

## **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 21, 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/2017](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2017).

### **Members Present were:**

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

### **Members Absent:**

**William "Tuck" Ferrell**, Vice-Chairman, Board of County Commission Appointee  
**Howard Thrailkill**, Town of Orchid Appointee  
**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, Recording Secretary

### **Others Present:**

**Tony Young**, City of Vero Beach, Council Member

### **Others Absent:**

**Marty Smithson**, Sebastian Inlet Representative

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Ochsner called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. Mr. Ochsner noted that a quorum was reached.

### **Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2017**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Tyson, SECONDED BY Mr. Anderson, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of June 19, 2017 as presented.**

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

#### **A. Sea Turtle Program – Kendra Cope**

Ms. Cope advised that there were a total of 7,959 nests County-wide with the following breakdown by type:

Loggerhead – 5,855  
Green – 2,068  
Leatherback – 36

She stated that the hatch rate for each nest has been between 70 and 90 percent and that the green turtle nesting period goes through the end of October, and is showing a record number of nests.

The Committee discussed the effect of predators on the survival of the hatchlings. They also discussed the impact of the educational efforts related to sea turtle protection such as the light ordinance has had on the increased number of turtle nests and survival rate of hatchlings.

**B. Artificial Reef Update – James Gray**

Mr. Gray advised that the artificial reef, a +/- 40 acre site near Golden Sands Beach, has started with the placement of 14 modules about 3 miles off shore. Mr. Gray noted that the addition of the artificial reefs will help with economically by providing additional areas for scuba activities. Additionally, the reefs can be sponsored by businesses in the area to promote those businesses as well as provide additional funding for the reef program. The reefs will also provide information on the fish and marine life in the area through pictures from the area. It is hoped that there will be 60 to 70 modules which will be placed over a period of 10 to 15 years.

**C. FEMA Hurricane Matthew Update – James Gray**

Mr. Gray updated the Committee on the progress of completing the FEMA reports and obtaining reimbursement for some of the projects that have been completed by the County in Sectors 3, 5 and 7. Additional work requiring permits is expected to take place in 2018 to 2019.

**D. Sector 5 Project Update – James Gray**

Mr. Gray discussed the procurement of consultants and contractors for the project. He noted that for Sector 5, Coastal Engineering had a name change, but the same individuals will continue to work on the project. He advised that the Department of Environmental Project pre application meeting is scheduled for August 24, and that the permitting process will start in September, 2017. The permitting process is expected to take 16-18 months and then construction can begin. He indicated that it is hoped that the process can be completed so that construction work will coincide with work to be done in Sectors 3 and 7.

**E. Status of County Beaches – James Gray**

All County beaches and parks are open and operating on schedule. Additional discussion included the County's offer to purchase the area that had been the Florida Tech Marine Center next to Tracking Station Park, however, no final word has been announced regarding the successful bidder.

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

Mr. Smithson was not in attendance to provide an update on the Sebastian Inlet.

### **Committee Members Matters**

There were no Committee Member matters.

### **Commissioner's Matters**

Commissioner Adams noted that she would be attending the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association conference to be held in September, 2017, in Ft. Lauderdale. Mr. Gray will also be in attendance at the conference.

### **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 3:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee is scheduled for **September 18, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501.