

BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (BSPAC) met at 3:00 PM on **Monday, January 27, 2020**, in the County Administration Building, Building B, Conf Room B1-501, 1800 27th St, Vero Beach, FL. You may hear meeting audio and review the agenda and minutes on the IRC website: www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2020.

Members present

Christian Hendricks, Chairman, BCC Appointee
David Barney, Vice Chairman, BCC Appointee
Sam Carroll, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
William "Tuck" Ferrell, BCC Appointee
Paul Knapp, Town of Orchid Appointee
Pamela Parris, City of Sebastian Appointee

Members absent

Robbie Brackett, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
Mark Tripson, BCC Appointee
Commissioner Joseph Flescher, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) (non-voting member)

IRC staff present

Quintin Bergman, IRC Environmental Specialist
James Ennis, Assistant Public Works Director
Kevin Kirwin, Director, IRC Parks and Recreation
Molly Klinepeter, Lagoon Plan Environmental Specialist
Ed Offutt, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

(3:02 PM) Chairman Hendricks called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2019

(3:02 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Barney, **SECONDED BY Mr. Ferrell**, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of December 16, 2019, as presented.

Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

(3:02 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Barney, **SECONDED BY Mr. Ferrell**, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to elect Christian Hendricks as Chairman.

(3:03 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Ferrell, **SECONDED BY Mr. Hendricks**, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to elect David Barney as Vice Chairman.

Coastal Division Updates

A. Beach Preservation Plan (BPP) Update – Mr. Bergman

(3:04 PM) Mr. Bergman advised that completion of the BPP is now dependent on County review, with

careful consideration being given to public comments. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

B. Round Island Beach Access Project – Mr. Bergman

(3:04 PM) Mr. Bergman reported that Coastal Waterways, the project consultant, will apply for an FDOT permit on behalf of the County. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

C. Sector 4 Critically Eroded Area – Mr. Bergman

(3:04 PM) Mr. Bergman announced that the BCC had approved the proposal to apply for designation of Sector 4 as a Critically Eroded Area. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

D. Post Hurricane Dorian – EFO Permits – Mr. Bergman

(3:05 PM) Mr. Bergman summarized beach restoration efforts at Disney's Vero Beach Resort and in the Town of Orchid. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.) During his recap, Mr. Ferrell commented on the high amount of erosion happening over the past few days, adding that some dunes were collapsing. Mr. Bergman agreed that the County's northern areas, in particular, were taking a beating from heavy winter wave action. Chairman Hendricks questioned whether any funds might remain to address some of these new issues, and Mr. Bergman replied that he didn't think so, but would verify. Mr. Barney asked when the BPP might be finished, but Mr. Bergman was unable to estimate a date. Mr. Barney lamented that the only time the County was authorized to place sand on local beaches (specifically, winter) was in fact the worst time to do so, but Mr. Bergman countered that some portion of the new sand that was being washed away would in fact be redeposited in the summer months. Mr. Barney commented that more storms like those observed over the weekend of January 25-26 would bring further, significant degradation.

E. IRC Beach Restoration Project Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:15 PM) Mr. Bergman provided updates on the Sectors 5, 3, and 7 beach renourishment projects. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.) After he spoke, Mr. Barney mentioned the appearance of several escarpments. Mr. Bergman replied that some of these were as much as five-to-eight feet in height and would be addressed, where possible, but that more would inevitably appear again in the future.

(3:17 PM) On the topic of Sectors 3 and 7, Mr. Bergman stated that the necessary permit applications had been submitted, and that County staff was completing a final response to a further Request for Additional Information (RAI). (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.) Mr. Barney questioned the need for further RAIs, since the renourishment effort was in effect a "re-do" of earlier efforts, but Mr. Bergman stated this was typical as part of the oversight function. An audience member asked about the current progress on receiving construction easements from Sector 3, and Mr. Bergman replied that the County wasn't even half-way to its goal yet. Mr. Ennis responded that the bids will go out in June of 2020, and that the County would want all easements in place before bidding begins; he further explained that "holes" in the system due to missing easements would have a negative effect, depending on how many were present and where. Mr. Ennis and Mr. Bergman promised to provide the BSPAC with a current status of the easements for next meeting.

F. Sea Turtle Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:24 PM) Mr. Bergman detailed the heavy density of turtle nests in IRC and the relatively large percentage of Florida turtle nests present here, despite the County only owning about 24 miles of shoreline. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

G. Other Coastal Division Updates – Ms. Klinepeter

(3:27 PM) Ms. Klinepeter commented on current County job openings and volunteer opportunities. Chairman Hendricks asked whether there were any relevant Lagoon Plan updates to share, and Ms. Klinepeter averred there were none at this time. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

Update from the Sebastian Inlet District (SID) Commission – Mr. Gray

(3:28 PM) Mr. Gray summarized a SID study that was completed in November and mentioned the significant erosion he was observing, as well as the slumping dune lines. He voiced that the SID had about 50,000 cubic yards of sand available and would use some or all of it to restore the dune line. He went on to say that a check of renourishment projects previously completed on Sectors 1 and 2 had shown that no tilling would be required, but that their Army Corps of Engineer permits would need to be renewed (after 15 years) if they were to continue to place sand on the beaches. Mr. Barney again expressed his concern about dune collapse, and Mr. Gray reported that the narrow County beaches with low slope were allowing waves to reach the dune line without attenuation, increasing erosion effects.

Status of County Beach Parks – Mr. Kirwin

(3:32 PM) Mr. Kirwin reflected on the need to improve beach amenities along with renourishing the beaches. He reviewed the latest efforts to repair and improve dune crossovers and lighting. In light of frequent material failures (as a result of flying the flag 24-hours a day), he stated that the County had been provided with an experimental U.S. flag for Wabasso Beach, one made from bamboo fiber with a Teflon coating.

Commissioner's Matters – Commissioner Flescher

(3:35 PM) Commissioner Flescher was not present, but on behalf of the Commissioner, the recording secretary asked the BSPAC members to please seek out applicants for the open position on the BSPAC.

Committee Members Matters

(3:36 PM) There were no Committee member inputs.

Chairman's Matters

(3:36 PM) Chairman Hendricks had no inputs.

Public Discussion Items

(3:37 PM) An audience member asked for clarification about Sector 3, specifically whether a certain percentage of the easements would have to be received before beginning any renourishment efforts. Mr. Ennis asserted that a relatively high response rate would be needed before any sand placement could begin. The audience member followed with a question about the maximum dune width the County was seeking in its replenishment efforts, and Mr. Ennis replied that it would be the maximum width allowable without affecting the hard-bottom. Mr. Barney asked about progress with the County's "customary use" lawsuit, but the County Attorney's office had no significant updates at this time. Finally, Mr. Ferrell asked what those people living along the beach in Sector 3 should do if they haven't yet received their easements in the mail, and Mr. Bergman replied they should call the County directly.

Adjournment

(3:43 PM) With no further business, Chairman Hendricks adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the BSPAC is scheduled for **February 24, 2020, at 3:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

Attachments

Attachment 1 -- Coastal Division's Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee update notes, January 27, 2020 (Q. Bergman)