

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

1

I. CALL TO ORDER

2

3 The Shore Protection Board Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7,
4 2009, in the Emergency Operations Center, 355 S. County Road, Palm Beach.

5

II. ROLL CALL

6

7 On roll call, Chair Ecclestone, Members Lindsay Buck and Member Hicks were present. Member
8 Katz had informed the Board that he would arrive late. Vice Chair Frank had an unexcused
9 absence. Members Goldstein and Raffo had excused absences.

10

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

11

12 Chair Ecclestone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

13

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

14

15 **Motion to approve the Agenda as presented made by Member Lindsay Buck and seconded by**
16 **Member Hicks. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

17

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS

18

19 Member Lindsay Buck applauded the Town's recent efforts regarding the Staghorn coral issue with
20 the environmentalists and she was hopeful that the current dialogue would lead to a mutually
21 acceptable solution. She was pleased to see the effort of working together with the various groups
22 involved.

23

24 Chair Ecclestone announced that Member Katz had arrived at 9:06 a.m., for the record.

25

26 Town Manager Elwell wished to comment on Member Lindsay Buck's comments. Staff will
27 provide an update on the coral issue later on in the meeting.

28

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2009**

Larry Goldberg, 3360 S. Ocean Blvd, gave several comments about the draft report. He offered suggestions to be presented to the Town Council. He also suggested contacting the Governor, and the state and federal elected officials weekly. He was asked by Member Katz to submit his comments in an email to Town Manager Elwell so that they could be distributed to the full board.

VII. COMMENTS ON SHORE PROTECTION BOARD'S DRAFT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN [Penny Cutt, Regional Manager, Coastal Systems International, Inc.]

Ms. Penny Cutt, Regional Manager of Coastal Systems International, presented a Power Point to the Shore Protection Board. A copy was submitted for the record.

After reviewing the Shore Protection Board's Draft plan, the recommendations were to:

- Enhance sand bypassing at Lake Worth Inlet
 - Ensure sand enters longshore drift
 - Benefit beaches throughout the Town
- Maintain and Enhance Feeder Beaches
 - Continue success at Reaches 3, 4 & 7
 - Consider adding feeder beach in Reach 5
- Improve movement of sand through structure rehabilitation and reconfiguration
 - Include performance evaluation in groin analysis
 - Analysis of Reach 5 and reach 6 groins to ensure littoral drift to downdrift beaches.

Council Member Bill Diamond, 220 Wells Road, asked a question about Reach 8. Since this was an Agenda Item, it was decided by the consensus of the Board to hear that item next. (Item X)

Member Lindsay Buck said research on the internet indicates that groins are bad for downdrift beaches but the Town has a history of using groins. At midtown beach, the groins there are trapping sand and depriving the sand further south. Chair Ecclestone said if there were groins in Reaches 7 and 8 there would not be a problem. Ms. Penny Cutt stated that some of the old groins are not functioning optimally. She did not want to give the impression that the Mid-Town groins were detrimental or ineffective.

Member Katz stated, with respect to beach nourishment projects, that there needed to be a certain volume of sand placed. For volume, you need width and height. There would be impact on the initial purpose of the project. He asked for an explanation from Ms. Penny Cutt and she responded that a smaller project is relative. If you place a huge slug of low quality material on the beach, it may be gone in a year. Yet, if you place a small slug of high quality sand on the beaches, you may have better results. The finer grain material and courser grain sand needs to be considered.

Member Hicks said the study will hopefully analyze the groin situation. Member Hicks stated that groins work and they do capture sand. You then have issues further south as well. He felt the groins in Reach 5 are working as intended, but they may be causing negative impacts in Reach 6..

Power Point Presentation PDF

VIII. COMMENTS ON SHORE PROTECTION BOARD'S DRAFT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN [Michael Walther, P.E., President, Coastal Technology Corporation]

Mr. Michael Walther, from Coastal Technology Corporation (CTC), announced that that he did not have a Power Point presentation today for the Shore Protection Board but would summarize the report. He commended the Board for considering and bringing forth the issues and developing a practical plan to the Town. He began by describing the broad prospective and indicated that the inlet is a priority. He stated that the sand starved beaches, the proliferation of seawalls, and groins are all attributable to the influence of the inlet. The plan emphasizes and prioritizes the Sand Transfer Plant as a first tier response. He felt that was appropriate.

Mr. Walther indicated that the report accurately reflects that even if you build structures, you would still need to place the same amount of sand into the system in order to maintain the beaches. The use of structures would be a management decision. The third element related to integration and specific reach efforts and those posed to begin. They are shaping the Coastal Management Plan. The initial planning steps are investigative and scopes of work need to be defined. He suggested placing some funding for that Comprehensive Plan into the Fiscal Year 2010 in order to integrate the formulation of the very specific projects.

Mr. Walther also stated that there are a number of groins and seawalls in the Town. He noted that the Shore Protection Board has emphasized the protection of property. In consideration of the objectives and the discussion from the morning, seawalls within the town are offering protection to property. Those elements and existing seawalls protect the uplands and are in integral part of the overall plan. There was a desire to bring in the agencies to the meetings and solicit their input. Mr. Walther encouraged that the agencies be invited to the meeting, and have a concerted effort. Mr. Walther strongly encouraged integration of agency input.

With respect to specific items, Mr. Walther noted that there was a proposed dune restoration in Reaches 2 and 6. Those beaches are very narrow and dune restoration may not be viable. There was some suggestion in the report that dune restoration may not be viable. He announced that he has performed dune restoration projects for over thirty years, and invariably, where you have a narrow beach, dune restoration projects typically do not work. The element of vulnerability needs to be recognized.

Regarding sand sources, the more sand in the system, the better. The amount of sand placed on the shoreline is ultimately limited by the budget and the limits of the state permitting agencies. He

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2009**

1 noted there is extensive hard bottom in Reach 7 and the agencies directed the Town not to put sand
2 in the north end of Reach 7 to avoid impacts to resources.

3
4 Mr. Walther suggested for Reach 7 that re-nourishment of Reach 7 should be a far easier effort than
5 the prior efforts. He suggested combining sand search evaluation efforts into Fiscal Year 2011, and
6 include Reach 8 as well.

7
8 Chair Ecclestone asked if the Board should forget about the north end of Reach 7. Mr. Walther
9 stated he did not suggest to do that, and stressed that was why evaluations were needed.

10
11 Relative to Reach 8, he noted the item for the structure study and an environmental impact
12 statement (EIS) that included \$500,000 in FY 2010. He felt that it should be spread over two years
13 and the EIS process takes approximately eighteen months.

14
15 Mr. Walther next noted some administrative comments. He agreed that the numbers and costs are
16 sufficient to implement the plan. Mr. Walther suggested numbering the rows for easier
17 identification.

18
19 Member Katz asked about finding acceptable sand and that could change the costs of projects. He
20 asked how long it would take to do a sand analysis for Reaches 3 and 4. The main expense is based
21 on trucking sand. Public Works Director Brazil responded that the impacts to the costs in Reach 8
22 were for a truck haul project. Reach 7, as currently proposed, was presumed to be from an off-
23 shore source. The financial impact to the overall program is not nearly as significant relative to the
24 impact from the Reach 8 project. In terms of a timeframe for re-evaluating existing borrow areas,
25 that also was a relatively minor item, since the borrow areas have been accepted by the DEP and the
26 federal agencies for nourishment of Reach 7. The quality of sand from those borrow areas is very
27 well documented, according to Mr. Walther.

28
29 Member Katz questioned sand quality being the same as what is already on the shore. Mr. Walther
30 said because it has not been formally precluded from use by the agencies. As part of sand search-
31 have closure and he has looked at prior investigations. In the south end there are similar materials
32 and it is not likely to find better quality sand than what is in Reaches 3 and 4. Member Katz' last
33 comment was that Ms. Cutt said that the quality of sand should be like the native sand and with all
34 due respect to do a successful project. If lower quality sand is accepted by an agency, he felt the
35 Town should use a higher-quality sand. Mr. Walther responded that those would be management
36 decisions and they do not need to be made today.

37
38 Member Hicks asked Mr. Walther his opinion on what to do relating to the sand source search.
39 Based on what he has reviewed so far, there are sand reserves from the inlet to use and when asked
40 about exploring in federal waters, Mr. Walther said there was a lot of hard bottom there.

41
42 Public Works Director Brazil asked about Reach 2 and the legislative information Ms. Cutt
43 provided. She had stated that once the template is full in Reach 1, and the dune is vulnerable, and

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2009**

1 repetitively place sand in Reach 2 next. Mr. Walther said it was clear that there is a tremendous
2 amount of sand in Reach 1 and ideally it should be moving south into the other Reaches.

3
4 *Member Katz left the dais to speak to reporter William Kelly in the audience at 10:55a.m. There*
5 *was no longer a quorum on the dais.*

6
7 Member Lindsay Buck asked about Reach 2 and how to protect the seawalls. She said there is about
8 an eight block set of dunes in the north end of Reach 2. She asked if more inlet sand could be
9 moved further south and hoped that Phase II of the Sand Transfer Plant would help with that
10 process.

11
12 Mr. Walther responded that it would take a large amount of sand to replenish Reach 2 before you
13 could move down to Reach 3. He noted that State Agencies are requiring mitigation by the Town.

14
15 Chair Ecclestone asked for a history study of sand on the beach for 20-30 years. He said it would be
16 interesting to see what was there 20-30 years ago. Public Works Director Brazil responded that Dr.
17 Dean may have that information. Town Manager Elwell said as far as the impact going forward, the
18 historical information would not matter. He noted the permitting agencies do not look at that, they
19 view what is there now.

20
21
22 IX. CONTINUED PREPARATION OF SHORE PROTECTION BOARD'S DRAFT COASTAL
23 MANAGEMENT PLAN [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

24 Town Manager Elwell announced that there currently was not a quorum present, but since the next
25 item was discussion and no votes would be taken, Chair Ecclestone could proceed.

26 The Shore Protection Board began discussing the draft report page by page. The form was
27 acceptable to the board. The following changes were suggested:

- 28
- 29 • On page 1, in the Executive Summary, add "for the North end of Reach 7" after perform
30 structure studies.
 - 31 • Member Lindsay Buck suggested changing the word "inland" sand to "high quality sand",
32 because inland sand limits the source. Chair Ecclestone agreed.
 - 33 • Add Phase II into the Executive Summary
 - 34 • Member Hicks said that how this is presented to the Town Council and was told to not focus
35 on the costs, but focus on the projects and that should be mentioned in the executive
36 summary. He suggested that there be a clarification. Chair Ecclestone agreed.
 - 37 • Member Lindsay Buck also stated (And to Mr. Goldberg) that she hoped that she wanted to
38 se more emphasis on the political side of the projects. She asked what the Town could do
39 and how leadership in the Town could put pressure on the various agencies that affect the
40 ability to protect the shoreline because of the restrictions of agencies.

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2009**

- 1 • On page 6, Member Goldstein had provided his comments to Public Works Director Brazil
2 and asked if there should be board comments next to statements. Town Manager Elwell
3 disagreed and said that the consensus is reflected in the rest of the document.
- 4 • On page 16, Member Lindsay Buck commented on the wording. She was concerned about
5 the wording and offending the county. It was decided that they would eliminate the
6 wording” and discontinue using Palm Beach County’s personnel once Phase I of the
7 renovation is completed.
- 8 • Also on Page 16, regarding Reach 8 beach restoration, Member Lindsay Buck wanted
9 wording changed to indicate a step-by-step course of action.
- 10 • Add 9th bullet to include political pressure.
- 11 • Page 20, Chair Ecclestone asked what the Town would get with CCMP update. He was
12 informed of the great detail regarding shoreline of the Town in a highly technical document.
13 No changes were made.
- 14 • Page 21, Chair Ecclestone asked for the status of the tri-party dredging agreement. He was
15 informed that there has been discussions regarding funding among the other 2 parties.
16 Member Lindsay Buck asked to add Reach 2 to Reaches 3, 4, 7 and 8.
- 17 • Public Works Director Brazil noted Member Goldstein wanted added that storms could
18 impact the plan. It should be stressed that the plan has to be adaptable to those
19 circumstances, and it was a direction by the Town Council to develop a 10 year program
20 and that it is the responsibility of the Town Council for approving the costs. Chair
21 Ecclestone agreed.
- 22 • Page 22, Chair Ecclestone asked about the costs of sea turtle monitoring. Public Works
23 Director Brazil indicated that this is a State required condition.
- 24 • Page 24, On Reach 6, Member Goldstein asked to consider Reach 6 impacts from revetment
25 and the rest of the Shore Board agreed there should be more clarification.
- 26 • Chair Ecclestone asked for a list of all engineers that are currently working on projects as
27 well as the approved consultants and the acronyms. The list would be distributed to all
28 Board Members.
- 29 • Member Goldstein asked (through Public Works Director Brazil) to describe the gold items
30 on the chart be changed to Shore Protection Board "to be considered" if funding allowed.
31 Member Lindsay Buck said on some of the items we don’t know the outcome yet. She
32 wanted it to say “to be considered”. After discussion, the consensus was to change to
33 "under consideration".
- 34 • Member Hicks said he is viewing the table for what the costs will be for the next few years
35 to present to the Town Council. He asked for a separate chart/summary for the first three
36 years. Town Manager Elwell said from a financial planning perspective, this format was the
37 best way for the Town to review it. Member Lindsay Buck wanted summary data and
38 incorporate the qualitative and quantitative parts together. It would be more obvious to the
39 public. It was decided to leave it as is after discussion.
- 40 • Larry Goldberg, 3360 S. Ocean Blvd., commented that he thinks it is a good matrix and
41 asked to add a cumulative total year by year on the chart.

- Member Hicks asked how much money the Town has spent in the past ten years. Town Manager Elwell said a very rough estimate was \$70 million, with \$40 million of that being project costs.
- Member Goldstein asked (through Public Works Director Brazil) for an “estimated” ten year total at the bottom of the chart. The Board agreed.
- Member Goldstein asked (through Public Works Director Brazil) asked for the ten year required and desired by the Shore Board be a different color.
- Place trucked sand for Reach 8 for the next three years.

Town Manager Elwell thanked the two consultants for providing professional input and noted that their recommendations would be incorporated into the report for next month.

Public Works Director had a few brief updates. The first related to the Staghorn coral issue that had been in the news recently. The Town retained a consultant, Cheryl Miller, to review the situation. The National Marine Fisheries Service has tentatively offered to accompany her on the dive to collect information.

On Reach 8, the Town is moving forward with the Shore Board recommendation to expend up to \$150,000 for the preliminary permitting effort. They are recommending that Coastal Technologies Inc. be the consultants to expedite the permitting process.

Town Engineer Jim Bowser applied to the Florida Inland Navigation District and received a \$300,000 grant for the Sand Transfer Plant.

Member Hicks asked if there would be a more formal discussion on Acropora in the future and he asked to invite Palm Beach County Reef Rescue to come to the next meeting. Chair Ecclestone indicated that they have been notified and invited, even by Council Member Kleid.

X. UPDATE REGARDING POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT FOR REACH 8 [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

This item was heard after Item VII.

Council Member Diamond asked if there was a dual suggestion of doing a small re-nourishment plan, or the other was to do a dune project. He asked if they were inclusive or exclusive of the other, and which was the preferable one and which was easier to permit, and the expense seemed very high on the nourishment project and it may not last. The dune program, at least has a better chance of having “staying power”.

Public Works Director Brazil responded with a summary of what has been proposed thus far. He indicated that there are FEMA funds available for the Town’s engineered beaches, which are

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2009**

1 currently Reaches 3,4 & 7. The staff proposed to the Shore Protection Board and to the Town
2 Council that they take advantage of the designation and while building the dunes with trucked in
3 material, to recover from Tropical Storm Fay, that work could also be done in two additional areas.
4 This was the dunes north of Phipps Ocean Park, up to Sloan's Curve, and a limited dune project in
5 Reach 8 south of the pier. Those two areas would be at Town expense. Both the Shore Board and
6 the Town Council approved those projects and staff is in the process of filing those applications
7 now.

8
9 After the application was submitted, the State informed the staff that they would lose the state
10 funding that had been set aside for Reach 8 since the permit was denied and there was no longer a
11 beach nourishment application pending. The staff has suggested trying to accelerate a larger project
12 in Reach 8, that would be a project in between the rejected permitted and go for the suggested
13 common ground approach. This would be an expensive sand project because it would have to be
14 trucked in, and the entire project costs would be less than what was originally proposed for Reach 8
15 because there will be less sand used, and less mitigation would be anticipated.

16
17 If the Shore Protection Board and the Town Council wish to try to preserve the State Funding, and
18 to move forward with a limited Reach 8 project, this could be done in relatively quick order. The
19 cost would be \$150,000 to begin the application effort. The direction from the Shore Board was
20 that, if in the process the State Funding is lost, they would suggest stopping the process and re-
21 evaluate at that time. As the results would be brought back to the Shore Board for consideration of
22 viability, the life expectancy is reasonable, the cost estimates are reasonable, and to make sure that
23 the investment is reasonable as well. He reiterated that the recommendation from the Shore
24 Protection Board was to only invest the \$150,000 in the permitting and re-evaluate if there was no
25 state funding available.

26
27 Town Manager Elwell also provided an explanation of the process and why it would be important
28 to have an analysis and begin the process now versus having to wait and then the funding not be
29 available as well.

30
31 Member Lindsay Buck stated that this was a very important issue and said that last week the Shore
32 Protection Board voted to spend \$150K to study Reach 8. At the same time, she wanted to make
33 sure that everyone has had an opportunity to review the proposal since other members had not read
34 the material prior to the last meeting. The revised, scaled back project was still a \$17 million dollar
35 project. It was 1/3 of the size of the original project. It encompasses a dune restoration for the area
36 in the south that is severely eroded. That area is unable to be nourished because of the high tide and
37 the severity of the erosion in that area. She suggested that the Shore Protection Board may want to
38 consider a feeder beach in Reach 7 after hearing Ms. Penny Cutt's presentation and suggestions.
39 She would like to consider permitting Reach 7 that would ultimately nourish Reach 8. For the
40 incremental project cost, you could do a dune project each year.

41
42 Chair Ecclestone responded that the \$150,000 was spent to get the answers. After that, the Shore
43 Protection Board would decide if that is reasonable and then can discuss Reach 7 at that point. He
44 accused her of trying to undo the book. She responded that she was not, and added that last week

1 she had voted for it and stated she felt there was a misunderstanding. Chair Ecclestone disagreed
2 with her.

3
4 Member Katz stated that he agreed with his colleagues. He stated that the reasons they voted to
5 spend the \$150,000 was to try to save 3.5 million dollars in state funding. The second thing was that
6 this was a project that would make peace with some of the people against Reach 8. It would be a
7 smaller project and be met with less resistance. Member Katz noted that the board was not there to
8 be in the business of pleasing, they were there to protect property. Next, he said there still needed
9 to be \$14 million dollars for a project that was 60% less than the minimum volume requirements.
10 That was why he had specifically asked Ms. Cutt if volume mattered. The Town needs to show
11 results.

12
13 Chair Ecclestone repeated again that after the report is done, the Board will have more information
14 and can move on from there. Council Member Diamond asked if the \$150,000 included consulting
15 with the environmental community, because they could impact the entire project. He heard that the
16 answer was to nourish Reach 7 and use the littoral drift into Reach 8. Ms. Penny Cutt stated that
17 Reach 7 is a long term band aid.

18
19 Member Hicks said he voted for the \$150K and he has real reservations about moving forward
20 without further information. The environmental groups are driving the decisions and will waste a
21 lot of money. A permit for Reach 8 is not acceptable to environmentalists and would be challenged.
22 Public Works Director Brazil responded that the worst area in Reach 8 is in the south end. He
23 doubted the state would allow sand to be placed in the last 3 buildings on Reach 8.

24
25 Town Manager Elwell said this was brought to the shore board now in order to not lose the money
26 from the State. He noted what the environmental community has indicated what they would
27 support.

28
29 Ms. Penny Cutt noted that if sand were placed North of the last three buildings in Reach 8, the sand
30 would naturally move southward. In addition, if a beach were approved as a designated beach, but
31 the work was not completed when a storm hits, FEMA would only reimburse to restore the beach to
32 the pre-storm condition.

33
34 XI. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS [Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

35 Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan (CCMP)

36 William Dally, Surfbreak Engineering Sciences

37 Groin Assessment Modeling

38 Critical Beach Erosion Designation In Reach 8

REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2009

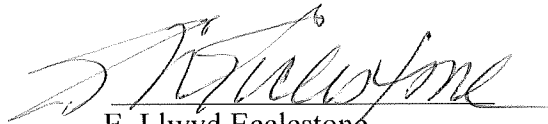
Town of Palm Beach Erosion Control District

Jocelyn Karaszia, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Reach 7 Discussion

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Shore Protection Board meeting of Wednesday, October 7, 2009 was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

APPROVED:



E. Llwyd Ecclestone
Chairman