

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING HELD ON

JULY 11, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Shore Protection Board of the Town of Palm Beach was called to order by the Chairman, Garrison D. Lickle, at 2:10 P.M. on July 11, 1996.

II. ROLL CALL: On roll call, the following members of the Board were found to be present: Chairman Lickle, Vice Chairman Moffett, Mr. Isiminger, Mr. Dimm, Mr. Levy, and Mr. Martino. Staff members attending the meeting were: Town Manager Doney, Assistant Town Manager Elwell, Director of Public Works Dusey and Ms. Reedy from the Town Clerk's Office. Council members attending for all or part of the meeting were: Mr. McLendon, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Shaw. Mrs. Curran, Mr. Hennessy and Mr. Raffo did not attend the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda was approved as printed.

IV. CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION OF SHORE PROTECTION BOARD'S DRAFT FINAL REPORT, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS- PLEASE SEE MR. LICKLE'S "SUGGESTED VIEWPOINTS FOR THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH SHORE PROTECTION BOARD WRITTEN REPORT" AND EACH MEMBER'S RESPONSES TO SAME.

Mr. Lickle said this was a very important meeting, because the members of the Board will present their suggestions to the Town for further consideration.

Mr. Doney stated they have received reports from Mrs. Curran, and Mr. Hennessy, and those reports will be distributed to the members of the Board. Also, he said Mr. Elwell has confirmed that Kirby Green will attend the August 14, 1996, meeting. Mr. Elwell encouraged members of the Board to make every effort to attend the August meeting.

Mr. Lickle explained that the list of questions and the Board members responses have raised some difficult questions. He suggested they should first deal with the questions that the Board members agree on, and then move on to the difficult ones.

Mr. Lickle said the Board has received good news today regarding the Sand Transfer Plant. He said it has been reported that the Corps of Engineers will participate in rebuilding the Sand

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Transfer Plant. Mr. Dusey said it appears that the Corps staff now believes that a new plant or an improved one will be beneficial in maintaining sand on the beach, and they will be discussing funding for the project.

Mr. Moffett asked if the present condition of the beach is reflected in the Corps report? Mr. Dusey said he believed that information is included in the report.

Mr. Dusey said the Corps report and the Inlet Management Plan are basically the same. He said the Corps has a very specific process which is cumbersome, and he didn't feel that the Corps has agreed to any funding as yet. Mr. Dusey felt that the Corps now agrees that it would be very beneficial to have the Sand Transfer Plant operational. He stated the Corps has spent millions of dollars dredging the Inlet more often because the Sand Transfer Plant has not been operational.

Mr. Elwell said when the Corps has worked through the process, hopefully they will recommend, and obtain a Federal appropriation which would involve substantial Federal dollars. Mr. Doney added that the Port Authority has realized that they are the principal beneficiaries of a working Sand Transfer Plant, and have recently been very encouraging.

Mr. Levy asked what the Port of Palm Beach is expected to do for the Town regarding the Sand Transfer Plant? Mr. Dusey said there were two things. He stated they are already taking a pro active position with the Corps, and the Port has been considering sharing the capital costs, and perhaps even the operating cost with the Town.

Mr. Dimm felt the Corps should also aid in the design and cost of the inlet and jetties, which would allow additional transfer of sand and more retention of that sand.

Mr. Lickle suggested that the Board now deal with the questions he has prepared. He said the questions were designed to result in discussions and answers.

Mr. Lickle said he has been asked to define "adjustable groins". He said that would be difficult, because in the past groins have been unacceptable to the state, but now they seem to be acceptable if they are properly defined and constructed. Mr. Lickle felt the Board should agree on what groins should be called, and refer to them in that manner in future discussions and reports. Mr. Lickle asked Mr. Isiminger what he felt would be a proper name for the groins?

Mr. Isiminger stated there are two ways to look at this. He said one way is to distinguish the groin type structures from the PEP reef type structures, and if that is the objective they should be called "shore normal structures" meaning perpendicular to the shore. He said the problem with that term is that there may be "T-head" groins in place at the same time. Mr. Isiminger advised if the Board goes into too much detail they may be going beyond what the Board should do. Mr. Isiminger said he would prefer the term "shore normal structures" with the record reflecting that this does not

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prohibit T-head groins with heads parallel to the shore.

Mr. Lickle asked if the term "adjustable" is important? Mr. Isiminger stated that he felt "adjustable" is too restrictive. He said in his opinion "adjustable" should be omitted. Mr. Lickle said he was looking for a term that everyone would understand. Mr. Isiminger said they could also be called "properly designed T-head groins" which is a term that is used a lot.

Mr. Dimm said he had heard groins referred to as adjustable headlands. Mr. Isiminger said they are also referred to as artificial headlands and littoral drift attenuators. He said "adjustable headlands" is not a bad suggestion.

Mr. Martino asked what happened to the term "shore line stabilization structures" which has been used frequently during these hearings? Mr. Isiminger said that "shore line stabilization structures" is a term which encompasses PEP reefs, beach saver reefs, seawalls, revetments and other structures.

Mr. Moffett said one reason the Town has been able to install groins on the beach is the fact that they are adjustable. Mr. Dusey said the fact that they were adjustable was the reason they were able to install them so quickly. Mr. Dusey asked why the Board did not just call the structures groins? Mr. Lickle said he did not have a problem with that, but in the past groins were not looked on very favorably. Mr. Dimm said that Dr. Dean feels that adjustable headlands is more acceptable to the State of Florida. Mr. Lickle said the Board will refer to groins as "adjustable headlands" at least for the time being.

Mr. Lickle referred to question number one which was:

DOES THE COMMITTEE AGREE THAT ADJUSTABLE GROINS WITH FILLED COMPARTMENTS ARE THE BEST CURRENT ANSWER TO BEACH PROTECTION?

Mr. Lickle said he felt that adjustable groins were the best answer. Mr. Martino said that endorsing or committing to any type of structures at this time by the Shore Protection Board would hurt the Town's chance to install any kind of structures in the future. He said the description of the groins is too general. Mr. Martino felt the Board should be more specific when recommending adjustable headlands or any other structures for the Town's beaches.

Mr. Martino said groins definitely have a place in beach renourishment, but in listening to all the experts it seems that they feel that groins are not necessarily the most effective and cost effective way to retain sand.

Mr. Moffett said there are two considerations. He said the first consideration is; should the

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groins be installed from inlet to inlet, and the second is; does the Board endorse the segmentation concept?

Mr. Lickle asked if the Board agrees that the plan should be inlet to inlet? Mr. Isiminger said it should be an inlet to inlet plan. He said the Board should consider where the beach was when they started. Mr. Isiminger said because of time and more importantly of funding, beach restoration has been done in a piece meal fashion. He said if the beach restoration is considered in its entirety it would be done differently than if done piece by piece. Mr. Isiminger said the lack of consideration of inlet to inlet restoration is part of the reason groins have been considered ineffective.

Mr. Elwell said the Board should make its intentions clear as to whether or not it is recommending an inlet to inlet plan, or a plan which goes only to the south Town limits. Mr. Elwell stated if the Board recommends inlet to inlet, intergovernmental considerations will need to be addressed.

Mr. Levy said the Board should consider inlet to inlet, but be prepared to renourish Palm Beach only in the event other communities do not participate in renourishment. Mr. Dimm stated he did not feel that groins were a solution inlet to inlet. Mr. Lickle said obviously there would be hot spots, and some areas will have more sand than others. He felt it is very important that the Town have cooperation from other communities.

Mr. Isiminger said that inlet to inlet does not mean a groin every 400 feet. He said a monitoring station could be established at the south end of the Town limits so the beach can be monitored. The Town could then establish a line to keep beach erosion at an acceptable level.

THE BOARD AGREED THAT THE INLETS ARE THE TOWN'S NUMBER ONE PROBLEM.

Mr. Doney cautioned the Board members that neighboring communities and government officials should be notified of any actions the Town may undertake as far as beach renourishment is concerned. The Board agreed that the neighboring cities should be notified of actions taken by the Town, and the Town should go forward with their plan even if other communities choose not to participate in that plan.

Mr. Lickle said since the Board has agreed that the inlets are the biggest problem, he felt the logical starting point would be the Sand Transfer Plant. He said the best solution to mitigating beach erosion is the continuation of operation and expansion of the Sand Transfer Plant. Mr. Lickle said the Sand Transfer Plant should continue to operate even if the Town must fund the operation.

THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AGREED THAT THE SAND TRANSFER PLANT SHOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE EVEN IF THE TOWN MUST FUND THE

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OPERATION.

Mr. Lickle said he would like an agreement that any sand placed on the north beach should be placed as far south as possible. Mr. Moffett said he would like a multiple discharge system which would allow sand to be pumped to different locations. Mr. Lickle said they want to prevent the dumping of sand close to the inlet.

Mr. Dimm said there is a way to avoid the wasted sand that is being returned to the inlet with an "L" or a submerged reef adjacent to the southern jetty. Mr. Dimm said the south jetty is a hot spot, and the only reason there is a lot of sand there now is because that is where all the sand is being dumped.

Mr. Dimm said it's very important to redesign the inlet and he felt that responsibility should fall to the Corps of Engineers. He said everyone is pouring money into renourishing the beach, and one third of the sand is wasted. Mr. Dimm felt this could be prevented by a properly designed inlet.

Mr. Lickle asked Mr. Dusey if the ATM Plan has looked at the inlet problem? Mr. Dusey said he believed they have considered putting an "L" structure on the south jetty, but nothing has been done about that to date.

Mr. Dimm said the reason given to him for not installing the "L" structure was that the water was very deep, but according to Dr. Bruno it can be done.

Mr. Levy asked Mr. Dusey what is the capability of the Sand Transfer Plant, and if 150,000 cubic yards of sand is too much to expect. Mr. Dusey answered that the Sand Transfer Plant probably is capable of pumping 400,000 or 500,000 cubic yards of sand with no difficulty. Mr. Dusey said the problem is the sand supply, not the capacity of the Sand Transfer Plant to pump. Mr. Dusey said the Inlet Management Plan provided for an average annual sand transfer of approximately 100,000 cubic yards of sand by the transfer plant. He said that includes sand which is brought to the plant, and in the winter sand moves naturally to the plant so there is a constant flow of sand to the plant.

Mr. Doney said one controlling factor in the design of the Lake Worth Inlet Management Plan is premised upon approximating the amount of sand that is interrupted by the littoral flow of from north to south.

Mr. Lickle asked if the ATM report is fairly accurate as to where the Town wants to be with the beach renourishment? Mr. Dusey answered affirmatively.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT THE ATM PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED.

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The next item for discussion was number 5 (B), which is:

DOES THE COMMITTEE AGREE THAT SAND IN THE NORTH END WHERE THE FILL IS BEING PLACED BY EITHER THE SAND TRANSFER PLANT OR INLET DREDGING SHOULD BE PLACED FURTHER UP ON THE BEACH? IF SO, SHOULD LANDOWNERS BE APPROACHED ABOUT PERMISSION AND/OR PARTICIPATION FINANCIALLY? DUNE RESTORATION? CAVEAT-TURTLE NESTING?

Mr. Dusey said the Inlet Management Plan calls for the sand to be placed higher on the beach because so much sand will be placed to the south, and this necessitates placing the sand higher. He said the Inlet Management Plan calls for elevation nine, but he was not sure the Town Staff agrees with that.

Mr. Lickle wondered how the Town could bring the property owners into the system, and gain their support. Mr. Dimm said if one property owner objects to the project then the entire project is stopped. Mr. Dusey said that was not true. He said the Town has condemnation rights and can condemn the land for purposes of construction.

Mr. Elwell felt the reaction to the Mid-Town beach project was a positive one, and could be helpful to the Town when the property owners are approached to allow construction easements for the beach. Mr. Elwell stated that the situation in the north end of Town has heightened awareness among Town residents of the need to provide shore protection on both private and public property.

Mr. Dimm said if the Town could establish an erosion plan which would apply to all property owners it would save a lot of disagreement between individual property owners. Mr. Elwell suggested that the Town should wait and see if securing easements becomes a problem. He said it could be that the Town will receive voluntary participation for construction easements.

Mr. Lickle said part of the problem is public relations. He felt the public's perception is that beach protection has been haphazard. He said the Board will try to assure the public that the Town's plan for beach preservation has been very well researched.

Mr. Martino said he would urge the Town Council to consider the Board's recommendation to implement number 5-B of Mr. Lickle's questions regarding the Sand Transfer Plant.

Mr. Lickle moved to question number 6:

DOES THE COMMITTEE BELIEVE IN THE COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL REVIEW PLAN OR THE LAKE WORTH INLET MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND COMMENTS REGARDING SAME.

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Mr. Lickle said the aspects of the Coastal Review Plan which have been implemented have turned out well. Mr. Lickle said the plans for beach renourishment have been very well thought out, and the Board recommends that most of the recommendations in the ATM Plan be implemented as soon as possible, and the Town should not wait for the County, State or Federal Government agencies.

Mr. Moffett suggested that possibly the Town could borrow funds needed for the beach renourishment. Mr. Lickle said that should be up to the Town Council, and of course the Shore Protection Board would assist in any way possible.

Mr. Dimm felt it would be unfair for the Board to present a plan to the Town Council with no recommendations for funding. Mr. Lickle said that would be an impossible undertaking for the Board because financing is contingent on a lot of variations. Mr. Dimm said he agreed there is no way to know what the final amount of funds would be because the beach renourishment is an ongoing project, but he felt there should be an ongoing taxing program to cover as much of the project as possible.

Mr. Dimm remarked that the Mid-Town project was paid for by the Town, and he wondered how they were able to do so. Mr. Dusey said the Town had accumulated funding in the seawall reserve account, and funds were reserved for Mid-Town beach renourishment. He stated that some of the Mid-Town funds were used for the P.E.P. reef and funds from other accounts were also used. Mr. Dusey said the amount expended was six million dollars, but that is not something the Town would be able to do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Dimm said the Town would have some time to collect funds since it would take a long time just to get the needed permits for groins or whatever the Town decides to do. Mr. Lickle said there was no question that the project will be expensive, and he was not sure how municipalities go about raising such funds. He said the Board and the Town should set a goal and then proceed with raising needed funds.

Mr. Levy said there should be some funds available to the Town from the County from the bed tax. Mr. Elwell said that was correct but any funds received from State, County or Federal government agencies will be used on the areas of the beaches which are public.

Mr. Moffett said there was no public and private beaches because inlet to inlet includes both. Mr. Elwell said it was correct that private beaches are included, but there is no government funding for private beaches, and probably will not be any time in the near future.

Mr. Lickle stated there have been some ideas presented to the Board regarding raising funds, and he asked what were the traditional methods of raising funds for projects such as beach renourishment? Mr. Dusey said the usual manner is General Obligation Bonds. Mr. Moffett

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suggested a Special Revenue District. Mr. Doney said money to fund a Special Taxing District comes back to a choice between the General Obligation Bonds or Revenue Bonds. Mr. Doney advised that with Revenue Bonds there must be a source of revenue pledged to insure the bonds. He said if the Town Council agreed to something of that nature it probably would have to go to the voters of the Town.

Mr. Moffett referred back to question eleven. He said there is a difference between General Obligation Bonds and a Special Taxing District. He said if the commitment of the Town is for a Special Taxing District it's a broader commitment, but the General Obligation Bond allows the Town to proceed as it chooses.

Mr. Lickle said he was not sure exactly what Mr. Moffett is proposing, and he asked if Mr. Moffett is advocating a Special Taxing District for the Town? Mr. Moffett said he wants to make it clear that the Town is not proposing that it will attempt the beach funding project alone, but will look for other funds only in a secondary role. Mr. Lickle said it was not the obligation of the Board to dictate methods of funding, but they could make suggestions to the Town Council for their consideration.

Mr. Elwell reminded the members of the Board that when other governments provide funding for these projects they want to have a say in the way the funds are used. He said when you apply to those agencies for funding you can never be sure how much you will receive. It could be a lot, it could be very little or it could be zero.

Mr. Elwell said it seems that the funding issue is leading to a Special Taxing District, and if that is the case they would need Mr. Randolph's input. Mr. Elwell cautioned that the inlet to inlet project which the Board has been discussing will be a very expensive project.

Mr. Lickle agreed that an inlet to inlet project is a huge undertaking but he felt if there is a way to implement an inlet to inlet project the long term beach erosion problem will be solved.

THE BOARD AGREED TO ASK THE TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FOR BEACH PROTECTION.

Question number 13.

DOES THE COMMITTEE BELIEVE THAT MONITORING OF ANY PROGRAM IS A MUST ON ANY PROJECT?

Mr. Isiminger stated even if the government did not require monitoring it should be done. He said one of the biggest problems facing the Board is the lack of historical information. Mr. Isiminger said many times when a question arises regarding which project is working, or not working, it's

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impossible to answer those questions because they have no data from previous years.

Mr. Martino agreed that monitoring the beach is important. However, he said the Board has not defined their goals. He said he would like the Board to define what constitutes an acceptable extension of the beach. Mr. Martino said the Board is trying to move forward but have not set a goal, and he felt they should state specifically what their goals are.

Mr. Moffett said they have discussed goals previously, and it was decided that the first priority of the beach is to protect the Town's infrastructure. Mr. Martino said he would like the Board to be more specific because it's difficult to make recommendations unless the goal is clearly defined.

THE BOARD AGREED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE BEACH SHOULD BE MONITORED.

Question number 14.

DOES THE COMMITTEE BELIEVE THAT A SEPARATE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE TOWN SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE AS THE BEACH PROTECTION PERSON?

Mr. Doney said if the Board recommends a Special Taxing District, and an inlet to inlet project, the Town Staff agrees that there should be an individual Staff member whose responsibilities and duties would include the technical responsibility of all beach projects as well as working with the public, and organizations such as Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, the Countywide Beaches and Shores Council, and State, Federal, and County Governments.

Mr. Lickle said such an addition to the Town's Staff would be very beneficial. He felt one person should be responsible for all aspects of beach activity including technical and public relations. Mr. Lickle said if this materializes it could become one of the Town's most important and largest budget items.

Mr. Doney said he and Mr. Elwell would try to find additional information regarding a Special Taxing District such as the one on Captiva Island. Mr. Doney said if the Council should decide to implement such a program it would be a major undertaking.

Mr. Dimm said it is good that the Town will have one individual responsible for all aspects of the beach.

Mr. Moffett said these beach problems will last longer than any one individual, and hopefully the present Town Council will implement the position of "Beach Director" or what ever it may be called, and future Town Councils will carry it through for a long time. Mr. Moffett said if these

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beach projects are not carried on by future Town Councils the beach will revert back to an eroded state.

Mr. Dusey said if the Board pursues a Special Taxing District and a program of the magnitude they have discussed, the Town will need more than a "Beach Chief." He said they probably would need a small staff.

Question number 15.

DOES THE COMMITTEE HAVE ANY POSITION WITH REGARD TO WHICH ENGINEERS OR SPEAKERS HAD THE MOST CREDIBILITY?

Mr. Lickle said he would like to address one additional question which is, "Should the Town employ an engineer on retainer to develop the project, and should there be one engineer or someone else to over see the project?"

Mr. Dimm felt the Town should retain a firm which employs a number of professionals who specialize in problems associated with beaches. They should also have laboratories and would be able to address all areas of the beach problems.

Mr. Lickle said they have heard from a lot of experts during these meetings, and he felt they should hire a local engineering company.

Mr. Martino said he wasn't quite sure of what Mr. Lickle is proposing. He asked if he wants someone like Campbell to design the system, but someone else to oversee the job? Mr. Lickle responded that is correct.

Mr. Dimm did not think that was a good idea. He felt that kind of situation would result in a conflict between various engineers.

Mr. Doney said on a project such as the Board is now discussing the State of Florida has to be considered. He said there is a State Statute called "The Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act." Mr. Doney said in the objective selection process it is possible that the Town may decide that they wish to act as the selection team, if so they may select a Staff member, and a Council member as part of the team. He said the team could then short list interested firms and bring them in to present their proposals. Mr. Doney said the team could then decide which company would best serve the Town.

Mr. Lickle said the Town is now into a very large project. If the Town goes into the

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competitive bid process it then becomes an even bigger process. He said if the Council doesn't wish to go through the bid process, it may be more efficient for the Board to continue to review the proposals and recommend what they feel is the best company.

Mr. Dimm said he would propose that Dr. Aubrey of Aubrey Consulting, Inc. be included in the short list of companies.

Mr. Doney said when the Board defines exactly what they want to do, they will then define the design of the scope of work. He said they will then focus on the skills of the professionals that the Board would want to be on Town Staff. Mr. Doney stated that once a firm has been chosen they would be hired and put on a continuing contract basis. Mr. Doney said the Board should ask for specific proposals for a site specific project.

Mr. Isiminger said it would be up to the Town Council, with recommendations from the Board, to define the scope of services which Mr. Doney has just stated. He said the scope of services could include operating as an engineer on a continuing basis to include designs of specific projects or it could just include any general consulting with separate engineers to be hired for specific projects. Mr. Isiminger felt that Mr. Dimm would prefer, and what the Board may recommend is that one firm do everything. He said a scope of services needs to be generated, and then The Consultants Competitive Negotiations Act would require that those services be advertised. He said there may be firms which the Board has not heard from who cannot be legally excluded from submitting a proposal. Mr. Isiminger said he would like Mr. Randolph's opinion on this because it may be inappropriate for the Town to submit a recommendation.

Mr. Lickle said if the Council agrees with the scope of services, the first step should be to design the inlet to inlet project. He agreed there should be an outside second opinion.

Mr. Dusey said the Town has just completed contracts with three Civil Engineers. He said they use them for different purposes depending on what they do best. He said you learn fast who is the most expensive when you receive bids from them. Mr. Dusey stated that may be the direction the beach projects will go with two or three or possibly four firms working on Town projects.

Mr. Elwell said multiple companies is a good concept to consider especially with the magnitude of the program the Board has been discussing. He said if the program is approved by the Town Council the person who is chosen as the "Beach Chief" will be responsible for coordinating the activities of several consultants to assure that the required level of professional assistance is provided for each section of the project.

Mr. Moffett suggested that the Town form a Beach Board not unlike ARCOM or other Town Boards. He said he did not think it should be a large Board, and members should be appointed from volunteers. Mr. Lickle agreed. Mr. Dimm said the problem of beach erosion is never going to go

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away so he felt that there should be a permanent Board to deal with the problem.

Mr. Levy said they have been discussing beach renourishment, and he agrees that is important, but they have not addressed the dunes, or the problem of the County wide project. He felt they should recommend a separate taxing district and dune restoration, as proposed by the County, should be considered. Mr. Levy stated even if the cost of dune restoration is \$40,000,000, it would be a small price when you consider the millions of dollars in property which would be lost in a hurricane without dune protection.

Mr. Lickle agreed that dune restoration is important, and is a critical factor in many of the design projects. Mr. Dusey said if the Town places groins on the beach instead of fill, dunes will be required. He said he is hopeful that the Comprehensive Plan would include dune restoration.

Question number 16.

DOES THE COMMITTEE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD STRONGLY CONSIDER ISSUES OF GLOBAL WARMING AND SEA LEVEL RISE AS A FACTOR IN OUR PLANNING?

Mr. Lickle said during presentations, it was the opinion of the geologist that these factors are a long term factor. He said even though they are a long term planning committee the global warming and sea level rise is something that will occur in hundreds of years as opposed to 10 to 50 year goals. Mr. Dimm said whatever the Board does in the way of shore protection will be favorable to that problem.

THE BOARD AGREED WITH MR. LICKLE.

Question number 9.

DOES THE COMMITTEE BELIEVE THAT LOBBYING CAN PLAN AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND SHOULD THE TOWN HIRE OR CREATE A POSITION FOR SUCH A PERSON?

THE BOARD AGREED THAT THE "BEACH CHIEF" SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE BEACH, INCLUDING LOBBYING.

Question number 8.

DOES THE COMMITTEE AGREE THAT ANY SAND TRANSFER OR DREDGE AND FILL ON THE BEACH IS OUTWEIGHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE EXPERTS WE HEARD FROM?

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(THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE IGNORE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, BUT THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT; HOWEVER, THAT THE BEACH PROTECTION IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE).

Mr. Lickle said he did not wish to appear environmentally insensitive, but he felt that beach protection is of paramount importance at this time. He said claims have been made that the reefs were being damaged by the silting from beach nourishment projects, but he was not aware of that opinion being stated by any of the experts who have spoken to the Board. Mr. Dimm said silt is a problem in Fort Lauderdale because they have run out of suitable sand, and must go further off shore.

Mr. Isiminger said this issue was addressed shortly after Mrs. Schrafft's resignation. Mr. Isiminger said they have determined that the dunes are beneficial, and have discussed placing the sand higher up on the beach in the north end, and most importantly of all the main objectives of the hard structures in conjunction with the renourishment is to reduce the frequency of filling, reduce the amount of fill which escapes into the water column, and reduce the amount of dredging offshore.

Question number 1.

DOES THE COMMITTEE AGREE THAT ADJUSTABLE GROINS WITH FILLED COMPARTMENTS ARE THE BEST CURRENT ANSWER TO BEACH PROTECTION?

Mr. Martino said it was his feeling that if the Board simply gives the Town Council a blanket recommendation of structures, that will only leave the Council with a lot of controversial issues which will probably become a political gridlock especially with the problems the Town has had with some of the ocean front endeavors. Mr. Martino said the experts have stated that the design of any successful structures have to be in tune with the particular reaches, and the effect of down drift reaches. He said they are not sure at this time what combination of structural systems are appropriate for the Town's coastline. Mr. Martino said all the Board is able to advise is that some kind of structural systems probably are appropriate, however, he felt a nonspecific or general recommendation on structures would leave the Town Council with controversial issues. Mr. Martino said he felt the Board should recommend that the Town proceed with the required studies as first steps toward any specific structural solutions. He also recommended that the Town survey and monitor the entire shore line, and keep records of major storm events. Secondly, do a study to establish a shore line profile on paper which is deemed adequate for every reach. And thirdly, determine sand sources and renourishment costs based on the above studies to determine if a permitable structure system will reduce renourishment cost. Mr. Martino said no one likes to hear the words "study" but he felt it was necessary. He said he would urge the Board not to recommend structures, but to recommend studies for structures. Mr. Martino said he feels that structures are years in the future, but the beach needs renourishment now.

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Mr. Lickle said a large percentage of the problems which Mr. Martino has listed have already been dealt with. Mr. Martino said the recommendation of structures seems to be the major objective of the Board. Sand sources have been dealt with, and the study of hot spots has been completed. He said in some areas there will be fill and adjustable headlands placed together. Some areas nothing will be done, in other areas it will probably be recommended that angled adjustable structures be installed, and other areas may call for revetment.

Mr. Martino said from reading some of the reports it was his understanding that miles and miles of groin systems would be installed.

Mr. Moffett said the concept is that there are different segments of the total beach front, and each segment requires it's own maintenance nourishment program. He said the point is to identify the segments, and if necessary, treat each one differently. Mr. Dimm said they aren't recommending structures every where.

Mr. Lickle said once a particular hot spot is dealt with, there should be results from that project in three to five years, but may require reevaluation at a later date. Mr. Martino said it will be years before their recommendation for an inlet to inlet renourishment plan is implemented, and he wondered what should be done about the beach in the interim? He said he doubts that a single groin will be put in place for years. Mr. Lickle said that is what the Board is trying to do now, but he said they need a Coastal Engineer to design and implement the proper action for the beach. Mr. Martino asked what does the Town do in the mean time? Mr. Moffett said they must identify the problem before they can solve it. Mr. Martino agreed, but he is suggesting that an evaluation be made for renourishment for any severely eroded reaches. He said there are reaches where the erosion is so bad they may not last for years. Mr. Lickle said until the long term plan is implemented, they may have to continue on an emergency basis.

Mr. Dusey said there are elements in the north end of the beach which are in very poor shape. He said even if they started permitting and/or funding process now it would still be years before the Town could take action.

Mr. Lickle asked what if, for example, the permitting process takes three years, and in that time we have a major storm which wipes out two hot spots and something must be done right away? Would we be back in the emergency permitting stage? Mr. Dusey said the State reacted very well to Hurricane Opal in the Panhandle, and he felt there would be emergency permitting fairly quickly.

Mr. Elwell agreed, but he said the areas in the north end which are badly eroded right now are mainly private property. He said if a catastrophe should happen before an Erosion Control District is established, the private property owners would be responsible for any damage or erosion to the beach. He said there is an area in Phipps Park where the Town is responsible for the beach and there is a serious situation down there.

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Mr. Martino asked if that means for the next several years the north end of the beach will be vulnerable to losing the dunes? Mr. Dimm said it's much better than it was a year ago. He said the Sand Transfer Plant is operating, and the Corps of Engineers are dredging, and that will benefit the north end. Mr. Martino said that may be true, but it's his understanding that the sand doesn't travel very far south.

Mr. Isiminger said this discussion highlights the reason the Board was created. He said the Town does not have the time, money or the mechanism in place to properly renourish the beach. Mr. Isiminger said it doesn't matter what the Town does in the next three years, what matters is what they do in the long term. Mr. Isiminger said he would like to make a comment on question number one. He said he agrees that it's important that the Board's report mentions using groins on the Town's beach. Mr. Isiminger stated when he completed his report he stated "we believe that renourishment must be accomplished in conjunction with hard structures." He said hard structures have been proven to be capable of achieving specific results and can be designed accordingly. He said he also stated in his report that "we have found that there is overwhelming agreement that groins and other shore normal structures can be designed to stabilize an existing or renourished beach. We believe that shore normal structures should, in general, be used where there is an existing erosion problem in conjunction with renourishment unless there is a documented site specific reason not to use them."

Mr. Isiminger said he has listed an item which he did not see in the other reports, which is "Seawalls or bulkheads should be encouraged as a last line of defense to protect property and structures, including A1A, in conjunction with a commitment to maintain the beach and dune in front of the wall."

Mr. Bresee said the Town has an existing plan in the Town Engineer's office which shows every groin, their location and the construction material. Mr. Bresee said the basic problem is, that when there is a refracted wave it comes in and bounces off the seawall, and it digs ditches sometimes up to six feet. He said you have to take the energy out of the waves because if you don't, it will take the sand down the wall as much as five miles. Mr. Bresee said if the Town decides to install groins they may want to use "adjustable sheet piling." He advised that the beach should be built out as far as is economically possible, and what the State will allow. He said in his opinion the best groin design is a vertical face up wave, and if the Town decides to install groins they should start where the old groin has been removed and begin driving the sheet metal and put a header on it. He said as energy comes down the sea wall it will be interrupted by the sheet metal groin which will build a fill up, and that will remove some of the wave energy.

Mr. Doney said the Town Council has the ability to act if the ocean front roadway protective sea wall is breached and the roadway is potentially in danger. The Council can act to have that repaired on an emergency basis, and 50% of the charge could go to the abutting upland private property owner.

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Mr. Dimm asked what would happen if there is a serious hot spot, and the Town decides to build a groin on some one's private property in the north end where it is badly eroded, who would pay for that groin? Mr. Doney answered that the home owner would be required to pay 100% for the groin.

Mr. Martino said he is not suggesting that the Town build groins, but that they add sand to the beach. He said they are going to need sand to put the groins in, and a vast amount of sand must be placed on the beach to build the groins and he wondered why the Board is not recommending stock pilling sand now. Mr. Dimm said it is feared that the sand will be washed away. Mr. Martino stated that the Mid-Town beach isn't washing away. Mr. Dimm stated they have groins there.

Mr. Lickle said just pumping sand on the beach with no way of retaining it is just a waste of money. Mr. Martino said renourishment has been used successfully in the past, and groins are not always used to renourish the beaches. Mr. Lickle said that was true, but it is known that renourishment without some form of structure eventually does erode.

Mr. Martino said groins are installed because they slow the sand erosion. He said they do not prevent erosion. Mr. Lickle said that was correct. Mr. Martino said groins are installed if they are cost effective and reduce the cost of renourishment. He said everyone knows that groins probably will be used in the future, but he wondered why the Town doesn't renourish the sand in the interim. Mr. Lickle said he agrees with Mr. Isiminger that the Town should develop a long term solution. Mr. Elwell said until the system is changed based on the Board's recommendations and the Town Council's actions, the Town will continue to address the public beach areas and private property owners will continue to address the areas that are in front of their homes. Mr. Elwell said that does not lend itself to doing the kind of project the Board has envisioned. He explained that could possibly happen if an Erosion Control District is created.

Mr. Levy asked if an emergency situation arises, can a homeowner get a permit and do what ever is necessary? Mr. Elwell answered affirmatively.

Mr. Martino asked if they are speaking about the homeowners on Reef Road? He said the homeowners are not going to admit they have a problem, in other words they aren't going to pay for renourishing those beaches. Mr. Martino stated if something happens to the Town's beach the Town has an impact to more than just the private homeowners. He said the impact happens to "our beach." Mr. Elwell replied that right now it is not possible for the Town to address the private beaches.

Mr. Martino said he felt that more should be done now to preserve the beaches. Mr. Doney said if a Special Beach Taxing is created it would provide the enabling legal authority to do something about the private beaches. He said at the present time there is no legal authority in place which would allow public funds to be used to nourish private beaches.

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Mr. Martino asked how long it would take to get a permit to start renourishment? Mr. Doney asked if he is asking about Town wide renourishment? Mr. Martino said he was referring to specific areas which the Board deems necessary in order to protect the seawall and the Town's private property. Mr. Dusey answered that it would take one to two years, but if you are talking about private property that's a different situation. Mr. Martino asked what is considered private property? Mr. Dusey said above the mean high water is considered private property. Mr. Martino asked if the sand is placed below the mean water line would that be allowed? Mr. Elwell said they would have to ask Mr. Randolph if that is permissible. He said there is a real question about that. Mr. Elwell said if you are miles from a public beach, and you deposit sand below the mean high water line there is still a question of public benefit being served by the expenditure of public dollars because the upland property would be protected by the sand.

V. CONFIRMATION OF DATE & TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING (AUGUST 14, 1996, AT 2:00 P.M.) AND THE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD.

Mr. Lickle said Kirby Green is scheduled to address the Board at the August meeting, and he encouraged everyone to make an effort to attend the meeting.

Mr. Levy said he would not be able to attend but he has arranged for a transcript of the August meeting to be forwarded to him. He advised the Board that he would not be at the August and September meetings. Mr. Dimm said he would be out of Town also.

Mr. Lickle advised that Mr. Dimm has requested that Dr. Aubrey address the Board at the October meeting. He said it might be advisable to invite Dr. Aubrey when the Board is discussing project bids. Mr. Moffett said it would be more beneficial to the Board if Dr. Aubrey spoke to them before October. Mr. Lickle asked if Dr. Aubrey could speak to the Board in August or September? Mr. Dimm he would find out if that is possible.

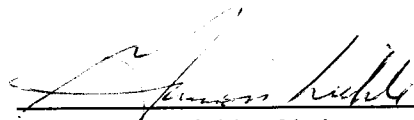
Mr. Lickle said he will prepare a draft of the Board's suggestions for the August meeting. He said there probably will be comments and suggestions presented at the meeting which he will incorporate into the draft and make a final report at the September meeting. The report will then be finished by October so it can be presented to the Town Council by November.

Mr. Elwell asked if the Board would like the Town Manager's office to contact Dr. Aubrey? Mr. Lickle answered affirmatively. He said they will also contact Mrs. Curran and Mr. Raffo.

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VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.



Garrison D. Lickle, Chairman