will take approximately 20 years to develop. The Committee discussed whether ships or other vessels could be used for the project. Mr. Gray advised that they could not use steel ships or vessels with this artificial reef because of the depth of the ocean at the site.

## **C. Sea Turtle Information – Kendra Cope**

Kendra Cope, Environmental Specialist, announced that the Sea Turtle Nesting Season started on March 1 and will run through October 31. She advised that there

have not been any nests yet this season and it was discussed that the colder weather may be making the turtles hold off on coming to shore to nest. Ms. Cope reviewed some of the upcoming sea turtle activities and asked if the Committee would be interested in a Sea Turtle Walk through a non-profit group, Friends of Archie Carr Refuge. It was determined that the Committee would be interested and Ms. Cope will get more information.

Mr. Barney asked about equipment and beach projects that are continuing after March 1 in Brevard County. Mr. Gray stated that he is aware of the project, but that it is not in the Indian River County jurisdiction. He added that they are required to survey for sea turtle nests before the equipment is allowed on the beaches.

### **Update from the Sebastian Inlet District Commission (the District)**

Mr. Smithson noted that the pier has been partially reopened with the replacement of the grates to allow more area for use. He advised that the previous conflicts between fishermen on the pier and those in boats has been lessened by the shorter length of the pier and that they are determining whether they want to keep the end of the pier closed. Mr. Smithson stated that the materials to manufacture the custom grates that are still missing has arrived to start the construction.

### **Committee Members Matters**

There were no Committee Member matters.

### **Commissioner's Matters**

There were no Commissioner matters.

### **Chairman's Matters**

There were no Chairman matters.

### **Public Discussion Items**

There were no Public Discussion matters.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Ochsner adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee is scheduled for **April 17, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501.