

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Public Works Department

MINUTES OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Shore Protection Board was called to order on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in ,Town Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, all members were found to be present, with the exception of Board Member Baker who arrived at 9:02 a.m. and Board Member Katz who arrived at 9:19 a.m.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ecclestone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chair Frank and seconded by Mr. Goldstein to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2016 MEETING

Motion was made by Vice Chair Frank and seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the Shore Protection Board Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Frank expressed that the Reach 7 project was very successful.

Vice Chair Frank explained that Sloan's Curve has always been a problem area. The Town only does dune projects there. Vice Chair Frank remembered that the Town had to place sand and monitor how it stayed there. If the sand does not stay, then the town may have the opportunity to possibly add groins. Vice Chair Frank asked for staff to address this matter.

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1 Coastal Program Manager Weber offered to go over Sloan's Curve during the Current
2 Shoreline Conditions presentation later in the meeting.

3
4 Vice Chair Frank asked staff if there was any investigation in to determining the
5 losses of sand from Hurricane Matthew and if there was any chance of the Town
6 receiving FEMA funding to replace the sand lost from Hurricane Matthew.

7
8 Coastal Program Manager Weber explained that preliminary post-storm estimates
9 have been made and provided to the Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA. There are
10 post-storm physical surveys that are currently being completed. Once completed,
11 these surveys will be compared to the pre-storm surveys to determine the measured
12 losses.

13
14 Coastal Program Manager Weber informed that Palm Beach County was included in
15 the FEMA designation areas for public assistance from Hurricane Matthew. The
16 Town's Finance Department is working with Palm Beach County and FEMA. Public
17 Works staff will be providing the measured data once the data is available.

18
19 Vice Chair Frank asked staff about signage within the recently constructed dunes.

20
21 Coastal Program Manager Weber explained that signage was not placed on the beach
22 or near the vegetated dunes because the dune planting occurred during the height of
23 sea turtle nesting season. Coastal Program Manager Weber added that with sea turtle
24 nesting season coming to a close on October 31, signage can be then placed on the
25 beach and dune.

26
27 Chair Ecclestone expressed that the Town was very fortunate that Hurricane
28 Matthew's track turned further away from the Town.

29
30 Board Member Johnson has met with the Breakers to discuss their coastal project and
31 is pleased that the Shore Protection Board will be talking about the topic.

32
33 Board Member Johnson added that the Breakers shoreline has an interesting and
34 complicated history and he is looking forward to understanding the science and the
35 modeling that the Breakers consultant is using for their proposal.

36
37
38 Board Member Goldstein clarified with staff that the Breakers discussion would
39 occur at the November 21, 2016 Shore Protection Board meeting.

40
41 Board Member Goldstein expressed that it would be helpful if FEMA was able to
42 assist the Town with getting sand back on to the engineered beaches that came off the
43 beaches from Hurricane Matthew.

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No comments from Board Members Gavigan, Baker and Katz.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Jeff Smith and Darwin Stubbs were representing Ken Griffin, a property owner on Blossom Way. They spoke regarding three groins on the property that the client would like to re-build or replace. According to Jeff Smith and Darwin Stubbs, their client is willing to pay for the groin rehabilitation on his property.

Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber mentioned he would provide an update during one of the later agenda items and stated that the Department of Environmental Protection is working on state authorization through the Beach Management Agreement, regarding Federal permitting; the Army Corps of Engineers is working with the Town to determine if a Request for Additional Information will be required.

Public Works Director Paul Brazil stated that the Federal government wants the Groin Rehabilitation project to be under one permit; Mr. Brazil added that the groins may be relocated and offered to meet with the property owner or his representatives for further discussion.

Mr. Stubbs stated that his client is anxious to begin work on the three groins, is willing to fund the project privately and wants to be in compliance with the entire Groin Rehabilitation project.

Mr. Weber stated that the three groins in question are in Reach 5. Reach 5 is in Phase 4 of the Groin Rehabilitation plan. A time frame for construction could not be estimated at this time.

Mr. Brazil stated there is no anticipated time frame and the Army Corps of Engineers may require further studies.

Diane Buhler, Friends of Palm Beach, reported on her organization's summer beach clean-up efforts in Palm Beach. She stated that her organization's efforts have been coordinated with the Town's Public Works Department. Her goal is to increase resident awareness.

Chair Ecclestone acknowledged the group's efforts and thanked Ms. Buhler.

Pat Cooper, Palm Beach Civic Association spoke regarding the Town budget, specifically Capital Improvement Projects, Undergrounding, Coastal projects, retirement funding and the Town docks. All current and future projects will be costly and a financial impact to residents. Mr. Cooper suggested a Plan B for shore protection since one does not exist.

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1 Chair Ecclestone agreed that a Plan B would come at a cost and needs some
2 consideration.

3
4 Vice Chair Frank acknowledged the current and future expenses to the Town's budget
5 and asked if money can be borrowed if necessary, since Palm Beach has a good credit
6 rating and the ability to repay loans. Vice Chair Frank also asked if Mr. Cooper foresaw
7 any situation where the Town would have difficulty borrowing money.

8
9 Mr. Cooper stated that the Town has excellent finances and reserves and that the Town is
10 in very good shape financially. There are no general revenue bonds currently and Town
11 debts are expected to be approximately \$200 million. The Town should not depend on
12 the rating agencies for guidance; we should decide on which way to move forward
13 managing the debt and if we should borrow or tax.

14
15 Board Member Katz acknowledged Mr. Cooper's concerns and mentioned that we need
16 work on ways to keep the sand that we have. He mentioned that mining in the future will
17 come at a cost and could be discouraged, therefore we should look at other options.

18
19 Board Member Goldstein recommended asking FEMA for help with dredging sand
20 similar to other towns like Boca Raton and Delray Beach. Mr. Goldstein also
21 recommended the Town should consider buying a barge and secure a contract to
22 replenish our own sand. A barge would be a big saving over time.

23
24 Public Works Director Paul Brazil mentioned three items for next Shore Board meeting.

- 25 1. Program 10 or 20 years out; long range forecast.
26 2. Nearshore mining.
27 3. Contracting alternatives.

28
29 Chair Ecclestone stated that obtaining a dredge would be a good idea and would like
30 work on a long range plan.

31
32 Mr. Brazil suggested to have a conversation to discuss solutions and research more
33 information on alternatives.

34
35 **VIII. CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITIONS**

36 *Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager*

37
38 Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber gave a power point presentation with
39 photographs taken during three time frames; conditions on October 26, 2016, conditions
40 before Hurricane Matthew (October 4, 2016), and conditions in April 13, 2016.

41 Seas are still rough after Hurricane Matthew and effects can be seen in the shoreline
42 conditions. Photographs were shown from north to south
43

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1 Sloan's Curve has new vegetation and dunes and has shown very little losses.
2 In response Vice Chair Frank's earlier question in section VI regarding Sloan's Curve,
3 more intense surveys were done and smaller areas surveyed in this area to capture
4 specific movement of sand. This was done to monitor changes over the next few years to
5 see if structural solutions may be needed to keep the beach healthy. Post Matthew
6 surveys will not include the higher frequency surveys and will focus on the data required
7 by FEMA.

8 Public Works Director Paul Brazil agreed that the area is doing well but it may be several
9 years before we know if we need a structural solution.
10

11 Mr. Weber stated that the large amount of sand that has been placed during the Phipps
12 Ocean Project has helped move sand from north to south. Phipps Ocean Park is a feeder
13 beach and sand will move north to Sloan's Curve beach and south to Reach 8.
14

15 Discussion followed regarding how fortunate that Hurricane Matthew did not do as much
16 damage as anticipated. Vice Chair Frank complimented Mr. Weber on the good job he
17 has done with monitoring conditions on Town beaches.
18

19 Mr. Brazil explained that there are three feeder beaches where large amounts of sand is
20 placed; that sand will drift to the north and south, adding sand to other beaches.
21

22 **IX. COASTAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

23 *Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager*
24

25 **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Worth Inlet Maintenance Dredging**
26

27 Mr. Weber stated that Army Corps of Engineers is preparing a bid solicitation to do an
28 interim dredging event later in 2016. Working on post Matthew surveys. If they do
29 dredge, sand will be placed in near shore. If no dredging is needed this year, the project
30 will be done next year and sand will then be placed in Reach 1.
31

32 **State is investigating Reef Damage from March 2016**
33

34 In March, there was some damage done to the north end reef. The Department of
35 Environmental Protection identified that the damage to reef was done by a dredging
36 contractor who was working for another municipality; the contractor will be fined. Mr.
37 Weber advised the fines will be applied to the State's Water Quality Assurance Trust
38 Fund.
39

40 **Breakers/Clarke Avenue Beach Shore Protection Alternatives**
41

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1 Breakers staff and consultants will meet to discuss work that has been done in the area
2 and permit application at the next Shore Protection Board meeting on November 21,
3 2016.

4
5 Board Member Johnson inquired on how much time it will take to discuss the Breakers'
6 issues.

7
8 Mr. Brazil stated that time will be given to the Breakers staff to discuss the history,
9 alternatives and how they plan to move forward. He also stated that further discussion is
10 needed with Town staff, Shore Protection Board Members and the Breakers.

11
12 **Reach 8 Environmental Impact Statement**

13
14 Army Corps of Engineers is working on a Record of Decision and is anticipated to be
15 completed in the spring of 2017.

16
17 **Groin Rehabilitation Permitting**

18
19 Discussed previously in Section VII.

20
21 **Physical, Biological, and Sea Turtle Nesting Monitoring**

22
23 Annual physical surveys were completed in September 2016. Post Hurricane Matthew
24 surveys are being obtained as weather permits and will be compared to pre-Matthew
25 conditions. This needs to be done to prepare for the annual Beach Management
26 Agreement meeting which will be held on December 7, 2016. Department of
27 Environmental Protection will be in town to go the Beach Management Agreement and
28 update both the performance of projects and continued monitoring. Robin Trindell from
29 Fish and Wildlife Commission will be at meeting.

30
31 Vice Chair Frank inquired as to why the town is responsible for paying for turtle
32 monitoring and are there any other agencies that can help with the cost.

33
34 Mr. Weber advised that Department of Environmental Protection is aware and grant
35 amendments will be presented to Town Council for contributions towards reimbursement
36 from the state.

37
38 **Continued Discussion of Beach Cleaning**

39
40 Discussed previously in Section VII.

41
42 **Public Outreach**

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Coastal and Engineering projects are high profile and it is a challenge getting information to the public. A solicitation is being prepared to get a bid and Request for Qualifications, to hire a consultant to manage getting information to the public. Public Works Director Paul Brazil stated that having one firm to handle public relations for Coastal and Engineering will be more efficient.

Board Member Johnson asked if the Town had a public relations department and Mr. Brazil responded that the Town did not.

Board Member Katz noted that a public relations firm is long overdue for the Town.

Vice Chair Frank asked about easements for fore passing on the north end. Mr. Brazil stated that process has not been started yet and asked to wait until the next large dredging project to do both projects at the same time. Less impact to residents.

Chair Ecclestone inquired if a Shore Protection Board Member could be present when choosing a public relations firm. Mr. Brazil stated selecting a firm will be for both the Coastal and Engineering divisions so a Shore Board member need not be present.

X. FY 2017 COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET DISCUSSION

H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

Mr. Brazil presented an overhead of the Shore Protection Board approved budget that was recommended to Town Council and had modifications. Per Town Council, if no work is done during a specific fiscal year then it will not be funded in that fiscal year.

Vice Chair Frank spoke about the groin project delays.

Groin Rehabilitation was modified and Mr. Brazil stated that funding for the first phase is in the bank.

Coastal program operating expenses also increased in cost due to the adding of staff. There will be a three-year effort to get Mid Town to become a federal project. The cost is anticipated to be \$3 million; one half of the funds will be paid by the town and the other half will be paid by the Federal Government. The project will be financed in fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The Reach 8 Environmental Impact Statement has been completed. The Shore Protection Board recommended to Town Council to include sand placement and mitigation. The Army Corps of Engineers delayed their record of decision. Therefore, there is no way to build the project in Reach 8 in this fiscal year. There are funds available to do an interim dune rehabilitation project and bring sand into Reach 8 using a trucking company. The Corps of Engineers must issue their Record of Decision before the Shore Protection

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1 Board can make a recommendation to Town Council regarding the Reach 8 project
2 budget.

3
4 Chair Ecclestone commented on the annual cost being lower this year because there have
5 been no beach nourishment projects done this year.

6
7 **XI. RECOMMENDATION TO TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING A SHORELINE**
8 **STORM VULNERABILITY EVALUATION BY WOODS HOLE GROUP**

9 *Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager*

10
11 Woods Hole Group completed their peer review of Town's long term Coastal
12 Management Program in 2013. One of their tasks was to do a Coastal Vulnerability
13 Assessment.

14 The work will include collecting existing data and putting it into a useful format and the
15 assessment will supplement the Town's Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan. The
16 cost will be \$100,000 which was included in fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budget.

17
18 Chair Ecclestone inquired if the report is for Town Council or Shore Protection Board.

19
20 Mr. Weber explained the report is to the Town and that emphasis would be on the
21 bulkheads and recommended that the Shore Protection Board provide a recommendation
22 to Town Council regarding the Coastal Vulnerability Evaluation done by Woods Hole
23 Group.

24
25 Vice Chair Frank mentioned to conditions on Lake Trail that needs to be addressed due to
26 safety concerns and how the evaluation would work in conjunction with previous FEMA
27 studies.

28
29 Mr. Brazil responded that Woods Hole Group would use all previously collected data
30 with the assessment in moving forward.

31
32 **Motion approved by Vice Chair Frank and seconded by Board Member Goldstein.**
33 **The motion was carried unanimously.**

34
35 **XII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

36 *H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works*

37
38 Public Works Director Paul Brazil stated that the next Shore Protection Board meeting is
39 scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2016

40 Two important items will be discussed

- 41 1. Annual Report
42 2. Breakers

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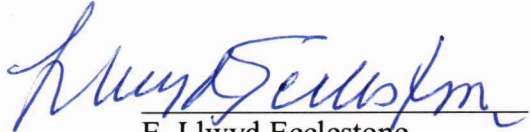
XIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

No other matters to discuss.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the October 27, 2016, Shore Protection Board meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

APPROVED:


E. Llwyd Ecclestone
Chairman