

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, December 4, 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/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
Christian Hendricks, BCC Appointee
Linda Kinchen, City of Sebastian Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointees
Lang Sykes, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Howard Thrailkill, Town of Orchid Appointee
Mark Tripson, Vice-Chairman, BCC Appointee
Commissioner Susan Adams, Board of County Commissioners, non-voting member

Members Absent:

David Barney, BCC Appointee
Joel Tyson, City of Fellsmere Appointee

IRC staff present were:

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

Others Present:

Noah Powers, Town of Orchid
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 October 16, 2017

ON MOTION BY Mr. Anderson, SECONDED BY Mr. Hendricks, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of October 16, 2017 as presented.

Coastal Engineering Division Updates

A. Sea Turtle Program – Kendra Cope

1) Sea Turtle Nesting:

Ms. Cope advised that there were five late additional sea turtle nests still incubating and which are anticipated to hatch by mid-December. The staff will be working on

the Habitat Conservation Plan in the upcoming weeks. This will be presented at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Cope stated that there were some impacts to the sea turtles from Hurricane Irma. However, the majority of the over 8,000 nests had hatched, minimizing the impact to the hatchlings.

2) *Senate Bill 348:*

Ms. Cope noted that there is a Florida Senate Bill (SB 348) before the legislature in the upcoming session related to the banning of balloons and plastic bags in coastal communities that border the Gulf, ocean and bay areas. The implementation will be done through a pilot program to reduce or ban the plastic bags and balloons in specified communities. The pilot program will collect data and provide results to the Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Cope noted that there are two municipalities that qualify for this program in Indian River County.

3) *Upcoming Conferences:*

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.

4) *Lionfish Festival:*

Ms. Cope advised that the third annual Lionfish Festival is scheduled for the weekend of May 19 and 20 with the festival itself on May 20. She advised that the festival has grown to require it to separate from the County and that a non-profit, Coastal Connections, Inc., has been formed with the County staff sitting on the Board of the non-profit.

B. Beach Report – James Gray

Mr. Gray submitted an update report which is on file in the Board of County Commission Office.

1) *Post Hurricane Irma Update*

Mr. Gray explained that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Emergency Final Order OGC No. 17-0989 allows local governments to issue permits, on behalf of the State, for beach repair related projects for damaged dunes and beach crosswalks. Indian River County could grant the permits until December 3, 2017, with an expiration date of February 28, 2018, to complete the work. The County issued 20 such permits.

2) *Beach Profile Survey*

Beach Profile Surveys were ordered by the County immediately following Hurricane Irma. These surveys are complete and are currently being analyzed to assess the damage for Sectors 3, 5 and 7 and submit information to FEMA for potential cost share in repairs.

John Steiner of Ocean Colony asked if Sector 4 would be included in the upcoming Beach Profile Survey. Mr. Gray stated that the Survey is to assist with FEMA on actively managed beaches, which is a State designation that is determined based on the projects which are identified for specific sectors.

3) *Selection of Coastal Engineering Consultants*

Mr. Gray noted that a new contract has been awarded to APTIM for upcoming professional coastal engineering and biological support services related to the management and renourishment of the upcoming Sector 3 and Sector 7 beach projects.

4) *State Legislation*

Mr. Gray provided the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) report on legislative initiatives for the 2018 session. Included is SB 174 and the companion HB 131 to provide a dedicated \$50 million for traditional statewide beach programs. Mr. Gray noted that SB 174 has been included in the Board of County Commissions legislative priorities.

Update from the Sebastian Inlet District Commission (the District)

Mr. Smithson stated that there continues to be security issues at the jetty and that the Inlet District is in discussion with the State about these issues. He advised that the jetty is primarily there for navigation with fishing and other activities occurring secondarily. He stated that some of the grates on the jetty were removed prior to Hurricane Irma hitting which allowed on three grates to be lost. All of them have now been replaced.

Mr. Smithson stated that surveying of the sand is underway to determine the amount of sand in the sand trap as well as the loss of sand due to the hurricane and subsequent strong storms. So far, the survey has not shown the need to start dredging operations at this time. He added that there is not enough sand in the sand trap, but there is about 30,000 cubic yards off shore.

Mr. Smithson advised that there is a separate survey for the south side of the jetty which is looking for weak spots and what can be done to stabilize the inlet. He stated that the sand to keep the inlet stable migrates to the south.

Status of County Beaches – James Gray

All County beaches and parks are open and operating on schedule. Repairs were completed allowing safe access to Tracking Station Park following Hurricane Irma and the beach is now operational. Mr. Gray noted that multiple storms along the coast have brought in a lot of algae, seaweed and debris from the Caribbean. Some of the debris has been removed from the beaches, however, the County is awaiting additional equipment to be able to do more removal.

Mr. Hendricks noted that many of the beach communities, including Indian River Shores, uses groups of volunteers to clear debris under a coordinated effort.

Ms. Cope noted that KIRB runs some volunteer programs, one of which is coming up at Jaycee Beach for clean-up and dune plantings. The members discussed additional sea oats plantings including where and how to mobilize volunteers for a large scale effort. Mr. SanMiguel noted that where sea oats were planted, they helped with erosion problems during the hurricane.

Committee Members Matters

There were no Committee Members matters.

Commissioner's Matters

There were no Commissioner matters.

Chairman's Matters

Mr. Ochsner discussed designating Sector 4 as an impacted area, which is currently not designated as an impacted area. It was noted that the beach is shrinking from erosion, especially over the past five years. He questioned who will pay and how to obtain the necessary data to be designated as an impacted area.

Mr. Gray stated that the area has been actively monitored as part of the State's shoreline since 1972, so the data sets can be used to determine the eroded areas. The 2008 Beach Plan analysis used data from 1972 to 2005 and during those years the beaches along Sector 4 were stable. In the years between 1986 and 2005, more sand was actually determined to be in Sector 4 than before. After the 2004 hurricanes through 2013, the beach showed a decline from stable to accretional to eroding at a rate of 31,000 cubic yards per year. This is relatively significant.

Mr. Ochsner asked whether the data was significant enough for the Department of Environmental Protection to re-evaluate the designation of Sector 4.

An unidentified audience member asked whether the data collected was the same for the other beach sectors. Mr. Gray advised that it is done on a semi-annual basis along with the other sectors. Mr. Gray noted that the information is contained within the reports sent to the State, but the designation has not been formally changed at this time. He added that support for the change in designation is needed and that the public should look to their legislators regarding the need for redesignation. Mr. Gray stated that the County is continuing to collect supportive data and may move to add it to the beach plan. He cautioned that in order for the County to include Sector 4 in any potential projects, it needs to have the designation changed.

Ms. Adams advised that the County would definitely want to go through the process to look into Sector 4 being added. Mr. Gray added that the designation is critical to getting any State funding. The beach plan is updated every five years and the County is in the process of starting the next update. The first step needed is for Indian River Shores town officials and town residents to come together to get the designation reviewed.

Public Discussion Items

There were no Public Discussion Items

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Ochsner adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:19 p.m.

The next meeting of the Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee is scheduled for **January 22, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501.