



MINUTES - DRAFT

Regular Meeting – November 18, 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
Bob Auwaerter – 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, November 18, 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 November 18, 2024, meeting of the Beach & Shore Advisory Committee to order at 2:58 PM; a quorum was present.

Members Present

Michael Sole, BCC Appointee, Chairman
Commissioner Joseph Earman, BCC Liaison
John Heanue, Town of Orchid Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
Bob Auwaerter, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee
Taylor Dingle, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
William Ferrell, Jr., BCC Appointee

Members Absent

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

Also Present

Kylie Yanchula, Director of Natural Resources
Eric Charest, Assistant Director of Natural Resources

Dustin Vangeison, Beach Environmental Specialist
Sara Wappes, Lagoon Environmental Specialist
Beth Powell, Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District Executive Director
Ashley Brown, Indian River County Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION by Bob Auwaerter, SECONDED by William Ferrell the members voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of October 21st, 2024.

3. Coastal Division Updates, including Beach Restoration Projects

Eric Charest, Assistant Director of Natural Resources, provided Coastal Division updates. The County has received FDEP Local Governmental Funding Request (LGFR) Grant 25IR1 for 50/50 cost share for Sector 3 Hurricane Ian and Nicole Dune Restoration in the amount of \$3,774,503.51. Additionally, the Sector 4 Dune Restoration Project is determined to be eligible to receive reimbursement from the FDEP under the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program.

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. A few owners have signed off since the beginning of the project. The dry beach project design is estimated to require 135,000 cy of sand based on design documents based on dry beach. Dickerson Infrastructure, Inc. was awarded the contract for \$6,676,566.80 and construction is anticipated to start November 1st, 2024, and will run through April 2025. As planned, construction ramped up as of November 1st and the drawdown on the front loaded \$2 million Grant of \$97,295.75 for expenses that have already been incurred. Lastly, future expenses to be applied to HRRGP funds until depleted.

Dustin Vangeison, Beach Environmental Specialist, provided a PowerPoint Presentation for those in attendance.

Sector 7 – Porpoise Point Beach

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

The FDEP LGFR Grant 19IR2 Amendment #3 reimbursement billing has been resubmitted with a request of \$307,538.00.

Sector 5 Update – Vero Beach

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

FDEP LGFR 19IR3 has been submitted for Cost Share Reimbursement with an initial request of \$1,584,412. Staff members initiated the easement process on the remaining 11 parcels and the next major Pre-construction for the 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)

Partial FEMA funding has been received and they are beginning the reimbursement process; discussions remain ongoing. Regarding Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Dune Renourishment Project, staff continues to work with FEMA on finalizing the Project Worksheets identifying Hurricane Ian and Nicole losses and reimbursement amounts. Regarding the Hurricane Milton Storm damage, Sector 3 sand losses from Hurricane Milton are estimated to be 50,000 cy (based on post storm County visual assessment). The post-storm impact surveys are currently being conducted within Sector 3 and the Damage Assessment Report to be completed upon receipt of survey data.

Sea Turtle Updates

A total of 8,057 sea turtle nests have been documented in Indian River County for the 2024 nesting season. This is slightly below the 5-year average for total nests, but above the long-term average since the inception of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

Indian River Lagoon Updates

Sara Wappes, Lagoon Environmental Specialist, discussed the lagoon updates. The Indian River County website has been updated and now has a page dedicated to derelict vessels. Constituents can fill out an online form and upload photos which will be processed by Natural Resources staff. Additionally, the Interlocal Agreements for the Anchoring Limitation Area have been executed. IRC's official Living Docks Program is currently accepting applications. The County also participated in the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Seagrass Blitz by providing information to citizens on seagrass monitoring efforts, featuring the Wabasso Causeway. Lastly, the County partnered with Vero Beach Elementary 5th graders in Ocean Research & Conservation Association's *A Day in the Life* program.

4. Update from the Sebastian Inlet District

James Gray delivered updates regarding the Sebastian Inlet. Those driving over the Sebastian Bridge will notice a 100-ton crane as they are currently working on construction for the North Jetty. Construction began on November 8th and the contractor has prepared the access site and removed the railing. Approximately 1,600 tons of large granite is being replaced as it washed away. There will also be about 400 linear feet of seawall installed. Temporary sheeting is going in prior to the permanent seawall sheet pile. The project is estimated to be completed by July, possible sooner. The North Jetty is closed due to construction and the webcam has been removed until construction is completed.

Mr. Gray discussed another project pertaining to Sectors 1 & 2. Sebastian Inlet district is moving forward and on November 13th the Board approved a notice of award to the contractor, ATL. They are dredging the sand trap and channel, that material is being put on the Sector 1 & 2 beaches. Upon providing updates, Chairman Sole and other committees thanked Mr. Gray for all his hard work and commended the progress made by the Sebastian Inlet District.

5. Status of County Beach Parks

Beth Powell, Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, shared updates with attendees. They have made headway on plans for the boardwalk and construction is set to begin on the southern boardwalk. The City of Vero Beach is currently finalizing their sewer system.

County staff attended a flooding symposium in Orlando and state/ local funding was thoroughly discussed. They also learned about hazard mitigation and emergency response. The knowledge gained

from the symposium will aid Indian River County moving forward and makes us better prepared for future events.

Lastly, Ms. Powell informed committee members that there is an Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel (ELAP) meeting. This meeting will be informational only and the final properties will be reviewed. So far there are 26 confirmed sellers, and the County is particularly interested in parcels with coastal/lagoon benefits.

6. Commissioner's Matters

Commissioner Earman informed attendees that during tomorrow's Commission meeting they will elect a new Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Earman says that he hopes he will be re-appointed to Beach & Shore. He then thanked those in attendance as well as everyone in the audience for their contributions. He discussed the vacancy now that David Morgan has left the committee. Commissioner Earman encouraged members to reach out if they know of anyone that would be a good fit to fill the vacancy.

Commissioner Earman discussed visiting the Sector 3, 4 and 7 beaches last week and shared his observations. Lastly, he touched on the Tourist Development Tax. Now that the voters have spoken, it is estimated to generate an additional \$1 million. These funds cover the cost of Beach Renourishment.

7. Committee Members Matters

Mr. Auwaerter shared that there should be a publicity campaign to educate the public on flood insurance. He also hopes that the Board of Commissioners are able to get the new Congressman-elect to our beaches and to assess the damage our county sustained during the recent hurricane/ tornadoes.

Mr. Jones asked Ms. Wappes about what type of substrate they are using for the living dock program oyster mats and if the material is biodegradable. She informed him that they are using plastic.

8. Chairman's Matters

There were none.

9. Public Discussion Items

Steve Brumer showed photos taken on the Indian River Shores beaches and asked Mr. Charest about future Renourishment plans for this area. Mr. Brumer proposed that the dune and beach restoration be completed simultaneously.

10. Adjournment

Being no further business, Chairman Sole adjourned the meeting at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Brown, Recording Secretary