

**MINUTES OF THE Shore Protection Board
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Shore Protection Board was called to order on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 9:05 a.m. in Town Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Chairman, E. Llwyd Ecclestone, Vice Chair, Pat Cooper, Mr. Kane Baker, Mr. Gerald Frank, Mr. Lee David Goldstein, and Mr. Richard Raffo. Mr. Lewis Katz was absent.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ecclestone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Gerald Frank, seconded by Mr. Lee David Goldstein, and unanimously approved.

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair, Cooper said that he was offended by questions and comments raised during a presentation at last month's Shore Protection Board meeting regarding a staff member's credentials and that he regrets not intervening. Mr. Bradford informed the board that he spoke to the parties involved and asked them to stop the rhetoric and personal criticisms during public hearings and instructed them to stick with facts, data, and methodology.

Mr. Frank requested that Mr. Bradford bring up Agenda Item #11 earlier in the meeting instead of towards the end so that the audience doesn't anticipate having all of their questions answered during today's meeting. Chairman Ecclestone answered that the agenda item should stay where it is since it's already been approved.

Mr. Goldstein asked the Shore Board if they could move forward with proposing to the Town Council to look into using 75,000 cubic yards of mined sand to be placed in front of the dunes on Reach 8 and use mined sand if the Town Council determines the use of mined sand is close in cost to dredged sand. Mr. Goldstein also suggested that Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator and H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works work with Mr. Bates at the County level to get the costs for the sand. Chairman Ecclestone's response was to move forward with getting the numbers and

the information in order to present it to the board over the next few months.

Mr. Kane posed a question about groups and coalitions that organize a statement or a proposal to submit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for review, only to say that the draft was wrong when the information comes back from them.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

Connie Gasque of 167 Root Trail, expressed her concerns about the contractors claiming to not know what a cutter head dredge does and that 50% of the shoreline has disappeared at Reach 3. Ms. Gasque presented rocks that she picked up from the beach to the Shore Protection Board and claimed that Weeks Marine is not screening the beach for leftover rocks which is in breach of their contract. She also complained about the sand not getting into the sand transfer plant and that the Town of Palm Beach should mitigate this and is entitled to monies.

Mr. Brazil commented that Ms. Gasque's questions and concerns about the rocks and the sand transfer placement will be addressed in the next item on the agenda by Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator and the Engineer of Record, Mike Jenkins.

VII. CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND 2015 SAND PLACEMENT UPDATES [Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation with photographs on the 2015 shoreline condition as well as the construction projects taking place at each reach.

Mr. Goldstein's asked Mr. Weber if the sand discharge pipe could be moved further south. Mr. Weber answered that a permit is needed to move the pipe further south.

Mr. Raffo asked if the seawall at the Palm Beach Country Club was going to be replaced. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works responded that the Town will be driving new steel sheets landward of the existing wall. The plan is to excavate the wall that's there and replace it with a new wall.

Mr. Raffo asked about the rocks that are placed in front of the old wall. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works explained that the rocks are there to secure the old wall which buys the Town four years to get the planning and permitting completed and get the new wall up.

Mr. Raffo asked if the seawall in front of the Beach Club belongs to the Town of Palm Beach or to the Beach Club. Mr. Brazil answered that the wall belongs to the Beach Club and that they are responsible for replacing the wall.

Mr. Goldstein asked if the contractors physically check the beach for any rocks that are left behind. Mr. Weber explained that some rocks can escape the rock box once it gets filled with sand and water and the larger rocks but it's only a very small amount. He also added to his statement that the contractors are screening the beach for any rocks that wash up on the shore as

well as the dredges but the contract doesn't have a "no rock" tolerance stated anywhere in the project plans.

Vice Chair, Cooper wanted to make sure that everyone understands the notion of the project construction template and that the wave action is causing the project to be different than the template which should also address Ms. Gasque's issue. Mr. Weber explained that adjustments have been made in order to address the wave action by placing the sand to the north which has led to a decrease in escarpment issues and better performance.

Chairman Ecclestone was pleased with the report and thanked Mr. Weber for his update.

Dr. Mike Jenkins from Applied Technology & Management gave a PowerPoint presentation to provide additional details on the Town's shoreline and address concerns on the shoreline's current condition as well the various construction projects taking place at each reach.

In summary, Mr. Jenkins explained that the construction project which was initiated on 1/20/15, is 30% complete with two-thirds left of the project to go. To date they have placed over 250,000 yards of cubic sand and have constructed 3,000 feet of beach while meeting all BMA regulations.

Vice Chair, Cooper asked if the width of the beach will go beyond the Estee Lauder home. Mr. Jenkins answered, yes but noted that the sand will naturally move because it is a high erosion area. In order to address this they will be dumping a large amount of sand in the northern beach areas.

The project is estimated to be off the beach in mid-April due to turtle nesting season which starts in early May.

Mr. Jenkins confirmed Mr. Goldstein's statement that the difference in color of the sand is because of the mix of the surface sand and coarse sand.

Mr. Frank asked why a hopper dredge is being used instead of a cutter head dredge for these particular projects when the cutter head has always been used in the past. Mr. Jenkins explained that the reason is to be further away from the borrow area and because it's more efficient and cost effective for dredging at longer distances.

Mr. Goldstein asked if a hopper dredge can be used for the projects at Reach 7 next year. Mr. Jenkins explained that it depends on the borrow area where they have to dredge the sand.

Mr. Goldstein asked if the government has a preference for the cutter head vs. the hopper dredge and Mr. Brazil responded by stating that it depends on the logistics.

Mr. Goldstein asked if a dredge can be used to pump sand at Reach 8 to avoid the use of trucks. Mr. Brazil answered that if the project being built in Reach 8 includes sand in the water then you have the opportunity to bring a dredge to Reach 8. However, if it is a dune only project and it doesn't include sand in the water then you can't bring any type of dredge to the beach for pumping sand and it has to be trucked in.

Mr. Brazil responded to Mr. Raffo's question about the cost to the town and where the money is coming from by explaining that it comes from the coastal program budget which comes from ad valorem taxes however, if more work is added to the program then more money will be needed.

Mr. Raffo asked if extra money will be needed if there is a storm. Mr. Brazil answered that the town will be reimbursed from FEMA if it's an engineered beach.

Chairman Ecclestone said he was pleased with Mr. Jenkins' presentation and hopes the audience is appreciative of the detail and explanation as well. Vice Chair, Cooper echoed Chairman Ecclestone and said he liked the transparency and responsiveness from Robert Weber and Mike Jenkins.

Mr. Baker asked for clarification on the cut-off time for the project. Mr. Jenkins replied that May 1st is the cut off time for all projects due to turtle nesting season. Mr. Jenkins also explained that the performance bond is on the contractor even if there is a weather issue. Mr. Brazil added to that statement that the Town will hold the contractor's performance bond if there is a delay due to weather related issues which was stated in the bid.

Mr. Goldstein asked why the EIS so important for Reach 8. Mr. Weber explained that are two items to be considered regarding Reach 8: one is the FEMA cautionary component so if a storm hits the Town of Palm Beach during the construction project, the Town is entitled to money from FEMA. The second consideration is that if the shoreline remains in the condition it is now, any erosion that occurs limits the amount of shoreline for storing sand at Reach 8 and will allow the Town to put the sand into the water.

Mr. Frank asked if there is any benefit to the erosion of the dunes causing a dry beach to become visible even though the sand is in the water. Mr. Weber answered yes, but emphasized the beach renourishment has more flexibility than a Dune renourishment. Mr. Brazil verified that it's part of the program. Chairman Ecclestone stated that he is appreciative of the execution of getting the sand on the beach.

VIII. LAKE WORTH INLET SAND BYPASSING

[Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator, Mike Jenkins, Ph.D, P.E., Coastal Engineering Principal, Applied Technology & Management, Inc., and Robert Hamilton, B. P.E, President, Woods Hole Group]

Robert Hamilton from the Woods Hole Group gave an overview on the productivity of the Sand Transfer Plant to the Shore Protection Board.

Mr. Hamilton began by addressing the perspective on the project and the tasks at hand. Then he provided a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the Sand Transfer Plant project which included a supplemental analyses of the Coastal Management Program. In summary, the data

collected and reviewed concluded that the decrease of productivity at the Sand Transfer Plant was due to the lack of sand supply in the coastal system along Singer Island.

Mr. Goldstein asked if longer dredge arms will be able to reach the sand that is further away. Mr. Hamilton answered that longer dredge arms are definitely not the answer and that it is not feasible because it only makes a one time difference.

Mr. Raffo asked how we are using the Port of Palm Beach's dredging project with regard to retrieving their sand. Mr. Brazil explained that most of the sand and material from the dredging there is not compatible with the Town of Palm Beach's project.

Vice Chair, Cooper asked if we are monitoring the sand volume. Mr. Hamilton answered that they will have an estimate next year.

Richard Hunegs publicly commented that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are responsible for the problem at Reaches 6,7, &8 and asked if they would be cooperative in allowing the sand to be transferred down further to Reaches 6, 7, and 8. Mr. Weber answered that the sand that comes out of the inlet must be placed in the northern area to then down drift south which is in accordance with state law. Mr. Huneg asked if the sand could be transferred further south by the use of trucks. Mr. Brazil answered that he can ask that of regulatory people but it doesn't sound right. Mr. Weber said that if the down drift beach becomes full, their permit allows them to take the sand elsewhere. A discussion ensued about getting the Corps to expand their sand transfer areas to other reaches further south.

Mr. Baker said that he witnessed a dredge north of the inlet sucking enormous amounts of sand so it's not that the sand isn't moving to the shore so it must be something else. Mr. Hamilton replied that there is isn't any evidence that the sediment basin is the cause but that is his theory. He also said that there are plenty of borrows that help move the sand onshore and thinks that more data needs to be collected before monitoring the borrows and dredging the basin.

Town Manager, Thomas G. Bradford posed a question regarding the natural flow of sand and the lack of beach renourishment projects at the Jupiter Inlet as a possible cause of sand reduction in the North. Mr. Jenkins answered that it is a cumulative effect of bad management of beach renourishment projects from the past 100 years.

IX. 2014 TOWNWIDE SEDIMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND EROSION RATES DISCUSSION [Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator, Mike Jenkins, Ph.D, P.E., Coastal Engineering a. Principal, Applied Technology & Management, Inc., and Robert Hamilton, P.E. President, Woods Hole Group]

Mr. Jenkins provided a report of the Townwide Sediment System with charts and graphs that also included shoreline changes and volume changes over the past year compared to the long-term.

In summary, there was a very active sand transfer regimen this year and the erosion has been limited, however the sand deficits are the same as they have been historically for Reaches 2,7

and 8.

Vice Chair, Cooper asked if the Lake Worth Pier acts as a groin. Mr. Jenkins replied yes but as a subtle diffuse structure.

X. GROIN REHABILITATION PLAN

[Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator, and Thomas Pierro, P.E., Director, Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc., A CB&I Company]

Thomas Pierro, P.E., Director of Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc. gave a presentation on the Coastal Management Execution plan for permitting and construction projects for the Town of Palm Beach's Groin Rehabilitation plan. Mr. Pierro provided a PowerPoint presentation with a multi-year phase approach for the groin update projects. He provided slides with information from independent studies from 2009-2012 and went over the basis for the multiple steps of the plan which are: identification, design intent, construction, permitting and approximate cost comparison of materials for most cost effective option.

Mr. Frank asked who is responsible for the the groins. Mr. Weber answered that the 1995 groins belong to the Town of Palm Beach however, the vast majority were constructed in the 1930s by private interest groups.

Mr. Frank asked who is able to sign the agreement in order to remove and replace the groins since some of them are owned individually. Mr. Weber and Mr. Brazil answered that easements will be needed but they don't anticipate any trouble.

Mr. Frank asked if the groins have to be backfilled if they are replaced. Mr. Pierro responded no, only unless you are putting in a new groin.

Mr. Frank asked if the Town of Palm Beach has the money put aside for the proposed 19 million groin project. Mr. Brazil answered that the staff needs to return to the Town Council with possible funds for the project since there is only \$5 million in budget. Mr. Pierro suggested that they get Phase 1 going and find out costs from there. Chairman Ecclestone stated that he wants to bring this to the Town Council.

Mr. Frank expressed his concern about rebar rust and wants to know if epoxy coating will be used. Mr. Pierro said that he is concerned about the use of epoxy coating.

Mr. Raffo asked Mr. Pierro if he is familiar with the groins located at the Bath and Tennis Club. Mr. Pierro answered that he doesn't know exactly. Mr. Brazil explained that the groins at the Bath and Tennis Club are defective and can be fixed using the approach outlined in Mr. Pierro's plan.

Vice Chair, Cooper asked Mr. Pierro how the location of each groin replacement is prioritized. Is it more cost effective to start in the North and then go south?

Mr. Pierro answered that the reason for working North to South is to address the heavy erosion in Reach 2. The Shore Board agreed with that approach.

Mr. Brazil told the Shore Protection Board that he thinks it is prudent to have the funding conversation with the Town Council very soon. Motion to approve was made by Chairman Ecclestone, seconded by Mr. Raffo, unanimously approved.

Town Manager, Thomas Bradford asked Mr. Pierro how long the permits will last once they are approved. Mr. Pierro answered that the nationwide permit is updated every two or three years.

Vice Chair Cooper asked about safety concerns with the eroding groins. Mr. Pierro answered that safety will be addressed in program but the ones with the most deterioration will be prioritized.

Mr. Frank asked for a presentation or dissertation on the groin rehabilitation project that also includes the safety issues and the long term benefit to the town in order to get approval from the Town Council and the Town of Palm Beach for more funding.

Mr. Goldstein asked Mr. Pierro if more details about the funds can be provided in the presentation. Mr. Brazil answered that is the staff's responsibility to provide that information to the Town Council so they can make the decision.

Mr. Frank commented that a good sales pitch is needed in order to get public buy in.

Mr. Baker commented that we have to be aware and careful about the pushback from environmental groups such as the Surf Rider Foundation as they are opposed to new groins. Chairman Ecclestone responded that he thinks it would be good to get their thoughts. Mr. Brazil added to Mr. Baker's statement that the Town is removing hazards and adjusting the groin lengths which is a reasonable approach and a smart plan. The Shore Protection Board agreed to discuss the groin rehabilitation project to the Surf Rider Foundation and other opponents.

XI. REASONABLE RESPONSIVENESS BY TOWN STAFF TO INQUIRIES AND DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

[Thomas G. Bradford, Town Manager]

Town Manager, Thomas G. Bradford touched upon the magnitude of the current Mid-Town project and hoped that the public found the information presented in today's meeting is helpful in understanding the Coastal Management Program. He also noted that the responsiveness to the public in the middle of a multi-million dollar project can be difficult on the two staff members assigned to this program and as a result of that, the Town of Palm Beach can't be as responsive as they normally are. Consultants will be used going forward to answer any technical questions from the public in more detail. Chairman Ecclestone agreed with Mr. Bradford's statement and agrees that more time should be allowed in order to research questions and answer them correctly.

Mr. Raffo commented that the public attendance for today's meeting wasn't good and asked why the meeting wasn't advertised in the Shiny Sheet. Mr. Bradford responded that it was advertised on the Town's website and to the hundreds of coastal program subscribers. Chairman Ecclestone agreed that the Town is doing the best they can to communicate the meetings.

Mr. Frank echoed Mr. Bradford's earlier statement that the staff answer questions carefully and ensure that the info is credible and backed up by experts. Chairman Ecclestone commented that he would like more public attendance and is disappointed that more people didn't attend today's meeting.

Mr. Goldstein commented that Mr. Eubanks got the numbers to give to Mr. Brazil and Mr. Weber for the cubic yards of sand as mentioned in Item V.

XII. TOPICS FOR FUTURE SPB MEETING ON MARCH 26, 2015

Reach 7/Phipps Ocean Park Beach Renourishment Project

FY 2016 Coastal Management Program Budget

Chairman Ecclestone stated that he is happy to call another meeting about topics related to groin, sand, etc, or anything that needs to go to the Town Council.

Mr. Brazil suggested that since budget season is coming in April that we discuss the existing problems in the 2016 budget in April.

Mr. Weber would like to add that the permitting project is underway for Reach 7 but would like to get it out to bid per the Town Council. Chairman Ecclestone gave his full approval.

XIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Anita Seltzer of 44 Cocoanut Row, commented that there will be an opportunity for the public to give feedback on the topics at today's meeting since there is no set meeting date in March. Ms. Seltzer also asked what the assessment is of the sand level and what is the grain size for Reach 4 and 8. Chairman Ecclestone responded citizens are given the opportunity to speak at each meeting and pointed out that the information she is seeking can be found in back-up reports.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT


Chairman Ecclestone adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.