**BEACH & SHORE PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Indian River County (IRC) Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (Beach) met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2013, in the County Administration Building, Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/BSPC/2013.

Present were: Chairman **David Barney**, Vice Chairman **Bob Anderson**, **Cheryl Gerstner** and **Mark Tripson**, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees; Councilman **Joel Tyson**, City of Fellsmere Appointee; **George D. Mekras,** Town of Orchid Appointee; Councilmember **Dick Winger**, City of Vero Beach (COVB) Appointee; Councilmember **Andrea Coy** (arrived at 3:04 p.m.), City of Sebastian Appointee and Councilman **Tom Cadden**, Town of Indian River Shores Appointee.

Absent were: **William “Tuck” Ferrell** and **Christian Hendricks**,Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointees (both excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Commissioner Liaison **Tim Zorc**, District 3; **James Gray**, Coastal Engineer; and **Misty L. Pursel**, Commissioner Assistant, Districts 1 & 5.

Others present were: **Marty Smithson**, Sebastian Inlet District Commission; **Robbie Stabe**, Acting Town Manager, Town of Indian River Shore; **Richard Hyder**, Baytree; **Gordon Thomson** and **Dave Swigler**, Coastal Planning & Engineering; **Paul Hart**, Disney Resort; **Jimmy Sellers**, Coastal Tech; **Steve Boehning**, Coastal Waterways; **Don Dexter**, Public Works Manager, City of Vero Beach; **Stephen Smith**, Ranch Road Lake Mine; **Marie Yarbrough**, Atkins Global; **Doug Distl**, **Ron Tanner,** **Silas Axtell**, **Lee Cockey**, and **Mona C.**, interested parties.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Barney called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2013**

**ON MOTION BY Councilman Tyson, SECONDED BY Mr. Tripson, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of July 15, 2013 as presented.**

**Coastal Engineering Division Updates - James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer**

Mr. James Gray, IRC Coastal Engineer, introduced Mr. David Swigler and Mr. Gordon Thomson with Coastal Planning & Engineering.

1. **Sector 3 Beach and Dune Restoration Repair Project – Post Hurricane Sandy**

Mr. Swigler presented a PowerPoint presentation and provided an update concerning the Sector 3 permitting and design stage, the shoreline changes, bathymetric changes, Hurricane Sandy impacts, proposed repairs, and potential fill material, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Councilman Tyson inquired about a recycling project he heard about in south Florida involving the breaking down of glass into a fine grain to use on beaches. Mr. Thomson advised he was on the design team for the permitting portion of the project and with a permit in hand to place 2,000 tons of recycled “waste” glass on the beach; however, the money ran out. He reported it was expensive to process the glass material and the project had not been revisited since the money ran out.

Chairman Barney asked if Hurricane Sandy projects were going to be fast tracked permitting. Mr. Gray advised the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was aware of the projects and maintains the understanding that the regulatory agencies will fast tracking permits because of the special legislative appropriation.

Mr. Stephen Smith, Ranch Road Mine, posed a question regarding the design and how the template was effected in the areas which had private placement of large volumes of sand and whether the private parties would be allocated more sand and how was it going to be addressed.

Mr. Gray explained there were many emergency dune restoration projects authorized by the County through the State of Florida’s Emergency Final Order Permitting Authority which provided County staff and local governments the ability to issue permits to citizens impacted. He continued the County would provide only the required fill to repair the Sector 3 design template.

Mr. Swigler responded if the material was placed at one of the monuments, essentially, there would be no way to distinguish between the two. He continued the template would be developed with volume; based upon what was placed and what was there. He said if the material was placed between two monuments, it would appear to need more material because the 12,000 cubic yards of sands placed in Orchid would not be counted. He finished with saying it depended on where each individual fill was placed.

Mr. Gray said both he and Mr. Marty Smithson, Sebastian Inlet District (the District) had been working with the State of Florida in developing work plans and grant agreements for the Sector 3 region. He stated the State of Florida had authorized a 50% cost share match as a part of the grant. He also told the Committee, the dune repairs the County completed in Wabasso Beach Park and Golden Sands Beach Park cost about $75,000, with $37,000 to be reimbursed to the County.

Mr. Gray advised there was an allocation of approximately $5 million in cost share for construction costs for Sector 3 (50% State of Florida, 50% local) for the repair project. He said the next step was for staff to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the cost sharing agreement with FDEP; expected November, 2013.

Commissioner Liaison Zorc commented as the project went through the permitting process; attempting to obtain testing standards equal to the offshore upload source of sand may potentially assist in driving down the costs for the uploading.

Mr. Gray explained because going into the original Sector 3 project, there was a lot of uncertainty using a large volume of upland sand, DEP required extensive sediment testing to avoid impacts to sea turtles which included testing at every 3,000 cubic yards of sand at the mine, before it went to the beach, and then testing again on the beach. He briefly discussed the sediment sampling for offshore sand. Commissioner Liaison Zorc suggested reviewing other counties’ language on testing, which had an upland permit in place, with the same agencies to work out the terms and bring down the costs.

Discussion ensued regarding the provisions contained in the bid document, i.e., fuel costs, etc.

1. **Local Government Funding Request – Reimbursement for Sector 3**

Mr. Gray told of a annual funding grant opportunity to the County through the State of Florida called “Local Government Funding Request,”. He advised the State of Florida had committed to a one-time cost share at 50% for the Sector 3 project. He continued the County had been requesting reimbursement for construction and monitoring costs and had submitted the funding request for Fiscal Year 2014/15 for $6.7 million in reimbursement costs from the Sector 3 project.

Mr. Gray the request included an additional $400,000 from last year’s request to account for monitoring costs incurred FY 2013/14; 50% of the request was $200,000 (State/County Share). Due to State funding rules, Mr. Gray believed 2014/15 was the final year the County could request for reimbursement of Sector 3 construction and monitoring expenses. He asked the Committee to focus on sending letters of support, etc., to the State of Florida and Legislature, as this would be the last opportunity to obtain the reimbursement.

Chairman Barney inquired if the reimbursement from the State of Florida was not made, would it effect the Board of County Commissioners direction towards funding. Commissioner Liaison Zorc responded to the question raised about relying on a funding match from the same source which already owed the County reimbursement and had not been received.

Mr. Gray mentioned the submission of a request for local government funding for $50,000, which represents 50% cost share for a feasibility study in Sector 5 to evaluate whether the project would move forward. He pointed out the feasibility projects usually obtained a lower grant ranking, directing the focus on Sector 3.

Mr. Gray advised if the reimbursement money ($6.7 million) was not received for the Sector 3; it would not jeopardize the hurricane recovery fund.

1. **Beach Preservation Plan Update 2014**

Mr. Gray reported at the recommendation of the Committee a few years ago, the Beach Preservation Plan would be updated every five (5) years. He said the County was exploring the opportunity of using Numerical Modeling to evaluate coastal engineering structures similar to a PEP reef or other structure, as well as other areas’ vulnerability analysis, etc. He continued there was nothing wrong with the existing Beach Preservation Plan, except for being slightly dated considering the new direction of the County to explore structural alternatives.

Mr. Gray introduced Gordon Thomson, Coastal Planning & Engineering, who presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Beach Preservation Plan”, Proposal Outline. A copy of the PowerPoint is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Thomson summarized the following tasks laid out in the proposed Beach Preservation Plan Update:

* Update of Beach Conditions
* Public Meeting
* Sector Boundaries and Beach Management Strategies
* Public Access Inventory
* Coastal Modeling –Delft3D Alternatives Analysis
* Coastal Modeling – Vulnerability Analysis
* Storm Damage Reduction Analysis
* Recreational Benefit Analysis
* Economic Analysis
* Funding Alternatives
* Implications of Sea Level Rise
* Summary of Shoreline changes
* Develop a sediment budget

1. **FDEP Conservation Land Assessment – Surplus Sites**
2. **Sebastian Inlet State Park (2 Acre Site)**

Mr. Gray reported FDEP was considering offering several public surplus land sites, designated for conservation, for private purchase. He continued the Sebastian Inlet State Park, a two acre site south of McLarty Treasure Museum, within the Sector 1 had been removed from the State’s Surplus Lands Assessment, giving mention to committee member, Tuck Ferrell as being instrumental in having this site removed from the assessment list.

1. **Status of the IRC Offshore Artificial Reef Program**

Mr. Gray reminded the Committee last year the County submitted a grant application for $60,000 to Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, with the County’s share being 15% or $9,000. He reported the County received the grant and would be constructing an offshore reef site approximately 12 miles off the Sebastian Inlet. He continued the reef would create a recreational benefit, as well as a potential economic engine.

**Update from the Sebastian Inlet District Commission**

Mr. Smithson reported the Commission Board accepted and approved the lowest qualified bid, $3.3 million, for dredging the rock and expanding the sand trap from its current capacity of 100,000 cubic yards to 200,000 cubic yards. He advised the project would probably begin after the Christmas Holidays because of the State Park.

Mr. Smithson said he would bring the results of the District’s Economic Survey Analysis to the October Beach meeting.

**Status of County Beach Parks**

Mr. Gray announced all parks were fully open and operational.

**Committee Members Matters**

There was none.

**Commissioner’s Matters**

There was none.

**Chairman’s Matters**

There was none.

**Other Business**

There was none.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.