

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Town Manager's Office

MINUTES OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD WORKSHOP HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Shore Protection Board meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 9:05 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, all of the Board members and alternate Board members were present with the exception of E. Llwyd Ecclestone, Chair, who arrived at 9:10 a.m.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Katz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Ceriale shared that she is excited for the workshop. Board Member Baker expressed that he is happy to be at the workshop. Vice Chair Katz wanted to thank everyone for their support over the last 10 years for the position of Vice Chair. He shared that his trust is with the staff and they deserve respect for their hard work.

Chair Ecclestone acknowledged that he has received Alternate Board Member Lorentzen's letter of resignation as he will be leaving the Board to attend graduate school. Chair Ecclestone thanked Lorentzen for his service on the Board.

Alternate Board Member Lorentzen shared that he enjoyed his service on the Board, and thanked Town staff. Lorentzen also wanted to share that the current conditions on rougher days south of the Gulf Stream groin attention is still needed, on rough days water reaches the seawall.

Alternate Board Member Jacoby is looking forward to getting into the issues and moving forward. Alternate Board Member Belmar shared that he is disappointed at the turn out of Town residents at the workshop. Board Member Kinzelberg stated that there has been a lot of erosion due to the weather.

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V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

No communication from Citizens.

VI. REVIEW OF THE SUNSHINE LAW AND PUBLIC RECORDS LAW

[John Randolph, Town Attorney]

John Randolph, Town Attorney, conducted an annual briefing on the Sunshine Law and Public Records Law.

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

[Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer]

Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber provided an update of the Reach 8 EIS and suggested that a motion from the Shore Protection Board be considered to get Board's recommendation to go to Town Council to resume the State permitting process and hire a consultant.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Katz and seconded by Board Member Kinzelberg.
The motion carried unanimously.**

Town Engineer Patricia Strayer began the discussion indicating a time certain to conclude the workshop at 1:00pm as a meeting is following. Town Engineer Strayer relayed that her role is to help the meeting stay on schedule. Town Engineer Strayer continued that each member will identify their top four (4) topics for discussion. At the end, there will be a consensus of the top four (4) topics to discuss. Each member will be given five (5) minutes for conversation of their topic. Motions and recommendations are not to be made at the workshop. Motions are to be held for regular Board meetings. If an item gets stagnate, the conversation will be moved to another workshop or meeting. Town Engineer Strayer informed that members of the public would have an opportunity to speak at the conclusion of the workshop to allow the Board Members enough time to discuss topics.

Board Member Ceriale would like to see the workshop be more open to the public and not have the public wait until the end to speak. Town Engineer Strayer replied if there is a citizen that would like to speak, they can be provided three (3) minutes to speak.

Chair Ecclestone's 4 topics: (1) Groins timeline and funding (2) Removal of existing groins (3) Easements for installation and removal of groins (4) Permit requirements and flexibility

Board Member Baker's 4 topics: (1) Expediting sand mining and deposition in permitting (2) Environmental husbandry issues associated with beach maintenance (3) Stakeholder coordination

Board Member Ceriale's 4 topics: (1) Support staff (2) Macro issues - Woods Hole Group look at the information they provided (3) How the Board assists with current issues (4) Town education

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1
2 Board Member Gavigan's 4 topics: (1) Groins (2) Breakers (3) Coastal Vulnerability Study
3 (4) Sand Transfer Plant
4

5 Board Member Johnson's 4 topics: (1) Groins (2) Sand supply sources for the future (3)
6 Reach 8 - understanding history, the EIS, and what is being proposed (4) Understanding
7 funding process
8

9 Board Member Kinzelberg' 4 topics: (1) Groin replacement process (2) Mid-Town beach
10 and Breakers implementation (3) Goals and objectives (4) Shore Protection Board's action
11 with regard to the Woods Hole Group report on island flood protection
12

13 Alternate Board Member Jacoby's 4 topics: (1) Goals and objectives on how Shore
14 Protection Board can be effective (2) Public education (3) Future protection on lagoon side
15 where there are flooding issues (4) Groins
16

17 Alternate Board Member Belmar's 4 topics: (1) Groins (2) Interrelationship with Council
18 (3) Clarification of role on Woods Hole report (4) Lake Worth lagoon shoreline issues
19

20 Alternate Board Member Lorentzen's 4 topics (1) Goals and objectives (2) Involvement of
21 Town in working with other municipalities and stakeholders with environmental concerns
22 such as blue-green algae (3) Community involvement (4) Vulnerability from the lagoon
23

24 Vice Chair Katz's 4 topics: (1) Define staff engagement and establish goals (2) Next 10-
25 year plan (3) Climate change and vulnerability (4) Hurricane response
26

27 Town Council Member Margaret Zeidman expressed that she wants to learn what the Shore
28 Protection Board priorities are going forward as Town Council will vote on priorities and
29 their expenditures. Council Member Zeidman added that she cannot give an opinion
30 publically unless publically noticed and her colleagues are present as matters have to be
31 brought to Town Council in a more formal manner. Council Member Zeidman said that
32 she respects the Shore Protection Board and the time the Board puts in as these matters are
33 a priority to both the Town and to the Town Council. Council Member Zeidman concluded
34 that a method of coming together to have a discussion with the Board and Town Council
35 is needed.
36

37 Town staff, including Paul Brazil, Patricia Strayer, and Robert Weber compiled the topics
38 as follows: (1) Goals and objectives (2) Groins (3) Vulnerability (4) Public education and
39 communication with stakeholder coordination.
40

41 Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber conducted a review of the 2009 report of the 10-
42 year plan of the Shore Protection Board.
43
44
45
46

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1
2 1. Discussion of Goals and Objectives:

3
4 Board Member Ceriale, with assistance from both Coastal Program Manager, Rob Weber
5 and Director of Public Works, Paul Brazil, discussed implementation of SPB goals and
6 objectives.

7
8 Alternate Board Member Lorentzen added that innovative technologies sand placement is
9 successful but not perfect due to cost and that there is room for improvement. Investigation
10 into new technologies should be considered.

11
12 Alternate Board Member Jacoby added that public education and communication as an
13 objective.

14
15 Vice Chair Katz said there should be education to residents, especially for dune planting.

16
17 Board Member Johnson said he would like to continue to implement and monitor the feeder
18 beach strategy, nourishing portions of shore as necessary, continue to participate and
19 support BMA adding new projects if possible, continue to study new technologies as they
20 become available, coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and update and re-
21 examine the 10-year plan.

22
23 Board Member Kinzelberg said there should be a new format of the agenda to indicate
24 current list of priorities. Have at each meeting an updated document where the Town notes
25 this is where we are currently at each one of them. Director Brazil replied that staff would
26 submit a GANTT chart with milestones with the backup for the next meeting.

27
28 Town Engineer Strayer summarized that she was hearing that the Board would rather talk
29 about project issues than goals and objectives.

30
31 Alternate Board Member Belmar read aloud how goals and objectives were determined in
32 2009 and questioned staff's involvement in the current goals and objectives discussion.

33
34 Director Brazil noted that the purpose of the workshop was educational and for the Board
35 members to provide feedback to staff during the workshop. Director Brazil added that staff
36 could summarize the goals and objectives mentioned by the Board and add/provide input
37 after the Board had the discussion. Town staff was not to steer the topic for the Board.
38 Director Brazil concluded that staff could provide input on the goals and objectives for the
39 Board to consider with approval of the FY 2020 budget at the next meeting.

40
41 Johnson expressed implementation by the Board needs some consideration by staff.

42
43 Town Engineer Strayer concluded the Goals and Objectives discussion by indicating that
44 staff would summarize where we are with goals and make suggestions for the Board to
45 consider at the next meeting.
46

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1 2. Discussion of Groins:
2

3 Chair Ecclestone wants guidance from Town Council on groins.
4

5 Board Member Kinzelberg inquired why groins couldn't be added as protection to the south
6 end of Reach 6, 7 & 8 to keep sand that was put there.
7

8 Director Brazil explained that groins in the south end are unlikely to be permitted.
9

10 Vice Chair Katz said that Taylor Engineering did a study and came with seven (7) options,
11 one of which were to add more sand, when the Board wanted structures. In the end, the
12 added sand works.
13

14 Coastal Program Manager Weber provided a history of groins in the Town.
15

16 Chair Ecclestone reminded that removal of old groins and putting in new ones is the plan
17 and that the plan was given to Town Council as a multi-year program.
18

19 Alternate Board Member Belmar said Town Council has to be aware of the safety issues
20 of the deteriorated groins.
21

22 Board Member Gavigan suggested to save what's there and replace the dangerous groins.
23

24 Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber said that the current implementation plan includes
25 removing some groins and then replacing the groins with one new groin. Not necessarily
26 one for one. Any new groins will continue to function as they are now.
27

28 Board Member Gavigan asked for a time line of when it can be done.
29

30 Board Member Cerialle asked if there is an appropriate action plan for the groins.
31

32 Coastal Program Manager Weber replied that the plan has been permitted by both the U.S.
33 Army Corps of Engineers and FDEP.
34

35 Board Member Cerialle asked Town staff if the plan is appropriate. Coastal Program
36 Manager Weber replied that the engineering is sound. Board Member Cerialle asked does
37 Town Council have enough information to proceed with an appropriate decision or does
38 the Shore Protection Board need to provide additional information.
39

40 Director Paul Brazil responded that staff can ask Town Council if they need anything else
41 from the Board.
42

43 Board Member Baker said that he is opposed to the groins and indicated that the Town
44 should not consider groins. Groins are ineffective.
45

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1 Board Member Johnson reiterated that groins are in the BMA and they can be done now
2 that the plan is in place.

3
4 Board Member Kinzelberg asked at the end of the groin rehabilitation project, will all the
5 groins along the Town be cement king pile groins as opposed to steel.

6
7 Director Brazil responded that many of the existing groins will remain as they are currently
8 functional and will not be replaced.

9
10 Vice Chair Katz shared that Taylor Engineering's report looked specifically at Reach 7 and
11 not the whole Town. Taylor came with 7 options and they recommended to put more sand
12 at Reach 7.

13
14 Board Member Cerialle asked if staff thinks the groin program requested is good and
15 appropriate for the Town to pursue.

16
17 Director Brazil replied that the engineering is good. Director Brazil added that the vast
18 majority of the groins are on private property and the Town would pick up a liability that
19 the Town doesn't have today.

20
21 Alternate Board Member Jacoby questioned if there are permits, doesn't that imply there
22 is an approved plan, and asked what is stopping implementation of the plan.

23
24 Director Brazil responded that it is Town Council's direction to proceed.

25
26 Alternate Board Member Jacoby asked what the Board can do to expedite implementation
27 of the plan.

28
29 Director Brazil replied that the Board already has voted unanimously to direct staff to
30 advise Town Council to expedite the program but Council did not expedite the program.

31
32 Alternate Board Member Belmar said that Town Council has to make a decision and the
33 Shore Protection Board can help Council identify the issues to help Council make that
34 decision.

35
36 Director Brazil said that staff will include goals and objectives of the groin project with the
37 pros and cons and provide to Town Council again.

38
39 Board Member Kinzelberg asked for a map where all the new groins will be placed and
40 old ones taken out.

41
42 Town Engineer Patricia Strayer responded that electronic maps will be sent out to the
43 Board members.

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1 Alternate Board Member Belmar suggested that if Town Council is not going to fix the
2 groins, Code Enforcement should require that the private properties address the safety of
3 the groins.
4

5 Director Brazil shared that, for the first phase, north of the Mid-Town project, flyers were
6 sent out to all the affected home owners and invited them to Town Hall for a public
7 meeting. There was no turn out to the meetings. Flyers were sent out a second time and
8 again no one showed up to the meeting. Easements are needed from these residents as the
9 groins are largely on private property.
10

11 Board Member Johnson said that he has heard that there have been only a few injuries on
12 the old groins.
13

14 Director Brazil explained that liability could be the issue why Town Council has not moved
15 forward with the plan.
16

17 Chair Ecclestone requested that the groins again be added into the budget for the Board to
18 recommend to Town Council.
19

20 Director Brazil agreed and said, if recommended, staff would take the topic back to Town
21 Council.
22

23 Diane Buehler, Friends of Palm Beach, addressed the Board stating there are residents that
24 have done work on their own property when there are steel casings sticking out, they
25 understand the potential liability for them. The assumption may be that the Town is
26 handling it. The home owners may not realize they have a liability. Director Brazil replied
27 that residents were given information in writing and no one showed up to the meeting.
28

29 **3. Discussion of Vulnerability / Woods Hole Group:**
30

31 Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber gave an overview.
32

33 Board Member Belmar asked if there is an update on the report status. Coastal Manager
34 Weber replied that Woods Hole Group presented to Council in February. The report will
35 be uploaded to the Town's website once received. Coastal Program Manager Weber shared
36 that there is a presentation that he will be giving after the workshop to the Citizens'
37 Association.
38

39 Coastal Program Manager Weber explained that Woods Hole Group's report will include
40 recommendations, but will not be an implementation plan. Director Brazil said a challenge
41 with implementation is the actions that need to be taken on private property.
42

43 Alternate Board Member Lorentzen stated he hasn't heard much on what was done
44 previously on the lagoon and what is permitting and costs.
45

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1 Coastal Program Manager Weber responded that it is a different permitting process in the
2 lagoon in comparison to the beaches. Some projects done in the past were performed in
3 coordination with Palm Beach County.
4

5 Town Engineer Strayer shared that the seawall issues on the lagoon side are a mixture of
6 public and private properties. Director Brazil added that the last 10-year plan focused on
7 the ocean and the next 10-year plan will include the lagoon.
8

9 Board Member Kinzelberg shared that there are drainage and pumping issues on the lake
10 side. Board Member Baker mentioned that there is a lot that can be learned by other towns
11 where money is being spent.
12

13 Director Brazil said Woods Hole Group has helped those communities as well. There is a
14 lot of work to do.
15

16 Vice Chair Katz said it is a good idea to look at consultants who worked with other cities
17 and addressed the same situation as the Town, have them come to Palm Beach, so they do
18 not reinvent the wheel.
19

20 Alternate Board Member Jacoby asked if Woods Hole Group is the go-to group to have
21 conversations with pertaining to innovation.
22

23 Director Brazil replied Woods Hole Group is a good choice as they spent a lot of time
24 understand the island and the modeling is better than anyone else's.
25

26 Alternate Board Member Jacoby asked if it is possible to have individual conversation or
27 does it have to be done in a forum. Director Brazil shared that it is ok to have a one-on-one
28 conversation, it just costs the Town money.
29

30 Alternate Board Member Lorentzen said the short-term goals are the lake side storm related
31 flooding. If projections are right, it's going to be more difficult.
32

33 Director Brazil replied the Lakeside Park seawall project goes out 50 years or more, that
34 wall is not going to be built 50 years from now but will make the wall now to add-on to it
35 over the years.
36

37 Town Engineer Patricia Strayer recapped that vulnerability should be a goal and include
38 the Board recommendation of working with other communities looking both near term and
39 long term. Vulnerability should be captured in a summary document to go from the Board
40 to Town Council.
41

42 4. Discussion of Public Education and Communication:
43

44 Alternate Board Member Jacoby offered to help get the message out to raise awareness.
45 When money is being brought to Town Council there is support.
46

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1 Public Works Director Paul Brazil shared that the Shore Protection Board has previously
2 said communication is important, talk about it as a vulnerability. The Town becomes more
3 vulnerable over time.
4

5 Alternate Board Member Jacoby said it is best to make a statement about flooding. Director
6 Brazil replied to bring the document back in April to the Shore Protection Board that will
7 be educational and it will be included with the budget. Staff will make sure it addresses
8 what the Board is trying to convey to the Town Council, the pros and cons.
9

10 Board Member Gavigan said the beaches are in better shape now then they have been, goals
11 are being accomplished. Town Engineer Patricia Strayer responded that communicating
12 the success of the program is what the public education topic is.
13

14 Alternate Board Member Lorentzen said that Palm Beach protection is something the entire
15 region is interested in, everyone comes to enjoy the beach.
16

17 Alternate Board Member Belmar said that the Board should first start communication to
18 the public by focusing on 1 or 2 of the successes of the program.
19

20 Town Engineer Strayer reiterated that the Town should be publicizing the condition of the
21 beaches and the success of the BMA program beyond the Town.
22

23 Director Brazil said that the Town has a successful beach nourishment program and it
24 should be talked about.
25

26 Town Engineer Strayer summarized that communication should be considered a goal by
27 the Board.
28

29 **5. Stakeholder Coordination:**
30

31 Alternate Board Member Lorentzen asked if significant funding support was received from
32 the County and State for beach nourishment.
33

34 Director Brazil replied that the Town recently received funding from the County through
35 the Bed Tax Dollars for the Phipps project in 2016. The state has historically been a great
36 financial partner. The federal money is from two (2) different places, FEMA and the U.S.
37 Army Corps of Engineers. The federal money would address the lion share of cost and the
38 Town will be the local sponsor and pay a fraction of the cost.
39

40 Alternate Board Member Belmar read the charter of the Board and expressed the topic to
41 discuss should be more of agency coordination then stakeholder coordination.
42

43 Director Brazil said that if areas of concern are identified by the Board, the Board can make
44 a recommendation to Town Council and Town Council would assign the task to the Mayor.
45

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Board Member Kinzelberg addressed Diane Buhler asking if there is anything as a Board or Town could do to help stem the repository of dangerous material to our beaches. Diane prefers no groins, as the trash is where the seaweed is and that is by the groins. Groins bring in some sand, but with it is seaweed and trash. The trash is a huge problem.

Board Member Johnson said staff should prepare copies of ordinances pertaining to liability and explain who would be paying for the groins and what did homeowners need to sign up for. Residents need to be informed.

Chair Ecclestone said that goals are to be discussed again at the next meeting.

VIII. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS – 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

IX. SCHEDULING OF NEXT SPB MEETINGS

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

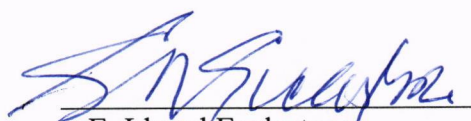
- Regular SPB Meeting, April 25, 2019
 - FY 2020 Coastal Management Program Budget

X. ANY OTHER MATTERS

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Shore Protection Board Workshop of March 21, 2019, was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

APPROVED:



E. Llwyd Ecclestone
Chairman

Meeting audio is located at:
<https://www.townofpalmbeach.com/853/Meeting-Audio>