

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Shore Protection Board was called to order at 2:10 P.M. on Thursday, September 17, 1998, in the Meeting Room of the South Fire-Rescue Station.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following Shore Protection Board Members were found to be in attendance: Chairman Garrison D. Lickle, Vice Chairman George M. Moffett, II, and Board Member Joel Martino. Absent from the meeting were Board Members Eileen C. Curran, Wayne F. Dimm, Edward Hennessy, Jr., Charles C. Isiminger, Gerald H. Levy, and Richard Raffo. Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting included: Town of Palm Beach Town Council President Pro-Tem Samuel McLendon, Town of Manalapan Town Manager Charles Helm, Town of South Palm Beach Mayor Margot Roberts, Town of South Palm Beach Commissioner Ernest Muro, City of Lake Worth Projects Manager Ray Smith, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management Engineering Assistant Bob Clinger, Regional Research Associates President Dr. William Stronge, and Applied Technology & Management (ATM) Vice President Dave Decker. Staff members in attendance from the Town of Palm Beach were: Town Manager Robert Doney, Assistant Town Manager Peter Elwell, Public Works Director Al Dusey, and Deputy Town Clerk Susan Eichhorn.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as printed.

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1998**

**IV. APPROVAL OF REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 25, 1998**

Approval for the Report of the Shore Protection Board Meeting held on June 25, 1998 could not be made for lack of a quorum.

**V. DR. WILLIAM STRONGE - UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC STUDY
AND DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

Dr. William Stronge addressed the Shore Protection Board, referring to his report on "Palm Beach Island Recreational Beach Use 1997-1998." He stated that the report contained revised numbers for the winter season and numbers for the summer season. An unusual feature of these beaches, compared to other beaches that he had studied, was that there were more people on the beach in the summer than in the winter season. He reviewed the tables contained in the report in detail, noting that beach users were anonymously interviewed on the various beaches in Town. The tables included "Number of Visits to Palm Beach Island by Beach," "Characteristics of the Beach Visit," "Characteristics of the Adult Beach Visitor," "Recreational Beach Use by Geographic Origin," and "Beach Visits By Where Living or Staying."

Dr. Stronge explained that he had utilized storm protection data contained in the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan Update, and he had calculated recreation benefit data based on the survey he had implemented. He stated that he had now completed a preliminary analysis.

After discussion of cost/benefit ratios, assumptions of participation in the project, and resulting millage rates, Dr. Stronge commented that according to his analysis there were 297 beachfront properties (he explained that an entire condominium was treated as a single property); 42 of those did not have a seawall, and the rest did have a seawall. The storm protection analysis done in the Comprehensive Plan ascribed benefits to properties that had seawalls on the basis of the savings to the property owners of not having to maintain the seawall. That would essentially set up a front footage type of analysis—it would not matter if you had a \$5 million structure behind the seawall, or a \$1 million structure behind the seawall. If the benefit of the project was the protection of the seawall, then it would be the seawall that would determine the benefit, not what was behind it. The assumption was that the sand that had been put on the beach would not protect the structures behind the seawall, but protected the seawall itself. The properties that did not have a seawall would receive a different kind of benefit; those without the seawall get approximately four times the benefit as those who have a seawall. Assessments could therefore be distinguished between those who had seawalls and those who did not have seawalls. That decision would have to be made by policy makers.

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1998**

Chairman Lickle clarified that the cost of the total project, with no reimbursement funds, would be \$54.675 million, inclusive of everything. He asked Dr. Stronge which of the four economic models for assessing the cost of the plan seemed most likely at this time?

Dr. Stronge replied that he would indicate the assessment for each of the models in chart form, but that currently the numbers suggested some sort of tiered model, where a certain rate was established for people on the beach, with a different rate for people off the beach.

Chairman Lickle asked what the response of county government had been in the past when they had been approached about sharing beach restoration funding?

Mr. Clinger replied that typically, the County had taken a position that its role would be approximately 15% of the cost of the project, with the assumption that the Federal Government would pay about 50% of the cost of the project, with the State paying 25% of the project, and the other 25% would be the local share. The County would then typically share up to about 50% of the non-federal, non-state costs, which approximated 12.5% of the project cost. He noted that there were many considerations going on currently regarding funding by the government.

Mr. Elwell clarified that in terms of considering the local circumstances it was important to remember that until there was some substantial change at the Federal level, all of the projects in the plan would be without any Federal dollars at all. With the complexion of things improving at the State level, he estimated that a reasonable expectation would be up to 50% of project costs in accessible areas to be funded by the State. He noted that it was best to think on a project by project basis regarding the State formula for funding assistance.

Mr. Decker encouraged all municipalities and the County to keep an open mind regarding funding opportunities, as the project could be packaged in any number of ways to maximize the contribution from the State or Federal government.

Chairman Lickle indicated that Dr. Stronge would return with his recommendations at the October 29, 1998, meeting of the Shore Protection Board.

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1998**

VI. STAFF UPDATE ON PREPARATION OF "LAYMAN'S OVERLAY" DOCUMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE AND ECONOMIC STUDY

Mr. Dusey reported that he had received a draft of the "Layman's Overlay" document, which needed additional work. He had planned on waiting for the final report of Dr. Stronge in order to blend the economic analysis into the document. He estimated that the proposal for an educational program and a time line to get to a referendum would be available for consideration at the October 29th meeting.

Chairman Lickle suggested that the Shore Protection Board should see what had been produced by Kate Gooderham thus far, so that it could be reviewed.

VII. IDENTIFICATION OF TIME, LOCATION, AND ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING

The next Shore Protection Board meeting would be held on October 29, 1998, at 9:00 A.M. in the Town Council Chambers. The items for consideration at that meeting would be Dr. Stronge's final report and both the revised Layman's Overlay document and the public education program proposal from Kate Gooderham.

VIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Lickle commended the Public Works Department for the idea of putting the Neiman Marcus excavation sand onto the Mid-Town beach. He noted that he had passed out a news article to the members of the Shore Protection Board regarding politics and the beaches, and that the letter of agreement, co-signed by ATM and Aubrey Consultants, had been received.

Discussion took place regarding the sand study authorized by the Town Council, which would be completed in approximately one year. It would identify on a Town-wide basis sand quantities, accessibility, the best sand, lesser quality sand, and sand of no value. Mr. Lickle commented on the Hillsboro report on beach restoration funding, recommending that staff touch base with those involved in the project.

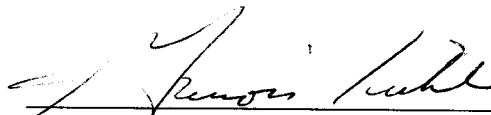
Chairman Lickle inquired as to the future of the Shore Protection Board?

**REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1998**

Mr. Elwell responded that the appropriate time to ask the Town Council to consider the future of the Shore Protection Board would be when the final report was delivered to them, and a comprehensive set of recommendations could be made to the Town Council. He explained that initially the Shore Protection Board had been set for a one year period, however, at the end of that year, the beach restoration plan had been recommended, and the Town Council had recommended that the Shore Protection Board continue to see the planning process through.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P.M.



Garrison D. Lickle
Chairman

H:\Shore\980917.SPB.WPD