



MINUTES - DRAFT

Regular Meeting – March 17, 2025

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
Michael Korpar – BCC Appointee

David Cox – BCC Appointee
Shelby Graziani – BCC Appointee
James Power – BCC Appointee
Francisco San Miguel – BCC Appointee
William Ferrell, Jr. – BCC Appointee

Bob Auwaerter – Town of IRS Appointee, Chairman
Joseph Earman – Commissioner, District 3, Commission Liaison

The **Beach & Shore Preservation Advisory Committee** met at 3:00 PM on Monday, March 17, 2025, in room B1-501 of County Administration Building B, located at 1800 27th Street in Vero Beach.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bob Auwaerter called the March 17, 2025, meeting of the Beach & Shore Advisory Committee to order at 3:00 PM; a quorum was present.

Members Present

Bob Auwaerter, BCC Appointee, Chairman
Commissioner Joseph Earman, BCC Liaison
John Heanue, Town of Orchid Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
David Cox, BCC Appointee
William Ferrell, Jr., BCC Appointee
Michael Korpar, BCC Appointee
James Power, BCC Appointee

Members Absent

Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Taylor Dingle, City of Vero Beach Appointee
Shelby Graziani, BCC 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
Dakota Whelan, Coastal Environmental Specialist
Beth Powell, Director, Parks, Recreation & Conservation
James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District Executive Director
Ashley Brown, Indian River County Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION by William Ferrell, SECONDED by Fred Jones, the members voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of January 27th, 2025.

Following the approval of the minutes, the two newly appointed BSPAC members (Michael Korpar & James Power introduced themselves.

3. Coastal Division Updates, including Beach Restoration Projects

Prior MOU	Draft MOU	Justification
Sediment bypassing objective annual objective of 70,000-90,000 cubic yards	Sediment bypassing <u>objective</u> of 75,000 cubic yards (average)	Update for consistency with 2023 Inlet Management Plan
	Bypassed quantities of sand from dredging and upland hauling shall count toward IMP bypassing objective	Includes fill template and supplement fill template
Supplemental fill template from R-17	Supplemental fill template from R-17 through R-30	Area of influence of Inlet as identified in recent TAC
	Entity performing the project is responsible for the permit required <u>pre and post</u> project monitoring	Ensure SID placement of R20-R30 would not trigger County required monitoring
	<u>District</u> may utilize Treasure Shores Beach Park for construction related activities. Ambersand may be closed but not used to access the beach.	Formalize current practice
County reimbursement to <u>District</u> for travel costs associated with placing sand in the supplemental fill template	Removed	Create flexibility to allow for negotiation where and when appropriate
County will undertake applications for storm loss mitigation for Sectors 1 and 2 given the County's "engineered beach" template qualifies the project for reimbursement.	<u>County</u> or District will undertake applications for storm loss mitigation for Sectors 1 and 2. Template may be from the County or District. If the County awards a contract to restore the beach, the District may have the option to fund a portion and receive credit towards the bypassing objective.	Added to accommodate District participation in storm loss mitigation for Sectors 1 and 2

Term of 5 years with one 5-year renewal option	Term of 10 years with one 5-year renewal option. Either party may terminate <u>agreement</u> with a 90-day written notice	Deemed appropriate by both parties
--	---	------------------------------------

Chairman Auwaerter introduced the agenda item concerning the MOU between the Inlet District and the County, specifically addressing the need to strengthen the language regarding the amount of bypassed sand. The Chairman emphasized the importance of ensuring accountability in sand bypassing commitments.

Kylie Yanchula, Natural Resources Director provided a PowerPoint Presentation to committee members titled *Coordination of Supplemental Beach Nourishment & Related Activities: Memorandum of Understanding Between Indian River County & the Sebastian Inlet District*. The presentation outlined key elements of the MOU, existing challenges, and potential strategies for improving oversight and enforcement.

Following the presentation, Mr. Auwaerter reviewed his proposed changes to the language in the MOU to address the shortfalls in sand bypassing. He emphasized the need for more specific language to ensure compliance with agreed-upon bypassing requirements.

A lengthy discussion ensued among committee members regarding the feasibility of the proposed changes and the potential implications for the County and the Inlet District. Despite multiple attempts to reach a consensus, committee members were unable to agree on a course of action, and no motion was made.

Commissioner Liaison's Recommendation

Commissioner Earman intervened to provide a recommendation on how to proceed. He suggested that rather than forcing a resolution without consensus, the committee should direct staff to work more closely with the Inlet District to refine the MOU. His recommendation included the following key points:

- Using the current draft as a template to develop a stronger agreement.
- Establishing a "trust but verify" mechanism for tracking sand bypassing.
- Ensuring that any final agreement undergoes thorough review by both the committee and the Board of County Commissioners.

He stated the ultimate goal is to ensure sufficient sand placement in Sector 1 and Sector 2, while minimizing costs to both the County and the Inlet District. Commissioner Earman suggested that staff return to the table with the Sebastian Inlet District to explore alternative approaches that could meet both parties' goals.

Committee members generally agreed with the recommendation, acknowledging previous challenges in reaching an agreement but recognizing the necessity of further staff discussions before finalizing the MOU.

Next Steps

- County staff will meet with the Inlet District to refine the MOU language based on committee

feedback.

- A revised version of the MOU will be brought back to the committee for review prior to submission to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Staff will provide an update at the next scheduled meeting regarding the progress of discussions with the Inlet District.

Sector 4 – Dune Restoration Project

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

There is an estimated 135,000 cy based on design documents based on dry beach. Additionally, Dickerson Infrastructure, Inc. was awarded a contract amount of \$6,676,566.80. As of February 26, 2025 (day 123 of the project), approximately 116,970 cy of sand has been delivered and placed. Construction activities are now complete, and wrap-up has begun.

Sector 7 – Porpoise Point Beach

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

Mr. Bergman, Coastal Resource Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Sector 7 Alternatives Assessment Proposal*. The presentation was a follow-up from the previous meeting where a quorum was not present. Key topics covered included:

- A review of the permanent design for the Sector 7 project.
- The current easement status in the Sector 7 area.
- The proposed alternative design focusing on the middle section of the project due to easement constraints.
- The scope of work for the project as proposed by the coastal engineering consultant.

Mr. Bergman detailed that the existing construction permit for Sector 7 remains valid until September 2035 and allows for sand to be sourced from both offshore and upland sand mines. The permitted project includes a beach and dune feature designed to avoid reef impact.

A key point of discussion was the easement status across different sections of the project:

- Northern Section (R-97 to R-99): 12 parcels, with 9 denied easements and 3 signed.
- Middle Section: 11 denied easements and 48 signed easements.
- Southern Section: 10 parcels, with 6 denied easements and 4 signed.

Given the challenges with obtaining easements in the northern and southern sections, the alternative design proposed a reduction in project size, focusing efforts on the middle section where most easements have been obtained.

The scope of work outlined by the coastal engineer includes:

- Updating and creating new construction drawings.

- Identifying the volume of sand required, with updates from 2019 estimates.
- Reviewing the performance of past projects, including the 2007 and 2019 designs.
- Analysis of project longevity considering background erosion rates and storm impacts.
- Preparation of a technical memorandum summarizing findings and recommendations.
- Attendance at meetings if needed.

The total cost of the proposed scope of work was presented as approximately \$21,000.

Following the presentation, committee members engaged in a discussion on the alternative design and scope of work. Concerns were raised regarding the limited easements and project modifications. Mr. Bergman addressed inquiries regarding project feasibility and funding sources. Committee members deliberated on the technical aspects of the proposed work and its potential impact on shoreline stability.

ON MOTION by Franciso San Miguels, SECONDED by Fred Jones, the members voted unanimously support the scope of Sector 7 work as presented.

Sector 5 Update – Vero Beach

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

Staff have initiated the easement process (approx. 11 parcels) on the remaining parcels and pre-construction coordination with the Consultant is expected to begin in early 2025.

Sector 3 Update – Wabasso Beach

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

The 2021/2022 Beach and Dune Renourishment Project has received partial FEMA funding and starting the reimbursement process. Interim RFR (Request for Reimbursement) is moving forward with FEMA. There were no updates for the 2023/2024 Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Dune Renourishment Project or the 2024 Hurricane Milton Storm Damage Assessment.

Sea Turtle Updates

Quintin Bergman delivered updates on sea turtles. Turtle season and dune etiquette PSAs are currently playing on local radio stations. The first leatherback nest was recorded near Windsor on March 1st.

4. Update from the Sebastian Inlet District

Following an extensive discussion on the Sebastian Inlet District, Mr. Gray provided a brief update. He acknowledged the ongoing collaboration between the district and the county and expressed appreciation for their continued partnership. The only new update shared was the progress on the North Jetty project, which includes the installation of a seawall, placement of armoring stone, and partial reconstruction of the pier. The project is proceeding well, with an anticipated completion timeline of approximately two months, at which point a grand reopening may be planned. Mr. Gray also noted

intermittent vehicle access restrictions and assured the committee that updates would continue as work progresses.

5. Status of County Beach Parks

Beth Powell, Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, provided updates on ongoing projects and improvements. The fence at Tracking Station Beach Park has been fully repaired, resulting in temporary access closures. Piling installation for two boardwalks is currently underway, with close monitoring for sea turtle activity in collaboration with Natural Resources. Once completed, the contractor will proceed with boardwalk repairs, including revised staircases designed for easier post-storm maintenance.

Lastly, three beach wheelchairs have been donated to enhance accessibility. These were recently presented to the Board and funded through nonprofit license plate proceeds. Additional beach wheelchairs will be placed at lifeguard stations at Round Island, Golden Sands, and Tracking Station for public use.

6. Commissioner's Matters

Commissioner Earman expressed appreciation for the committee members and welcomed new members, noting the timely discussion on Sector 7. Updates included:

- The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA), which lobbies for beach preservation in Tallahassee, continues to provide key insights on legislative matters. Former FSBPA Chair, Pepper Uchino, is sharing updates on both beach-related policies and the overall state budget.
- Weekly updates will be distributed to the committee over the next month, and members are encouraged to review them for insights on potential budget changes and available funding.
- The Commissioner hopes that the Sector 7 discussion will move forward smoothly and pass through the consent agenda at the next meeting.

7. Committee Members Matters

There were none.

8. Chairman's Matters

There were none.

9. Public Discussion Items

There were none.

10. Adjournment

Being no further business, Chairman Bob Auwaerter adjourned the meeting at 4:43 PM.

****A full recording of this meeting is available in the Office of Board of County Commissioners.****

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Brown, Recording Secretary