

## **BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (BSPAC) met at 3:00 PM on **Monday, August 17, 2020**, by Zoom videoconference and in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2020).

### **Members present**

**Christian Hendricks**, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointee  
**Sam Carroll**, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee  
**William “Tuck” Ferrell**, BCC Appointee  
**David Morgan**, BCC Appointee  
**Noah Powers (for Paul Knapp)**, City Manager, Town of Orchid  
**Mark Tripson**, BCC Appointee  
**Commissioner Joseph Flescher**, BCC Representative (non-voting member)

### **Members absent**

**David Barney**, Vice Chairman, BCC Appointee  
**Robbie Brackett**, City of Vero Beach Appointee  
**Inocensia Hernandez**, City of Fellsmere Appointee  
**Pamela Parris**, City of Sebastian Appointee  
**Francisco San Miguel**, BCC Appointee

### **IRC staff present**

**Michael Zito**, Assistant County Administrator/General Services  
**Quintin Bergman**, Environmental Specialist  
**Eric Charest**, Natural Resources Manager  
**Kevin Kirwin**, IRC Director of Parks & Recreation  
**Molly Klinepeter**, Lagoon Plan Environmental Specialist  
**Susan Prado**, Assistant County Attorney  
**Dylan Reingold**, County Attorney  
**Ed Offutt**, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

### **Others present**

**Tem Fontaine**, Vice President, Coastal Tech  
**James Gray**, Executive Director, Sebastian Inlet District  
**Matt Starr**, Southeast Coastal Engineering Team Lead, Stantec

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### **Call to Order**

(3:04 PM) Chairman Hendricks called the meeting to order and noted that only four members were present, so no quorum was achieved.

### **Coastal Division Updates**

#### **A. Tropical Storm Isaias**

(3:05 PM) Mr. Charest reviewed the statistics associated with the offshore pass of Tropical Storm Isaias. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest’s report.) He specified that County beaches had absorbed minor damage, with some sand being removed from the beach but expected to return, over time, with normal wave action.

**B. Offshore Sand Source Investigation – Mr. Charest**

(3:16 PM) Mr. Charest provided a flowchart describing the process for establishing a new offshore sand borrow pit and reviewed the associated development costs and parameters. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest's report.)

**C. Beach Preservation Plan (BPP) Update – Mr. Charest**

(3:17 PM) Mr. Charest advised that staff is currently reviewing the final draft of the BPP from Stantec but still expected to share information with the Committee at the September BSPAC meeting. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest's report.)

**D. Round Island Beach Access Project – Mr. Charest**

(3:17 PM) Mr. Charest revealed that Coastal Waterways, the Round Island project consultant, had received the required Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) project permit on August 12, 2020. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest's report.)

**E. Derelict Vessel Removal – Mr. Charest**

(3:18 PM) Mr. Charest reviewed the County's successful first effort at removing derelict vessels from the Indian River Lagoon, using a grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest's report.) He explained that a freeze on additional FWC funding to dispose of more vessels has now been lifted, and that County staff is examining a second round of removals.

**F. Sector 4 Critically Eroded Area – Mr. Charest**

(3:19 PM) Mr. Charest announced that the BCC had approved APTIM's proposal to apply for re-designation of Sector 4 as a Critically Eroded Area, and that the application should be completed in the middle of August. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest's report.)

*(3:20 PM) Mr. Powers and Mr. Morgan arrived at or before 3:20 PM, achieving a quorum. Both participated by Zoom and their exact entry times were not observed.*

**G. IRC Beach Restoration Project Updates – Mr. Charest**

(3:20 PM) Mr. Charest disclosed that the Sector 5 beach renourishment project was complete, and that post-construction monitoring was underway; he then proceeded to discuss the status of Sectors 3 and 7. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest's report.) At the end of the Sector 3 status report, Mr. Morgan stated that he had a contact for the Ocean Pearl neighborhood; Mr. Ferrell agreed that Ocean Pearl was a key cog in the project but also expressed the need to improve the easement return rate at John's Island. Chairman Hendricks voiced similar concern about the Summerplace neighborhood.

(3:29 PM) Mr. Charest then reviewed Sector 7. Mr. Tripson asked for verification that all of the "yellow" (undecided) parcels had indeed been contacted, and Mr. Charest assured him they had, but that the County's overtures were not being received as well as staff had hoped. Mr. Ferrell mentioned that he had called and written to numerous HOAs and felt confident those organizations were doing their best to motivate their residents; he went on to say that on some properties the beach escarpments were getting very close to the homes, and predicted that those property owners would eventually agree to sand placement to protect their investments.

#### **H. Sea Turtle Updates – Mr. Bergman**

(3:38 PM) Mr. Bergman announced that sea turtle nest numbers are up, with leatherbacks doubling their nest counts from last year and green turtles showing up in surprisingly strong numbers in what had been expected to be a weak year. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Bergman's report.) He reminded the Committee that if post-hatchlings were found washed ashore, citizens should call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission hotline.

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

(3:40 PM) Mr. Gray commented that the SID had requested easements on 90 parcels to commence work on a dune repair project from the McLarty Museum (R-10) down to Ambersands Beach Park (R-17); he reported that the SID's current easement return rate was 40%. Mr. Gray further mentioned that the SID was on a similar timeline as the County (i.e., Sectors 3 and 7) for bidding their project and would use 50K cubic yards of available sand from the nearby Dredge Material Management Area (DMMA). Finally, he remarked that the SID was working on a state funding request for FY2021-2022 and would complete that process by September 30th.

#### **Update from the Sebastian Inlet District – Mr. Kirwin**

(3:43 PM) Mr. Kirwin reported that a FDEP permit for repairs to the Seagrape Trail Crossover were expected in the next few days, and confirmed that work was still scheduled to begin on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Commissioner's Matters – Commissioner Flescher**

(3:44 PM) Commissioner Flescher expressed his confidence that, with the Committee's assistance, the County staff would gain a sufficient number of easements in Sectors 3 and 7 to effect a complete sand placement project.

#### **Committee Members Matters**

(3:44 PM) There were none.

#### **Chairman's Matters**

(3:44 PM) Chairman Hendricks thanked the County staff for their effort on the easements and echoed Commissioner Flescher's support.

#### **Public Discussion Items**

(3:44 PM) There were none.

#### **Approval of Minutes from July 20, 2020**

**(3:44 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Tripson, SECONDED BY Chairman Hendricks, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of July 20, 2020, as presented.**

#### **Adjournment**

(3:45 PM) With no further business, Chairman Hendricks adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the BSPAC is scheduled for **September 21, 2020, at 3:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, FL.

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### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 -- Beach and Shore Advisory Committee Updates from the Coastal Engineering Division, August 17, 2020 (E. Charest)