

## **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, October 16, 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  
**William “Tuck” Ferrell**, Vice-Chairman, Board of County Commission Appointee  
**Bob Anderson**, BCC Appointee  
**David Barney**, BCC Appointee  
**Linda Kinchen**, City of Sebastian Appointee  
**Francisco San Miguel**, BCC Appointees  
**Joel Tyson**, City of Fellsmere Appointee  
**Richard Winger**, City of Vero Beach Appointee  
**Commissioner Susan Adams**, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

### **Members Absent:**

**Christian Hendricks**, BCC Appointee  
**Howard Thrailkill**, Town of Orchid Appointee  
**Mark Tripson**, Vice-Chairman, BCC Appointee

### **IRC staff present were:**

**Jason Brown**, County Administrator  
**James Gray**, Coastal Engineer  
**Kendra Cope**, Environmental Specialist  
**Lisa Hill**, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

### **Others Present:**

**Noah Powers**, Town of Orchid

### **Others Absent:**

**Marty Smithson**, Sebastian Inlet Representative

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Ochsner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Ochsner noted that a quorum was reached.

### **Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2017**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Tyson, SECONDED BY Mr. Barney, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of August 21, 2017 as presented.**

**Mr. SanMiguel arrived at the meeting at approximately 3:02 p.m.**

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

### **A. Hurricane Irma Impact Report – James Gray**

Mr. Gray provided information on the damage assessments to the beaches caused by Hurricane Irma, which was mostly observed at the northern parts of the County. A report on the assessment is on file with the Board of County Commissioners Office. The estimated loss and the replacement costs are as follows:

#### **Sectors 1 and 2 (Managed by the Sebastian Inlet District)**

- Project length – 2 miles
- 32,900 cubic yards
- \$740,000

#### **Sector 3 (Managed by Indian River County)**

- Project length 7 miles
- 86,000 cubic yards
- \$1,940,000

#### **Sector 5 (Managed by Indian River County/City of Vero Beach)**

- Project length 3 miles
- 45,400 cubic yards
- \$1,021,000

#### **Sector 7 (Managed by Indian River County)**

- Shoreline length 2 miles
- 29,000 cubic yards
- \$652,000

Mr. Gray stated that the estimates of volume loss are based on observed conditions and comparison of before and after photos. Sand replacement costs are based on a \$22.50/cubic yard unit cost.

It was noted that a few weeks following Hurricane Irma some natural recovery of the beach was observed. However, the recent strong northeast winds, swells, and king tides caused additional erosion to the dunes. It is estimated that the total economic impact to Indian River County managed beaches is \$4,353,000.

Emergency Final Order Permits have also been issued in accordance with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to allow for expedited permits to repair properties. The County has issued 13 EFO permits at the time of the meeting. One of the permits requested was for Indian River Shores for the repair of a dune crossover which will be redesigned to protect it from future damage.

Tracking Station Beach Park remains closed due to the change in the profile of the beach which was lowered, causing the ADA ramp to be in the air above the beach. The ramp will be extended to the sand instead of replacing the sand. Additionally, a crosswalk to the beach will be built. Mr. Gray noted that the crosswalk is eligible for reimbursement by FEMA.

The Committee Members discussed the surveying of the Indian River Shores area along Tracking Station with audience members. Mr. Gray stated that there is a survey that is going to be completed which will include the Indian River Shores section.

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

Mr. Gray noted that the Sector 5 project includes the Vero Beach beachfront parks are under contract for the design and permitting phases of the project. He advised that the permits are to be completed by mid-November. The project includes 125,000 to 130,000 cubic yards of sand over a 3.1 mile stretch of beach. Mr. Winger asked if Mr. Gray would be able to come to a November 7, 2017, Vero Beach City Council meeting to provide an update on the project to the City.

**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.

Mr. Brown advised that the projects need to keep moving forward so that the funds are not deobligated from FEMA. It is important to make sure all of the documentation and records are maintained appropriately in order to meet all requirements for reimbursement.

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

All County beaches and parks are open and operating on schedule, except Tracking Station Park.

**E. Sea Turtle Program – Kendra Cope**

1) Ms. Cope advised that additional sea turtle nests have been laid since Hurricane Irma. The total is now at 8,712 nests County-wide with the following breakdown by type:

Loggerhead – 6,024  
Green – 2,651  
Leatherback – 37

2) The existing sea turtle nests were impacted by Hurricane Irma with a loss of about 1,800 nests due to the storm. However, about 70 percent of the nests had already hatched prior to the storm.

3) Ms. Cope advised that there continues to be a major concern regarding the number of balloons and plastic bags along the beaches and in the coastal waters. During the turtle surveys this year, 404 balloons were collected – a significant increase even over the 2016 numbers of 286. Ms. Cope noted that the balloons and plastic bags are often ingested by sea turtles and other marine life as they are mistaken for jellyfish.

- 4) Ms. Cope noted that there are two Sea Turtle conferences scheduled for February, 2018. They are the Florida Permit Holder Meeting scheduled for February 2 - 4 and the South East Regional Sea Turtle Meeting to be held February 12 - 16.

### **2018 Beach and Shores Preservation Advisory Committee Meeting Dates**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Mr. Barney, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the following schedule of dates for 2018:**

|                     |                 |                    |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| January 22, 2018**  | May 21, 2018    | September 17, 2018 |
| February 26, 2018** | June 18, 2018   | October 15, 2018   |
| March 19, 2018      | July 16, 2018   | November 19, 2018  |
| April 16, 2018      | August 20, 2018 | December 17, 2018  |

**\*\*Due to Holiday, meeting held on fourth Monday of the month.**

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

Mr. Smithson was not in attendance to provide an update on the Sebastian Inlet. Mr. Ochsner noted that the Inlet was without power for a week and a half after Hurricane Irma, which impacted the park.

### **Committee Members Matters**

Mr. Ochsner discussed designating Sector 4 as a critically eroded beach. Mr. Gray advised that it would need to be shown in the annual shoreline data to establish an historic trend of erosion going back to the 1970's and moving forward to be able to show the amount of loss over a long period of time. If the data shows Sector 4 to be critically eroded, the area could be added during the next update to the beach plan, which should be updated in 2019, and then may become eligible for assistance under the designation. Mr. Ochsner asked if Mr. Gray could bring the data analysis to the next meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Ochsner and the Committee discussed the upcoming Florida legislative session and supporting Senate Bill 174 which is asking for a recurring fund for Beach and Shores projects. Commissioner Adams stated that she would pass along the request from the Committee to have the Commissioners send a letter of support to Senator Latvala.

Mr. Ochsner asked Mr. Powers to discuss the increase to the tax rate for the Town of Orchid. Mr. Powers stated that the Town of Orchid changed the tax rate to provide a specific fund for the restoration and maintenance of its 3,000 feet of beach. He added that if funds can be obtained from FEMA, the tax will go back down.

### **Commissioner's Matters**

There were no Commissioner matters.

### **Chairman's Matters**

There were no Chairman matters.

### **Public Discussion Items**

Faye Campagna asked about pumping the sand back onto the beaches rather than bringing in sand. Mr. Gray discussed the dredging of sand at Sebastian Inlet, which is kept in a holding area until needed for replacement on the beaches. Upland sand was used in Sector 3 as there were no offshore bidders and it was more reasonable.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Ochsner adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:15 p.m.

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