



MINUTES - DRAFT

Regular Meeting – February 26, 2024

BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Heanue – Town of Orchid Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez – City of Fellsmere Appointee
Fred Jones – City of Sebastian Appointee
Taylor Dingle – 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
William Ferrell, Jr. – BCC Appointee

Michael Sole – BCC Appointee, Chairman
Joseph Earman – Commissioner, District 3, Commission Liaison

The **Beach & Shore Preservation Advisory Committee** met at 3:00 PM on Monday, February 26, 2024, in room B1-501 of County Administration Building B, located at 1800 27th Street in Vero Beach.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Sole called the February 26, 2024, meeting of the Beach & Shore Advisory Committee to order at 3:01 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

William Ferrell, Jr., Chairman BCC Appointee
Commissioner Joseph Earman, BCC Liaison
John Heanue, Town of Orchid Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
Mary Alice Smith, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
Shelby Graziani, BCC Appointee
David Morgan, BCC Appointee
Michael Sole, BCC Appointee
Taylor Dingle, City of Vero Beach Appointee

Members Absent

David Cox, BCC Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee

Also Present

Eric Charest, Natural Resources Director
Quintin Bergman, Coastal Resources Manager
Melissa Meisenburg: Sr. Lagoon Specialist
Dustin Vangeison, Beach Environmental Specialist
Joe Tilton, Indian River County Parks and Recreation
Ashley Brown, Indian River County Recording Secretary
Bob Auwaerter, Alternate, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
Laura Moss, Commissioner
James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District

3. Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION by Mary Alice Smith, SECONDED by Taylor Dingle, the members voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2024.

4. Coastal Division Updates, including Beach Restoration Projects

Natural Resources Director Eric Charest provided Coastal Division updates. There has been a revised ranking of the County's request for \$7.1 million in 50/50 cost share funding for Sector 3 under the FDEP Local Governmental Funding Request (LGFR). The Cost Share funds for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year appear to have qualified for funding. We are currently pending legislative approval of the Budget.

Sector 4 – Critically Eroded Shoreline Evaluation

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

Mr. Charest stated staff members continue to work with stakeholder groups for additional outreach efforts. The estimated Volume losses are 135,000 cy based on design documents based on dry beach with estimated costs of \$6.0 million. The DRAFT FDEP JCP Permit was received on 02/16/2024. The County staff and consultant review is now complete. However, inconsistencies were noted with the draft permit and conditions discussed during series of pre- and post-application meetings. Mr. Charest informed committee members that they are working with the Department on resolving these items prior to issuing a Public Notice.

Regarding the status of the USACE Permit: the Federal permit was required and acted as a nexus for required Federal Agency consultation requirements. The Updated Incidental Take and Biological Opinion response is still required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Lastly, the anticipated permit is set to mirror the County's Sectors 3 and 5 Biological Opinion language. Projected timelines for both Permits (15-year FDEP and 15-year USACE) expected no later than March 2024. Furthermore, construction is anticipated for the November 2024-April 2025 window. Indian River County will be going out to bid over the summer. Construction may begin as early as November 1, 2024, as allowable.

Sector 7 – Porpoise Point Beach

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

Staff members are currently monitoring the erosion that's occurred over the last several weeks. County faculty are working with FDEP on LGFR Grant 19IR2 to be amended to allow Construction Funds to be reallocated to for use to partially reimburse Monitoring/Design and Permitting costs already incurred by the County.

Sector 5 Update – Vero Beach

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

Delays in FEMA reimbursement continues, FDEP cost share reimbursement not yet sought. No sector 5 project anticipated.

Sector 3 Update – Wabasso Beach

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

Partial FEMA funding received for the Sector 3 project and the reimbursement process will begin. Dustin Vangeison, Beach Environmental Specialist, provided more information on Sector 3 updates. He discussed the progress from Treasure Shores Park to Golden Sands Park. He informed committee members that at the end of each day contractors smooth out the work area. Golden Sands is almost completed and upon completion they will move onto Wabasso.

Mr. Vangeison feels quite optimistic about the progress being made. The contractors are now in the swing of things and the process is becoming more efficient and speedier. Mr. Charest added that there are three-quarters of a million plants that have been added to the beach. They are planted with hydrogel which increases their likelihood of survivability. The plants have a diversity of species but are native to this area.

Sea Turtle Updates

Quintin Bergman, Coastal Resources Manager spoke next. There were not too many updates, however, preparations for the upcoming season are currently underway. He stated that County staff members attended the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) Technical Conference last month. Mr. Bergman said it was very educational and there were informative speeches from County Engineers.

March 1st is the start of Sea Turtle season which will have an impact on construction. Extra precautions are being taken to protect the sea turtles. Prior to the contractor going out, a biologist runs the beach on an ATV and identifies any nests. These areas are marked, and they do have permission to relocate these nests to other areas. Mr. Bergman heard there were three leatherback nests in the state of Florida, however, none were in Indian River County. If sea turtle nests are discovered close to the project zone, that will also trigger additional nighttime work. Should that occur, biologist will be out all night long trying to locate the nests.

Indian River Lagoon Updates

Melissa Meisenburg, Sr. Lagoon Specialist delivered updates. She has been working with Randall Parkinson on Living Shorelines. Ms. Meisenburg informed committee members that on March 19th & 20th she will be working with Vincent Encomio. He is hosting a two-day Living Shoreline workshop, homeowners and contractors alike are welcome to attend. Mr. Encomio will discuss the importance of utilizing living shorelines along properties. Lastly, Ms. Meisenburg stated that last week was the 13th annual Indian River Symposium at Harbor Branch. The event was sold out and was very informative. She let attendees know that it was recorded, and the videos should be available shortly. It will be open to the public and all those interested can watch all the presentations given that day.

5. Update from the Sebastian Inlet District

James Gray provided updates on the Sebastian Inlet. He reiterated what Mr. Charest said about the

importance of the M.O.U. Mr. Gray informed committee members that their jetty repairs are still progressing in the design. As he mentioned last month, they are in the permitting phase. Sebastian Inlet is looking into executing some structural improvements to the jetty. This is because the rock/ large armor stone has been displaced due to many years of storms. As such, they are addressing the necessary maintenance now. Mr. Gray expects construction to begin this summer.

Chairman Sole inquired about the jetty repairs and wanted to know if there is bypass contingency. Mr. Gray informed him that they had just updated their Inlet Management Plan. Of which, the County FDEP/Brevard County and downdrift property owners participated in a Technical Advisory Committee. There were engineers, consultants, that did an analysis. Per Florida statute, the jetties are interrupting the flow of sand. Furthermore, this is recognized by the Department of Environmental Protection. It was determined that there are 75,000 cubic yards per year of interrupted sand flow. As such, they are required to maintain a bypassing strategy on the down drift beaches. That is currently impacting the current and flow of sediments. On an annualized basis they are to place 75,000 cubic yards, in 2024. Jetty studies analyzed sediment transfer and sediment transport. As the rock has been removed, they are seeing more sediment transport.

Status of County Beach Parks

Joe Tilton, Recreational Manager, provided committee members with Park updates. He brought up Mr. Charest's discussion about FEMA extensions (for Hurricanes Ian & Nicole) and he stated they have also filed extensions with the tracking station dune crossover project. It has been sent to the County Administrator for signature. Mr. Tilton expects that to be completed soon. In addition, staff members are working on a letter to FEMA to ask for some mitigation funding. Rather than doing the northern and central boardwalk as a switchback, they'd like to do a crossover with stairs. He feels this would hold up better through storms and is more cost effective.

The new decking on the Wabasso ramp is set to be completed today. Mr. Tilton announced the septic-to-sewer transition at Round Island and Round Island Riverside. They are currently waiting for the construction of the condos south of the tracking station to be completed. Additionally, they are waiting to move onto Treasure Shores. The contractor is now waiting on the lift station parts. Once those are in, they will issue a notice to proceed. The contractor estimates it will take between 1-2 weeks to complete.

Lastly, Mr. Tilton updated committee members on the status of the three playgrounds located at Treasure Shores, Golden Sands, and Round Island. They are waiting on building permits at this point. The permits have been submitted and they are waiting for them to be issued. Once that is done, they will get in touch with the contractor to get a schedule pertaining to all three parks.

6. Commissioner's Matters

Commissioner Earman began by thanking Chairman Sole. He mentioned the emails being sent out to committee members and interested parties pertain to what is currently being done in Tallahassee. It is completed by the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association who act as our lobbyist in Tallahassee. The FSBPA monitors important beach and shore issues. Commissioner Earman spoke highly of the organization; he feels they provide good information. FSBPA is currently being led by Pepper Uchino.

Commissioner Earman stated that the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association mentioned the funding will be very good this year. The biggest concern this year are coastal setbacks issues and Homes being built on the coastline. Commissioner Earman informed attendees that on January 1st, legislation went into effect that required specific language to be included in the easements. It was only

based on how many people could sign and how it was notarized. He stated this had nothing to do whether these are temporary or whether they're perpetual in nature. Commissioner Earman said it is ultimately up to the jurisdiction, he just wanted to bring it to the committee members' attention. Lastly, he once again thanked all those in attendance for their dedication to BSPAC.

7. Committee Members Matters

None.

8. Chairman's Matters

None.

9. Public Discussion Items

None.

10. Adjournment

Being no further business, Chairman Sole adjourned the meeting at 4:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Brown, Recording Secretary