MINUTES - DRAFT
Regular Meeting – July 15, 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, July 15, 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 July 15, 2024, meeting of the Beach & Shore Advisory Committee to order at 3:00 PM; a quorum was present.

Members Present

Michael Sole, BCC Appointee, Chairman
Commissioner Joseph Earman, BCC Liaison
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
Mary Alice Smith, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
Shelby Graziani, BCC Appointee
David Cox, BCC Appointee
William Ferrell, Jr., BCC Appointee
Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee

Members Absent

David Morgan, BCC Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
Taylor Dingle, City of Vero Beach Appointee

Also Present

Kylie Yanchula, Director of Natural Resources
Eric Charest, Assistant Director of Natural Resources
Quintin Bergman, Coastal Resources Manager

Dustin Vangeison, Beach Environmental Specialist
Jess Stuczynski, Sea Turtle Environmental Specialist
Sara Wappes, Lagoon Environmental Specialist
Beth Powell, Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Joe Tilton, Recreational Manager, Parks, Recreation & Conservation
James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District Executive Director
Kim Moirano, Indian River County Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION by William Ferrell, Jr., SECONDED by Fred Jones, the members voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of June 17, 2024.

3. Coastal Division Updates, including Beach Restoration Projects

Eric Charest, Assistant Director of Natural Resources, provided Coastal Division updates. The revised ranking of the County's request for $7.1 million in 50/50 cost share funds for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year have qualified for funding. The governor approved the 06/12/2024 budget. The County is currently waiting on grant documents for the Board to consider and vote on.

Unused legislatively approved Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement funds are now being made available to impacted Governmental agencies with qualifying beach nourishment projects. Indian River County has applied for $1.624 million in program funds to assist with the construction of Sector 4. Reimbursement will be on a first come, first served approach, with a total of approximately $36 million in funds available.

Sector 4 – Dune Restoration Project

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

County staff are continuing their work on easement outreach efforts. The dry beach project design is estimated to require 135,000 cy of beach compatible sand with an estimated cost of $6.0 million. The revised Draft JCP Permit was issued on 05/03/24. The USACE permit was signed by the County and the permit application fee was paid on 06/12/24 with a countersignature expected any day. Bid documents are currently under review and the estimated construction date remains in the November 2024 – April 2025 window.

Sector 7 – Porpoise Point Beach

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

The FDEP LGFR Grant 19IR2 Amendment #3 has been received. It was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on 07/02/2024. The draft reimbursement request was submitted to FDEP to seek partial reimbursement for the Monitoring/ Design and Permitting costs incurred by the County.

Sector 5 Update – Vero Beach

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

The FEMA reimbursement strategy is approved and the County is moving forward with reimbursement and FDEP LGFR submittal for Cost Share. The next major Sector 5 Project is anticipated to take place in the 2025/2026 construction window.

Sector 3 Update – Wabasso Beach
(Location: Seaview Sub. South to approx. Turtle Trail Beach Park ~6.6 miles)

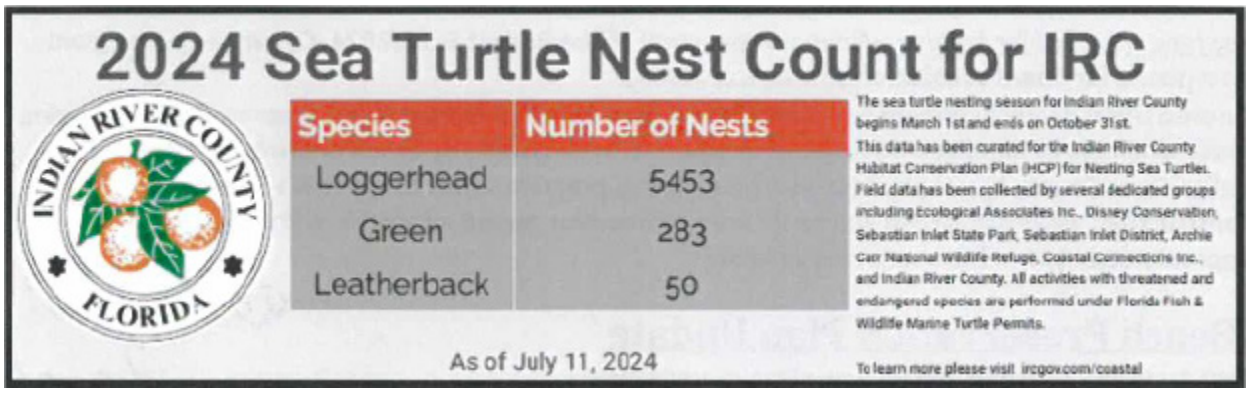
The final project completion and release of the retainage Agenda was approved by the Board of Commissioners on 07/02/24. Staff are continuing to work on finalizing the Project Worksheets identifying Hurricanes Ian and Nicole-related damages to the Sector 3 Beaches. We have requested extensions to allow for the completion of Category G repairs.

Regarding the 2021/2022 Beach and Dune Restoration Project, partial FEMA funding has been received and we are beginning the reimbursement process. Additionally, reimbursement strategies are being continuously discussed.

ON MOTION by Fred Jones, SECONDED by David Cox, the members voted unanimously to request the Board of Commissioners direct staff to seek FDEP reallocate unused Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant funds not used by the private sector be made available to entities such as the County in the event of a hurricane to aid in covering beach/ dune restoration.

Sea Turtle Updates

Jess Stuczynski, Sea Turtle Environmental Specialist, shared the sea turtle updates with BSPAC members. We are currently in the peak of sea turtle nesting season and nesting activity is trending towards an average year for all three sea turtle species. Surveyors have documented many nests beginning to hatch on the beach and have begun performing "nest excavations" to determine how productive IRC's beaches are. Per the requirements of the County's Habitat Conservation Plan, there have been follow-up lighting surveys throughout Indian River County and the City of Vero Beach. In addition, County staff members have been working with those that have received lighting violation notices from the initial evaluation in May. They performed site visits in an effort to bring violators into compliance.



Indian River Lagoon Updates

Mr. Charest introduced the newest member of the Natural Resources team— Sara Wappes. Melissa Meisenburg has been promoted to Senior Environmental Specialist and Ms. Wappes is working as the Lagoon Specialist. The FWC awarded a Bulk Derelict Vessel Grant for five vessels. It was approved by BOCC on June 18th. Additionally, the contractor anticipates removals beginning next week. Staff received Board approval on July 2, 2024 to apply for a Bulk Derelict Vessel Grant to remove the remaining four derelict vessels. Staff also received approval from the Board to potentially

pursue grant funds associated with derelict vessel removal through the Florida Inland Navigation District should any projects meet grant requirements. Lastly, staff members will bring the revised Interlocal Agreement Language to be provided to the municipalities for their participation in the Anchoring Limitation Areas at the August 20, 2024 Board meeting.

Following the Updates from the Coastal Engineering Division, Mr. Bergman delivered a detailed and informative PowerPoint presentation regarding beach preservation. He broke it up into tasks 1-7 containing the following:

- Data collection
- Beach conditions update
- Sand, environmental & biological resources
- Vulnerability & resilience analysis
- Management alternatives
- Summary & recommendations
- Project management

4. Update from the Sebastian Inlet District

James Gray spoke to committee members and delivered updates regarding the Sebastian Inlet. The District has applied for multiple grants both procurement-related and through local government funding request processes. One such request that they have received funding for comes in at $6.1 million. This funding will offset some of the costs for the Sector 1 project that is planned for this coming dredging season. Additionally, they are also looking at Sector 2 in advance of the Hurricane Recovery Fund. Mr. Gray stated that there is a possibility that they may do Sector 1 and 2 this year to take advantage of the funding.

Mr. Sole interjected that he feels it's a great plan to fund both Sector projects while there is state money in the system. He added that the funding may not exist in the future. Furthermore, it reduces mobilizations which saves money. Mr. Gray concluded by sharing the details of an upcoming Public Workshop. On July 17th at 5:30 PM the Department of Transportation will be providing a workshop regarding the proposed Sebastian Bridge project located at the Sebastian Community Center. The meeting can be attended both in-person and virtually. He encouraged everyone to attend as it is a massive $103 million project and will take around four years to complete.

5. Status of County Beach Parks

Joeseph Tilton, Recreation Programs Manager, shared updates with attendees. He stated how during the last meeting he discussed the playgrounds at Round Island, Golden Sands, and Treasure Shores. They were in the process of being constructed but construction has been completed. Both Round Island and Golden Sands are now open to the public and Treasure Shores is nearing completion. Lastly, he touched on the Tracking Station which will be converted to the step system and get off the septic system. They are currently waiting on the condos to be finished and to hear from the City of Vero Beach. At that point the contractor can go and begin the installation. It is estimated that the process should take around one week to complete.

6. Commissioner's Matters

Commissioner Earman began by sharing he attended the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) conference a few weeks ago. He shared that Indian River County is on the radar compared to other counties. Other counties admire our progress, especially the Transportation Disadvantage Committee and Senior Resources. In fact, Indian River County is the cheapest per ride in the entire state of Florida.

Commissioner Earman said the reason for bringing this up is to emphasize the leaps and bounds our County has taken and that Beach & Shore/ Beach Renourishment is also on the State radar. Commissioner Earman asserted the reason for this is due to our amazing team. In addition, the Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel (ELAP) received a $25 million bond due to the County's excellent financial rating. There will be a meeting the following night to discuss pending projects. He stated that the first half of the bond is set, and we will proceed from there.

Finally, Commissioner Earman discussed Humiston Beach Park. He said that it has recently been in the news and was featured in some editorials. Humiston Beach Park is located in the City of Vero Beach which is in Sector 5. It had to be torn down following a storm and needs to be rebuilt. Commissioner Earman believes it is a delicate situation as it is in the jurisdiction of the City of Vero Beach. The City Manager and County Administrator will need to have a meeting and several discussions in order how to proceed with the build and how the project will be funded.

7. Committee Members Matters

There were none.

8. Chairman's Matters

Chairman Sole thanked attendees for their participation.

9. Public Discussion Items

There were none.

10. Adjournment

Being no further business, Chairman Sole adjourned the meeting at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Brown, Recording Secretary