



MINUTES **Regular Meeting – February 16, 2026**

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
Richard Harris – 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, February 16, 2026, in room B1-501 of County Administration Building B, located at 1800 27th Street in Vero Beach.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman James Power called the February 16, 2026, meeting of the Beach & Shore Advisory Committee to order at 3:00 PM; a quorum was present.

Members Present

John Heanue, Town of Orchid Appointee
Taylor Dingle, City of Vero Beach Appointee
William Ferrell, Jr. - BCC Appointee
James Power, BCC Appointee, Vice Chairman
Michael Korpar, BCC Appointee
Richard Harris, BCC Appointee

Members Absent

Inocensia Hernandez, City of Fellsmere Appointee
Fred Jones, City of Sebastian Appointee
David Cox, BCC Appointee
Francisco San Miguel, BCC Appointee
Bob Auwaerter, Town of IRS Appointee, Chairman

Also Present

Quintin Bergman, Coastal Resources Manager
Johnnie E. Sabin, Coastal Environmental Specialist
Max Sherman, Indian River County Recording Secretary
Steve Barako, Superintendent - Parks, Recreation, Conservation

2. Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION by Taylor Dingle, SECONDED by John Heanue, the members voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of February 16th, 2026.

3. Coastal Division Updates, including Beach Restoration Projects

Johnnie E. Sabin, Coastal Environmental Specialist, provided updates regarding the Coastal Division.

Vero Beach (Sector 5)

- 2025/2026 Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Beach and Dune Restoration Project
 - 153,300 cy of sand & 117,500 native plants. Guettler Brothers awarded bid \$6,552,025.
- Construction commenced on November 10, 2025 out of Jaycee Park beach access.
 - Playground, Bathrooms, and park should remain open during construction.
- **Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of sand placed thus far. About 70% of the contracted volume.**
- **Currently the contractor is operating out of Conn Beach with operations moving into Humiston area later this week.**
- **Tracking Station Beach Park reopened earlier than anticipated.**
- **Work Order for Environmental Monitoring going before the BOCC on 2/24**

Quintin Bergman, Coastal Resources Manager, provides updates regarding the coastal division.

2024 Beach Preservation Plan Update

- Task 1 - Data Collection and Review - Technical Memo Delivered
- Task 2 – Beach Conditions Update – Technical Memo Delivered

- Task 3 – Sand, Environmental, and Biological Resources Update - Technical Memo Delivered
- Task 4 – Storm Vulnerability and Resilience Analysis Update – Technical Memo Delivered
- Task 5 – Beach Management Alternative Development – Technical Memo Delivered
- Task 6 – Summary and Recommendations – Complete
- A draft plan is being prepared for the public. Working with the consultant to schedule a presentation/workshop day in March for the BSPAC. This BSPAC presentation will open the public comment. Then a tentative special call BOCC meeting in April to review draft plan.

Beach Project Updates

Wabasso Beach (Sector 3)

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

2021/2022 Beach and Dune Renourishment Project

- Partial FEMA funding received for the Sector 3 project – reimbursement on-going

2023/2024 Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Dune Renourishment Project

- FEMA PWs Received by the County, project completed, waiting on 21/22 reimbursement
- Work Order for permit required Year 2 post-construction monitoring to go before IRC Board of County Commissioners on February 24th.
- Year 2 Beach tilling currently underway.
- Work Order for Environmental Monitoring going before the BOCC on 2/24

2024 Hurricane Milton Storm Damage Assessment

- Storm Damage Assessment Report revised in Oct. 2025 and re-submitted to FEMA
- Town of Orchid completed their dune repair project adding approximately 10,000 cy of sand to the toe of the dune.

Indian River Shores (Sector 4)

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

- 116,970 cubic yards of sand placed, 147,788 dune plants installed.
- \$5,182,369.17 total construction contract cost.
- Work Order for permit required Year 1 post-construction monitoring to go before IRC Board of County Commissioners on February 24th.

- Year 1 Beach Tilling currently underway.
- Work Order for Environmental Monitoring going before the BOCC on 2/24

Porpoise Point Beach (Sector 7)

Location: Treasure Cove subdivision south to the Floralton Beach subdivision (~2 miles) · Final Technical Memo shared with BSPAC and here: Sector 7 Alternative Analysis

- Staff is reviewing and analyzing responses for a future presentation.

Sea Turtle Program Updates

- Preparing for the 2026 Sea Turtle Season to start March 1.
- Work Order for HCP Monitoring going before the BOCC on 2/24
- Radio PSA message is being updated.
- New Lighting Brochure is complete, awaiting printing.

4. Updates from the Sebastian Inlet District

The contractor has now moved from dredging and placing sand into the DMMA to dredging and placing sand onto the sector 1 beach. Approx 130,000 cubic yards of sand is expected to be dredged onto the beach by April 2026.

A micro-hot spot of erosion has occurred in sector 1 due to the recent cold snap. This caused a loss of about 10 feet of dune. The contractor will now need to submit a change order to anchor the dredge pipe under the beach.

5. Status of County Beach Parks

Steve Barako, Parks Superintendent, provides an update.

- Tracking Station and Golden Sands have reopened.
- Round Island Riverside Park boat ramp remains closed.
- Round Island Oceanside Park boat ramp has reopened.
- In the future, there are plans to improve all of Tracking Station Beach Park. Timeline is currently unknown.

6. Commissioner's Matters

Commissioner Earman discusses the recent newsletter from BeachWatch. He shares that the House of Representatives committed \$50,000,000 with an additional \$4,100,000 added by the Senate towards beaches and beach management.

Commissioner Earman also shares that he participated in a site visit with Quintin Bergman, City councilman Aaron Vos, Chairman and City Councilman Bob Auwaerter. He encouraged other members to contact Quintin if they would like to see the sites themselves.

7. Committee Members Matters

Appreciation is shown to Quintin Bergman for giving a presentation to the City of Vero Beach.

8. Chairman Matters

Being the Chairman was absent; there were no Chairman Matters discussed.

9. Public Discussion

None.

10. Adjournment

Being no further business, Vice Chairman James Power adjourned the meeting at 3:39 PM.

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