



MINUTES
Regular Meeting – June 19, 2023
BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Heanue – Town of Orchid Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez – City of Fellsmere Appointee
Fred Jones – City of Sebastian Appointee
Ray Neville – City of Vero Beach Appointee
Mary Alice Smith – Town of IRS Appointee

David Cox – BCC Appointee
Shelby Graziani – BCC Appointee
David Morgan – BCC Appointee
Francisco San Miguel – BCC Appointee
Michael Sole – BCC Appointee

William Ferrell, Jr. – BCC Appointee, Chairman
Joseph Earman – Commissioner, District 3, Commission Liaison

The **Beach & Shore Preservation Advisory Committee** met at 3:00 PM on Monday, June 19, 2023, in room B1-501 of County Administration Building B, located at 1800 27th Street in Vero Beach.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman William Ferrell, Jr. called the June 19, 2023 meeting of the Beach & Shore Advisory Committee to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

William Ferrell, Jr., Chairman BCC Appointee
Jim Raphaelian, Alternate, Town of Orchid Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
Ray Neville, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Bob Auwaerter, Alternate, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
Shelby Graziani, BCC Appointee
David Morgan, BCC Appointee
Michael Sole, BCC Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
Commissioner Joseph Earman, BCC Liaison

Members Absent

David Cox, BCC Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee

Also Present

Eric Charest, Indian River County Natural Resources Manager
Rich Szyrka, Indian River County Director of Public Works
Beth Powell, Indian River County Director of Parks and Recreation
Maura Stokes, Indian River County Recording Secretary

3. Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION by David Morgan, SECONDED by Michael Sole, the members voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of May 15, 2023.

4. Coastal Division Updates, including Beach Restoration Projects

Eric Charest began the Coastal Division updates with an anticipated agenda item going before the Board of County Commissioners tomorrow with regards to funding that was allocated from the Florida legislature back in December. We have now received our grant 23 IR2 which deals with Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole damages. We have 3.745 million dollars that is so that is encouraging. We expect the board to accept that tomorrow, standard terms. A good part about this grant is it is not a cost share, it is a full funding grant, so there is no cost share associated with this, which is very unique and encouraging and will definitely help address some of the damages from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Additionally, Beach Watch has announced an additional 106 million that has been allocated to the beach program from the Florida legislature in the next three months. The breakdown of losses came from the DEPs and the county had relayed the information to the department in December per their request.

The grant coordinator and Greg Harris from the Office of Coastal Resilience indicated that the department intends to fund the remaining portion of the grant, and the county has requested other funding sources since FEMA is not providing funding for sector 4, which has an estimated loss of 220,000 cubic yards of sand at \$9.5 million. The original plan was for FEMA to cover 75% of the cost, with the state and local share being the remaining 25%, estimated at \$2.37 million.

Mr. Charest did participate in the Department of Economic Opportunities \$350 million funding that they have made available. There are some opportunities out there and we will look at seeing what kind of applications can be put in for that. We're also currently in the funding period for this year's LGFR (Local Government Funding Request), the local government funding request grants, that is a 50-50 cost share. So, you know, we would look at potentially finding out what would be available for some 50-50 cost share once we've exhausted any opportunity for the non-match funds first. So, a lot of different avenues out there for funding at this point. The county is pursuing and looking at each and every one of them. We have some dates that are hard ahead of us, pretty much being the end of July for the LGFR programs. But again, we've got projects that could be in the hopper that we might be able to seek some additional funding for.

Mr. Charest also mentioned that we have an agenda item going before the Board of County Commissioners tomorrow for our lagoon program in which we have a list of projects that could lend themselves to some of the funding when it becomes available. Right now, the funding agencies are kind of like kids in the candy store, with the money they just need to figure out how to spend it.

Sector 4 – Critically Eroded Shoreline Evaluation

(Location: 0.5 mi south of Old Winter Beach Road to Surf Lane)

In with the packet of information you received, there was a copy of a letter that was submitted to the Florida Legislature's office. I believe it was submitted to the DEP from Erin Grall's office with regards to Sector 4. That did prompt a response from the DEP folks to reach out for the copy of the draft Sector 4 damage assessment report, understanding that it is still in draft format, but that letter

did get a response from the Office of Coastal Resilience. So not sure how far it's going to go, but they are still looking at that. I believe the intent was for the continuity of management, which would link sectors three and sectors five together. Again, my stance on that, just to let everyone know, is it still would only allow for a minimal amount of funding for that project. So, it may be good that it's moving forward, but when we still see if that is included in the critically eroded area, that would only give 2.3% of that project would be available for cost share funding.

Sector 7 – Porpoise Point Beach

(Location: Treasure Cove subdivision south to the Floralton Beach subdivision ~2 miles)

On May 2nd, there was a Board of County Commissioner meeting in where Mr. Charest presented an amended option number 3 that was agreed to or recommended from the Beach and Shore Committee. The Board of County Commissioners did accept the amended option 3 that was the recommendation of this group here, with the caveat that there would be an additional 30 days given to a local stakeholder in order to try to obtain the easements necessary to move the project forward. That amended option three did say that it was going to determine the current project is not constructible, and then based on a lack of sufficient stakeholder support in the form of easements.

The 30-day window from May 2nd to June 2nd has come and gone. Staff did not receive any additional easements on that effort that was undertaken by the local stakeholders. Mr. Charest does have an agenda item going before the Board of County Commissioners tomorrow which is now to implement amended option number three which at that point there would be for us to determine the current project for sector seven as a canceled project.

Sector 5 Update – Vero Beach

(Location: Sea Watch south to Riomar Beach Access 3.1 miles)

Sector 3 Update – Wabasso Beach

(Location: Seaview Sub. South to approx. Turtle Trail Beach Park ~6.6 miles)

Mr. Charest grouped both Sectors 3 and 5 together for this report. Some people have seen our post-construction monitoring efforts are underway. You've got survey boats out there as well as beach surveyors out there. Mr. Charest did notify the lifeguard stations, as well as some of the cities. Be aware that there are people on the beaches performing our post-construction surveys, which as I had touched upon at a board meeting, these post-construction surveys for sectors three and five will also, or can also, lend themselves to being pre-construction services should we be able to move forward, get some confirmation from FEMA, get some project work chiefs written and figure out what we say on some of the funding. So those projects are, you know, staying in fairly decent shape.

Sea Turtle Updates

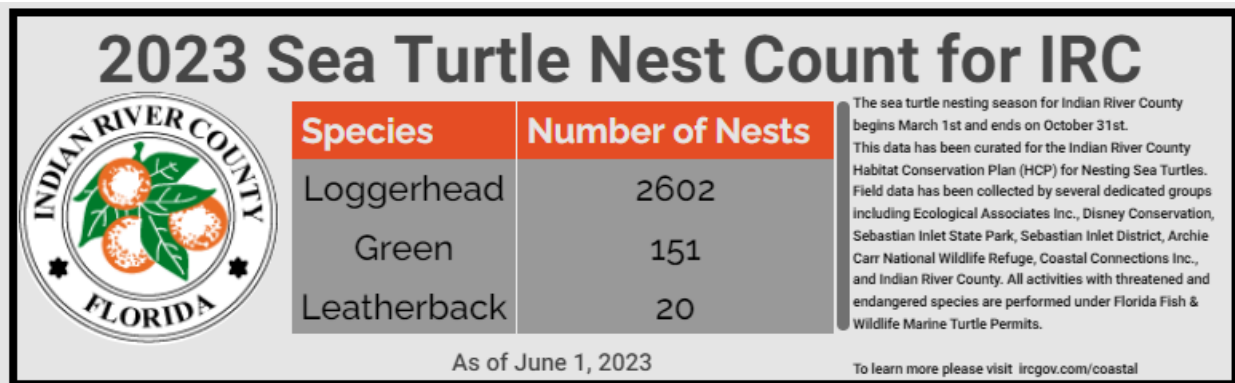
We've got a really good nesting season thus far. We've got over 2,600 loggerhead nests, 150 green trouble nests, and about 20 leatherback nests. Seasons for loggerheads and greens are looking good. Leatherback is going to be low. Last year it was really high. So nothing earth shattering there. Just a reminder, sea turtle nesting season March 1st through October 31st. Code enforcement for Indian River County and City of Vero Beach have been very active. So I'm sure some of our folks here have definitely gotten calls about the different lighting violations that cropped up the first observation.

IRC Code Enforcement has been busy sending warnings and notices to property owners. COVB Code Enforcement has also been busy sending out notices. Staff has been working with many of those that have received letters and assisting in efforts for the properties to be brought into compliance.

Staff continues to deliver public talks to neighborhoods and civic groups. Always looking for more opportunities to educate our residents and visitors on sea turtles.

Staff has traveling educational trunks; 4 teachers have used them in 5th-7th science classes this past semester. These trunks are currently being used by educational groups at various summer camps.

Website updates and email changes coming soon.



Indian River Lagoon Updates

There was an inquiry regarding if sea turtle hatching will be affected by the sargassum? What we're seeing in the sargassum realm is that these are normal amounts. Just like a lot of environmental things, you have fluctuations from year to year to year, but in general, it's been pretty average. Sea turtles have had sargassum on beaches for decades and millennia. They are able to get past the sargassum. It might slow them down a bit, but they will get past it. Honestly, artificial lighting is more of a concern to me than sargassum would be.

We have had a delay with our derelict vessel removal. Unfortunately, it is on the side of FWC law enforcement, not on our side. We are still working with law enforcement to get this moving forward so that we can get the grant and get these boats removed.

5. Update from the Sebastian Inlet District

No Updates

6. Status of County Beach Parks

Beth Powell stated that we have an RFP out now for Green Playgrounds, which will include Round Island, Golden Sands, and Trader Shores. I know we're all anxious to get those replaced.

Also, our engineer is completing a preliminary sign for Tracking Station for the boardwalk that was damaged during the hurricanes. We expect to be able to start construction after sea turtle nesting season on that. Had a couple FEMA meetings and everything seems to be on track for that. So that's good news there. And we do have the modified beach access. The beach park is still open and people can still access that, as well as installing some loading mats to make the accessibility a little bit better during our transition until the boardwalks and crossovers are completed.

Some other things going on, we are working on three beach side septic-to-sewer projects. So, we have Treasure Shores, that's will be a septic-to-sewer with a lift station. That's in the final stages of design now, and we'll be able to get that part connected to sewer. We have step systems going into Tracking Station and Round Island, Riverside as well as Oceanside. So that's very exciting. And we met with the City of Vero Beach, the first of May, finalizing plans for that, and getting those connections and easements and everything needed for those. We are looking forward to those projects being connected to the program.

7. Commissioner's Matters

No Updates.

8. Committee Members Matters

No Updates.

9. Chairman's Matters

No Updates.

10. Public Discussion Items

None.

11. Adjournment

Being no further business, Chairman Ferrell adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Stokes, Recording Secretary