

BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (BSPAC) met at 3:00 PM on **Monday, October 17, 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/BSPAC/2022.

Members present

David Barney, Chairman, BCC Appointee
Bob Auwaerter, Town of Indian River Shores Councilmember
David Cox, BCC Appointee
Commissioner Joe Earman, BCC Representative (*non-voting member*)
William "Tuck" Ferrell, Vice Chairman, BCC Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
Paul Knapp, Town of Orchid Appointee

Members absent

Robbie Brackett, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee
David Morgan, BCC Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
Mark Tripson, BCC Appointee

IRC staff present

Quintin Bergman, Environmental Specialist
Melissa Meisenburg, Lagoon Plan Environmental Specialist
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
Rich Szyrka, Director of Public Works
Ed Offutt, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

Others present

Tem Fontaine, Vice President, Coastal Tech-GEC, Inc.
James Gray, Executive Director, Sebastian Inlet District

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2022

(3:00 PM) ON MOTION BY Mr. Auwaerter, SECONDED BY Mr. Ferrell, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of September 19, 2022, as presented.

Coastal Division Updates

A. Sectors 3 and 5 Beach Restoration Project Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:01 PM) Mr. Bergman reported the latest results of the Sector 5 and Sector 3 renourishment projects, disclosing that the county was working with the contractor to establish when further Sector 3, Phase 2 warranty plantings might take place. (See Attachment 1 for a full summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

B. Sector 7 Beach Restoration Project Update – Mr. Bergman

(3:02 PM) Mr. Bergman detailed there had been no changes to the Sector 7 easement count, and that the county was still waiting for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to authorize another funding extension to March of 2024. (See Attachment 1 for a full summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

C. Sea Turtle Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:03 PM) Mr. Bergman reported record-breaking turtle nest numbers for 2022 even though Hurricane Ian had claimed approximately 200-300 nests. (See Attachment 1 for a full summary of Mr. Bergman's report.)

D. Indian River Lagoon Updates – Ms. Meisenburg

(3:04 PM) Ms. Meisenburg explained that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) Commission had established a hotline for reporting vessels displaced due to Hurricane Ian. (See Attachment 1 for a full summary of Ms. Meisenburg's report.)

E. Other Coastal Updates – Mr. Bergman

(3:06 PM) Mr. Bergman presented a series of pictures showing the erosion impacts of Hurricane Ian on county beaches (see Attachment 2) and, in some cases, how significant sand had returned in the following days. Chairman Barney asked if an estimate of the total sand losses had been calculated, and Mr. Bergman said the county's consultant was working on that task. Mr. Ferrell noted that, in the area around Windsor, up to 11 feet of dune had been eroded, and then asked if there was a possibility of receiving state funding to effect repairs. Mr. Szyrka replied that the county was working on this possibility with FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), and that both agencies were awaiting the initial assessment of damages; he added that the county routinely monitors the beaches through its contractor, APTIM, to fully understand the effects of erosion.

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

(3:17 PM) Mr. Gray recounted the effects of Hurricane Ian in the vicinity of the SID, in particular the maximum sustained winds of 65 miles per hour (MPH) and gusts to 81 MPH with a peak significant wave height of about ten feet. He estimated that total sand losses were between 30,000-35,000 cubic yards and asserted that the border area between Sectors 1 and 2 might take longer than usual to recover. Finally, Mr. Gray revealed that the SID was contracting an upland truck sand haul between January and March of 2023, although the SID was funding-limited and could not compensate for all of the sand losses due to Ian.

Status of County Beach Parks

(3:27 PM) The county's new Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, Gustavo Vergara, reported that all of the county's beach parks were currently open with only minor exceptions.

Commissioner's Matters – Commissioner Earman

(3:28 PM) Commissioner Earman thanked the staff for their recent great work on beach projects. Furthermore, he stated he was still considering various changes to the perpetual easement to see if consensus could be reached between staff and residents, and hoped to have a new proposal ready soon.

Committee Members Matters

(3:30 PM) Mr. Ferrell expressed appreciation for the county's efforts to maintain its beaches, but cautioned that the area had again "dodged a bullet" with Hurricane Ian and advocated for more robust beach dunes.

Chairman's Matters

(3:32 PM) Chairman Barney announced that he was resigning his position on the BSPAC after 22 years so he could accept a position on the Board of Commissioners of the SID. He mentioned two specific unfinished items for the committee to continue pursuing: (1) he restated his belief that IRC should firmly establish new sand sources for beach renourishment projects, and (2) he expressed his desire for the next edition of the county's Beach Preservation Plan to include a recovery plan for catastrophic sand loss due to hurricanes or other significant natural phenomena.

Public Discussion Items

(3:34 PM) Several meeting attendees thanked Chairman Barney for his lengthy service to the BSPAC.

Adjournment

(3:35 PM) With no further business, Chairman Barney adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the BSPAC is scheduled for **November 21, 2022, at 3:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

Attachments

Attachment 1 -- BSPAC Updates from the Coastal Engineering Division, 10/17/22 (Q. Bergman)

Attachment 2 – Slide Presentation, "Hurricane Ian: September 26th to October 3rd, 2022, Beach Observation Report," 10/17/22 (Q. Bergman)