

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 24, 2022**, in Building B, Conference 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/2022.

Members present

William “Tuck” Ferrell, Vice Chairman, BCC Appointee
Robbie Brackett, City of Vero Beach Appointee
David Cox, BCC Appointee
Christian Hendricks, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
David Morgan, BCC Appointee
Commissioner Joe Earman, BCC Representative (non-voting member)

Members absent

David Barney, Chairman, BCC Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Paul Knapp, Town of Orchid Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
Mark Tripson, BCC Appointee

IRC staff present

Kylie Ariotti, Beach Program Specialist
Quintin Bergman, Environmental Specialist
Eric Charest, Natural Resources Manager
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
Ed Offutt, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

Others present

Steve Boehning, Principal Engineer at Coastal Waterways; Local Rep to FL Inland Nav. Dist.
Richard Mutterback, Assistant Director, Public Works, City of Vero Beach

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2021

(3:00 PM) **ON MOTION BY Mr. Hendricks, SECONDED BY Dr. Cox**, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021, as presented.

Election of Officers for 2022

(3:00 PM) **ON MOTION BY Mr. Ferrell, SECONDED BY Mr. Hendricks**, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to re-elect Chairman Barney for 2022.

(3:01 PM) **ON MOTION BY Mr. Hendricks, SECONDED BY Mr. Jones**, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to re-elect Vice Chairman Ferrell for 2022.

Coastal Division Updates

A. IRC Beach Restoration Project Updates – Ms. Ariotti

(3:02 PM) Mr. Charest declared that a contract had been awarded for Sector 5 to receive 135,000 additional dune plantings (mostly sea oats) beginning on February 7, 2022. (See Attachment 1 for a full summary of Mr. Charest's report.) Ms. Ariotti added that beach tilling would be required in Sector 5, specifically three years after the recent sand renourishment effort, and that all necessary notifications would be made prior to commencement of such activity.

(3:05 PM) Mr. Charest announced that one additional easement had been signed in Sector 7. He also confirmed that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's 2022 Sector 7 grant funding has been reauthorized for use through September of 2023. (See Attachment 1 for a summary of Mr. Charest's report.) Mr. Hendricks asked about the Sector 7 sand renourishment price increase from \$9.9M to \$11M, and Mr. Charest replied that this was simply an estimate based on what had been observed in other recent contracts.

(3:08 PM) Ms. Ariotti summarized the ongoing work on the Sector 3 Phase 2 project (see Attachment 1 for a full summary of Ms. Ariotti's report). One resident of Summerplace in attendance asked about a potential three-month closure of Wabasso Beach Park, but Ms. Ariotti stated that this was only a contingency plan and a much shorter closure was anticipated. The resident followed with a question about the uneven distribution of sand in his immediate neighborhood, and Ms. Ariotti answered that the gaps in the placement were due to sporadic unsigned easements amongst the Summerplace residents.

B. Sea Turtle Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:16 PM) Mr. Bergman stated that Indian River County was home to approximately 5.48% of all sea turtle nests recorded in the State of Florida in 2021, while possessing only 2.72% of the State's sandy beaches. He also announced that staff is preparing for the 2022 nesting season.

(3:18 PM) Mr. Charest then related some further information regarding derelict vessels in the Indian River Lagoon, stating that three additional vessels had been identified, thereby bringing the current count to six vessels the County is seeking to remove. He added that "economies of scale" help the County save money in the removal process, so more vessels designated for removal typically reduced the per-vessel price. Dr. Cox remarked that private contractors and property-owners can pay the County to have vessels removed, using these payments as mitigation for seagrass impacts; Mr. Charest said he wasn't familiar with this concept but would research the current law. Finally, Mr. Charest mentioned that Tim Rose Contracting provided surplus material that would be used to create an artificial reef.

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

(3:24 PM) Mr. Gray was not present at the meeting, but sent a message to the BSPAC noting that the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Sebastian Inlet District Inlet Management Plan will occur on Wednesday, January 26th.

Status of County Beach Parks – Mr. Charest

(3:24 PM) Mr. Kirwin was unavailable, but Mr. Charest reported that the Seagrape Trail Beach Access would be temporarily open until the contractor acquires sufficient asphalt to make necessary repairs and upgrades.

Commissioner's Matters – Commissioner Earman

(3:25 PM) Commissioner Earman announced that the Disney Vero Beach Resort had agreed to accept sand renourishment from the County's contractor onto its beaches, and that all parties were happy with the final solution to their previous stalemate. He then recounted his experiences at the Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day on January 19th and his meetings with Pepper Uchino, the County's paid beach lobbyist. Commissioner Earman remarked that a bill was progressing through the Florida Legislature that would allow local government representatives to declare vessels as derelict, streamlining the removal process. He further stated that overall State funding for beach projects should be at or above last year's level, which he assessed as a good outcome that would support IRC's goals. The commissioner detailed that coastal resilience is currently a prominent topic in Tallahassee and that more projects and funding could be expected on this front. Finally, he disclosed that private landowner resistance to easements for local government beach improvement projects were a concern for many counties, not just IRC.

Committee Members Matters

(3:32 PM) Mr. Morgan commended the truck drivers working on the Sector 3 Phase 2 project for doing a fine job of limiting their interference in the areas around the work zones; Ms. Ariotti said she would pass the comment on to the contractor.

Chairman's Matters

(3:34 PM) There were none.

Public Discussion Items

(3:34 PM) There were none.

Adjournment

(3:34 PM) With no further business, Vice Chairman Ferrell adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the BSPAC is scheduled for **February 28, 2022, at 3:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

Attachments

Attachment 1 -- Beach and Shore Advisory Committee Updates from the Coastal Engineering Division, January 24, 2022 (E. Charest)