

BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (BSPAC) met at 3:00 PM on **Monday, February 24, 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/BSPAC/2020.

Members present

Christian Hendricks, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointee
David Barney, Vice Chairman, BCC Appointee
Robbie Brackett, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Sam Carroll, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
William "Tuck" Ferrell, BCC Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Paul Knapp, Town of Orchid Appointee
David Morgan, BCC Appointee
Pamela Parris, City of Sebastian Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
Commissioner Joseph Flescher, BCC Representative (non-voting member)

Members absent

Mark Tripson, BCC Appointee

IRC staff present

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

Others present

Matthew Starr, STANTEC

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2019

(3:02 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Barney, SECONDED BY Mr. Ferrell, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of January 27, 2019, as presented.
(Ms. Parris arrived late to the meeting.)

Coastal Division Updates

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

(3:03 PM) Mr. Bergman advised that staff review of the BPP is now expected to be complete in March. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

B. Round Island Beach Access Project – Mr. Bergman

(3:03 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. Derelict Vessel Removal – Mr. Bergman

(3:03 PM) Mr. Bergman divulged that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission will assist with removing six derelict vessels from the Indian River Lagoon. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

D. Sector 4 Critically Eroded Area – Mr. Bergman

(3:05 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.) Mr. Barney commented that it should be easy to get another beach sector designated as eroded, given so much erosion going on in the same vicinity, and Mr. Bergman contributed that the County is working to collect more data to beef-up an earlier application for this designation.

E. Post Hurricane Dorian – EFO Permits – Ms. Klinepeter

(3:06 PM) Ms. Klinepeter informed the BSPAC that all Emergency Final Order permits for dune placements are now complete, and associated access points are open. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

F. IRC Beach Restoration Project Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:07 PM) Mr. Bergman disclosed that the Sector 5 beach renourishment project was complete, with about 250,000 tons of sand being placed. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.) Chairman Hendricks asked how much sand in Sector 5 had been lost due to recent storms, but County staff -- while acknowledging significant loss -- did not have any firm numbers to present.

(3:08 PM) On the topic of Sectors 3 and 7, Mr. Bergman reviewed the County website to display progress on easements and explain how to use the tool. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.) Mr. Barney questioned why more easements hadn't been returned, since most part-time residents should be present at this time of year; he also asked if the County sent out explanatory information along with the easement letters, and asked for confirmation that we are already at a time-critical state in terms of residents returning their easements. Mr. Bergman recounted his efforts to explain the purpose of the easements to IRC landowners, and agreed we do need to see more progress on easements. Mr. Ferrell asked about old easements that might still be in effect, but Mr. Bergman asserted that all of those had expired and that the new easements were "in perpetuity" to avoid such problems again. An audience member asked if coastal residents could insist on signing just a temporary easement, but Mr. Bergman replied that he'd been told not to accept "one-time" or temporary agreements. Finally, Mr. Bergman mentioned that minor errors had been discovered on an early batch of easements sent to local residents, and that the County is examining about 30 of these right now and working with the contractor to send revised ones, where needed.

(Approximately 3:15 PM – Ms. Parris arrived at the meeting; exact time not observed.)

(3:18 PM) Mr. Barney asked when the lack of signed easements would start to cause problems for the projects. Mr. Ennis replied that the County is targeting the end of May to receive all easement documents. Mr. Barney followed by asking if the County would request bids for both truck hauling sand from inland pits *and* using a dredge to bring sand from offshore, and Mr. Ennis replied in the affirmative. Mr. Barney expressed that Sector 3, in particular, lends itself to a dredge due to the length of the beach, but Mr. Ennis was not as certain in that regard. Mr. Barney followed by saying that it had taken two full seasons to complete a similar task by truck haul.

(3:22 PM) Mr. Ferrell queried whether the County was still “stuck” with Round Island as a sand source, worrying that it can make for a long and expensive dredging operation due to transportation distances. Mr. Bergman lamented that IRC has limited outlets for procuring sand, and that it can take over two years to get another source approved for use; Mr. Ennis stated that the County is required to exhaust its existing sources before using any new ones. Mr. Barney asked if the State of Florida realized the length of time it takes to gain approval of new sand sources, and that we should already be looking at others. Mr. Ferrell concurred, proposing that we go directly to our state legislators to ask for relief. Further, he averred that running out of sand would make it impossible for the renourishment projects to succeed, and that there must be a balance between preservation and action.

(3:28 PM) At this point, the BSPAC began a lengthy discussion on how to best secure other sand sources and, starting with Mr. Ferrell, weighed several motions to drive this process. Commissioner Flescher explained that it was too late to make an impact in Tallahassee this year, as the County’s legislative priorities had already been set. Mr. Barney proposed asking the County staff to “see what it would take” to find other sand sources, and Mr. Carroll asked about current guidance from the State of Florida. Mr. Starr commented that a prescribed method already existed, and then explained how it worked and provided a rough estimate of the time involved; Mr. Bergman affirmed that IRC’s Coastal Division was the organization to initiate the process. The BSPAC then returned to wording a recommendation, and Mr. Ferrell amended his original motion to one the entire Committee could support.

(3:30 PM -- Mr. San Miguel departed the meeting.)

Motion on Alternate Sand Sources

(3:34 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Ferrell, SECONDED BY Mr. Carroll, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to recommend to the BCC that County staff, in a timely manner, examine ways to establish alternative sand sources for future renourishment efforts.

(3:35 PM) Mr. Knapp asked how sand from the Round Island area would get up to Sector 3, and Mr. Ennis stated his belief a hopper dredge would be the best solution, as the distance (20 miles) is probably too far for a pumping system. Mr. Barney feared the process could be lengthy, however, if only one hopper dredge was available at any given time to move sand.

G. Sea Turtle Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:38 PM) Mr. Bergman reported on some extremely early sea turtle nesting observed in Florida. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman’s report.)

H. Other Coastal Division Updates – Ms. Klinepeter

(3:38 PM) Ms. Klinepeter commented on current County job openings and volunteer opportunities. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Ms. Klinepeter’s report.)

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

(3:39 PM) Mr. Gray was not present at the meeting.

Status of County Beach Parks – Mr. Kirwin

(3:40 PM) Mr. Kirwin was not present at the meeting.

Commissioner's Matters – Commissioner Flescher

(3:40 PM) Commissioner Flescher expressed confidence in the County staff's ability to make the necessary moves to establish alternative sand sources.

Committee Members Matters

(3:40 PM) Mr. Barney called the Committee's attention to the Bethel Creek and Indian River Lagoon Update Seminar, to be hosted by Commissioner Tim Zorc on March 4th in the Commission Chambers.

Chairman's Matters

(3:41 PM) Chairman Hendricks had no inputs.

Public Discussion Items

(3:41 PM) There were none.

Adjournment

(3:41 PM) With no further business, Chairman Hendricks adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the BSPAC is scheduled for **March 16, 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, February 24, 2020 (Q. Bergman)