

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

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (BSPAC) met at 3:00 PM on **Monday, September 21, 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  
**David Barney**, Vice Chairman, BCC Appointee  
**Sam Carroll**, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee (*late arrival*)  
**William “Tuck” Ferrell**, BCC Appointee  
**David Morgan**, BCC Appointee  
**Paul Knapp**, City Manager, Town of Orchid  
**Mark Tripson**, BCC Appointee  
**Commissioner Joseph Flescher**, BCC Representative (non-voting member)

### **Members absent**

**Robbie Brackett**, City of Vero Beach Appointee  
**Inocensia Hernandez**, City of Fellsmere Appointee  
**Jim Hill**, 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  
**Rich Szpyrka**, Director, IRC Public Works  
**Ed Offutt**, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

### **Others present**

**Steve Boehning**, President, Coastal Waterways Design & Engineering LLC  
**Tem Fontaine**, Vice President, Coastal Tech  
**James Gray**, Executive Director, Sebastian Inlet District  
**Noah Powers**, Town Manager, Town of Orchid

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### **Call to Order**

(3:00 PM) Chairman Hendricks called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present.

### **Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2020**

(3:00 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Ferrell, SECONDED BY Mr. Barney, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of August 17, 2020, as presented. (*Mr. Carroll arrived late to the meeting.*)

### **Coastal Division Updates**

#### **A. Offshore Sand Source Investigation – Mr. Charest**

(3:01 PM) Mr. Charest previously provided a flowchart describing the process for establishing a new offshore sand borrow pit, specifying that a “good” offshore borrow pit would cost about \$800K to \$1M to identify and hold at least 3-4 million cubic yards of sand. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest’s report.)

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

(3:02 PM) Mr. Charest advised that staff is currently reviewing the final draft of the BPP from Stantec, but due to other key issues the effort had slowed somewhat. He reported that a Stantec representative would be present to review key BPP contents with the Committee at the October BSPAC meeting. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest’s report.)

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

(3:03 PM) Mr. Charest revealed that the project cost had risen slightly, and that Public Works was awaiting plan review and release from the IRC Community Development directorate. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest’s report.)

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

(3:04 PM) Mr. Charest remarked that five additional derelict vessels had been approved for removal by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC). (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest’s report.) He detailed that the County had received quotes on removing additional vessels and expected to submit a new FWC grant application in October.

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

(3:04 PM) Mr. Charest announced that he expected to receive APTIM’s report by the end of the month, and that it would be forwarded to FDEP after staff review. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest’s report.)

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

(3:05 PM) Mr. Charest discussed the status of the Sector 3 renourishment project. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest’s report.) Mr. Charest affirmed that, with an anticipated easement approval from the Disney Vero Beach Resort, approximately 87% of the linear feet in the Sector 3 beachfront would be ready to receive sand deliveries. He specified that the County was willing to move forward with Ahtna Marine & Construction (AMC) Company’s low bid of \$17.1M, but AMC had subsequently reported an error in the bid and was seeking to withdraw it; the County had not budgeted sufficient funds for the next lowest bid, \$29M from Great Lakes Dredge & Dock (GLDD). Mr. Barney asked if the staff knew which bids were truck hauls and which called for offshore dredging, and Mr. Charest replied that only GLDD had proposed a dredge, adding that the other contractors planned to haul sand from Lake Wales, in the center of the state. Mr. Barney questioned why the bidders would employ sand sources from so far away, and wondered if the overall size of the Sector 3 project (about 694,600 cubic yards of sand) limited the number of local bidders. Mr. Charest assessed that overall project size may have been a factor; he noted that the smaller Sector 7 project did attract a local bid and left open the possibility that some nearby mines didn’t want to be short of sand after supporting a project as big as Sector 3. Mr. Charest also reminded the Committee that there were large, ongoing projects south of IRC and in the Florida panhandle, so demand for this type of service is currently high. Mr. Barney voiced concern about losing external funding if the Sector 3 effort was broken into two smaller jobs, and Mr. Charest acknowledged the possibility of this negative outcome. Mr. Charest advised that the staff would seek an extension of both the FDEP and FEMA funding. Chairman Hendricks asked if the contractors had

attended the non-mandatory pre-bid meeting and whether there was any question from local mines about the volume of sand the project would require. Mr. Charest replied that there was significant attendance at the meeting, but the sand quantity issue wasn't raised at the time. Commissioner Flescher surmised that more local bidders might come forward if the Sector 3 project was broken into two parts, and the Committee members lamented the cost of importing sand from so far away.

*(3:15 PM) Mr. Carroll arrived at or before 3:15 PM; as he participated by Zoom, his exact entry time was not observed.*

(3:16 PM) Mr. Ferrell wondered why prominent local sand mines hadn't been more interested in the project, but Mr. Charest was unaware of any specific reasons and could only postulate that other accounts were already taking their available time and resources. Chairman Hendricks commented that several local mines might have banded together to satisfy the demand, and remarked that the County had shown a willingness in the past to provide the necessary capital to enable the renourishment efforts. After Mr. Charest restated the options available to the BCC, Mr. Szpyrka read the full text that was to be presented at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting and advised the Committee members that they could make a formal recommendation to the Board, via a motion. Mr. Powers inquired as to what criteria would be used in determining the line of demarcation if Sector 3 was to be split, and Mr. Charest replied that, given the Sebastian Inlet District's similar efforts in Sectors 1 and 2, it would make the most sense to start at the northern end of Sector 3 and work down to an undetermined break point.

(3:25 PM) Mr. Charest then reviewed Sector 7, reporting that while the construction bids for both Sector 3 and Sector 7 were opened at the same time, only 62% of easements had been granted (or shown intent to grant), and a contiguous Sector 7 project was not currently possible. Mr. Charest related that the County had received two valid bids, but the staff would recommend a one-year delay to the BCC for Sector 7 renourishment efforts and seek the completion of more easements from the residents. Mr. Tripson declared that some respondents in Sector 7 questioned the "in perpetuity" wording within the easement. Mr. Barney inquired as to whether external Sector 7 funds could be redirected to Sector 3, but Mr. Charest advised they could not. Mr. Barney asked for the staff's opinion on the "eminent domain" action being pursued by Flagler County to gain easements from "holdout" property owners there, and Mr. Charest replied that he was aware but could not comment. Mr. Ferrell noted that some older homes in IRC were in danger from underlying escarpments caused by erosion. On a request from Chairman Hendricks, Mr. Szpyrka reviewed the comprehensive proposals he intended to present to the BCC the following day (see Attachment 1 for specifics), adding that a split Sector 3 project would consume a similar amount of sand as Sector 7 would have and yet offer somewhat easier access than Sector 7. Mr. Barney asked if bigger jobs like Sector 3 were also being ignored in other areas around Florida, and Mr. Szpyrka explained that the Army Corps of Engineers was currently very busy within the state; GLDD, for example, had \$160M worth of projects already scheduled, and \$7.5M of their \$29M bid for Sector 3 was assigned solely to mobilizing assets, an extremely high figure.

### **Approval of Motion**

**(3:43 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Ferrell, SECONDED BY Mr. Barney, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to express support for the County staff's recommendation to split the Sector 3 project and attempt to solicit bids and execute renourishment of the northern portion before the beginning of the 2021 sea turtle nesting season.**

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

(3:44 PM) Mr. Bergman announced that sea turtle nest numbers are up across the board. (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**

(3:47 PM) Mr. Gray commented that the SID had requested easements on 83 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 50%. Mr. Gray further mentioned that the SID has been in touch with some property owners and was considering modifications to address specific concerns and facilitate the approval of more easements.

### **Seagrape Trail Beach Park Dune Crossover Replacement Project – Mr. Kirwin**

(3:49 PM) Mr. Kirwin introduced the topic of repairs to the Seagrape Trail Crossover, stating that Parks and Recreation had teamed with Public Works to establish that the crossover would need to be replaced. Mr. Boehning briefed the BSPAC on the considerations, opportunities, and proposed solution (see Attachment 2 for the Seagrape Trail Crossover project summary); he specified that the goal was to provide an asset that would survive severe weather events with superficial, rather than structural, damage. Mr. Kirwin then reported that (1) \$40K had been set aside in the FY2021 budget for completing the project, (2) all of the authorities and interested parties had approved the effort, and (3) he hoped to award the contract by November 1<sup>st</sup>. When he was finished speaking, Mr. Barney inquired as to whether sufficiently-long 8" x 8" wood posts could be located and if the project could be completed on an already-eroded beach, and Mr. Boehning answered in the affirmative in both cases.

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

(3:59 PM) Mr. Kirwin reported that the Parks and Recreation staff was assessing all beaches in light of the severe weather (winds and waves) that started on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, noting that some locations had seen more damage than others.

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

(4:01 PM) Commissioner Flescher expressed his thanks for the BSPAC's resolution.

### **Committee Members Matters**

(4:02 PM) Mr. Ferrell commented on the importance of maintaining the dunes and beaches. Mr. Barney, supported by Mr. Tripson, congratulated the County Parks and Recreation staff on the overall excellent condition of County beaches. Commissioner Flescher then encouraged the members of the BSPAC and interested parties to attend the September 22<sup>nd</sup> BCC meeting and the September 23<sup>rd</sup> budget hearing to show their support for beach and shore issues and funding matters.

### **Chairman's Matters**

(4:07 PM) Chairman Hendricks had none.

### **Public Discussion Items**

(4:07 PM) There were none.

### **Adjournment**

(4:07 PM) With no further business, Chairman Hendricks adjourned the meeting.

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The next meeting of the BSPAC is scheduled for **October 19, 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, September 21, 2020 (E. Charest)

Attachment 2 -- Seagrape Trail Beach Park Dune Crossover Replacement Project, September 21, 2020 (K. Kirwin, S. Boehning)