

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Shore Protection Board Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2009 in the Emergency Operations Center, 355 South County Road, Palm Beach.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, all of the Shore Protection Board Members were found to be present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ecclestone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the Agenda as printed made by Member Goldstein, seconded by Member Katz. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2009 MEETING

Motion to approve the Minutes as amended of the April 23, 2009 Shore Protection Board Meeting made by Vice Chair Frank, seconded by Member Katz. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS

Member Lindsay Buck reminded citizens in the audience that because shore board members cannot speak to each other about shore issues except in the sunshine at the meeting it is

1 difficult to know the opinions and issues her colleagues on the board have. She noted that since
2 more than a decade has passed since the last shore board was disbanded, the population of
3 Florida has quadrupled and the shoreline has changed significantly. She thinks it is important for
4 citizens to understand the issues within that context and that some of the recommendations made
5 by the previous board, such as inlet to inlet groins would be both impossible to permit now and
6 cost prohibitive, topping \$100 million dollars. It is within this context that Ms. Lindsay Buck
7 felt the board should pursue dune restoration and transferring as much of the trapped sand from
8 Singer Island to the Palm Beach side through both the sand transfer plant's expansion and
9 directing the placement of the dredged sand from the inlet. She indicated that she wanted it
10 noted in the record that she was opposed to the widening and deepening of the inlet and believed
11 that doing so would put Palm Beach island at a much greater risk of storm surge in a bad
12 hurricane.

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14 Member Katz had two comments. The first was regarding hurricane season. He wanted to
15 know what the Town was doing to prepare for hurricanes. He requested an update at every
16 meeting.

17
18 Town Manager Elwell responded that for information regarding the deepening and
19 widening, the Town Council has taken a strong position against the deepening and widening of
20 the inlet. In addition they have voted to oppose that effort. Town Manager Elwell continued
21 that in the longer term, larger scale protection would be a goal of the Shore Protection Board. In
22 response to member Katz' question regarding hurricane preparedness, the Town has lined up
23 various consultants and contractors if needed.

24
25 Member Katz said his second point was that the Board members are not coastal engineers
26 except for Mr. Hicks. He felt they should have access to the coastal engineers for questions and
27 education. Town Manager Elwell indicated that there are costs involved - and there is a coastal
28 engineer on staff (Mr. Weber) and on the Shore Protection Board (Mr. Hicks).

29
30 Member Goldstein announced that Congressman Ron Klein held a meeting this past
31 Tuesday. According to Member Goldstein, Congressman Klein is trying to develop a state and
32 federal government program to work together to streamline the permitting process. A pilot
33 program would begin with Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, and Monroe Counties.

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35 Member Hicks stated his opinion on the deepening and widening of inlet - his
36 understanding was the Town Council opposed the feasibility study and not the actual deepening
37 and widening of the Inlet. He would like to wait until the study is done before he forms an
38 opinion. Town Manager Elwell stated it was a very good clarification - and that the Town
39 Council was concerned that the study would get the ball rolling. **Member Hicks was also at the**
40 **Congressman Klein meeting and mentioned it was videotaped and wanted all members to**
41 **see it. Public Works Director Paul Brazil will try to obtain copies for all.**

42
43 Town Manager Elwell announced that he had sent an e-mail to all of the Shore Board
44 Members the day prior indicating that the dredging has fallen off schedule. With ongoing
45 communications with the USACOE, the dredging will make the channel more level and what is

1 collected out of inlet would be moved to where the Town needs it. The material shall go on the
2 beach.

3
4 Public Works Director Paul Brazil received a comment from the State of Florida
5 Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) request for public comment on a proposed
6 project located at 126 S. Ocean Blvd. This would be for the installation of a toe wall, which is a
7 protective measure. The Town typically does not oppose these types of projects. Mr. Brazil
8 indicated that the comment period expires before the next Shore Protection Board meeting. Mr.
9 Brazil asked for staff authorization for future approvals on private property that was unlikely to
10 have down drift impacts to the Town. Chair Ecclestone stated he would be having same issue
11 and work done in the future. Town Manager Elwell announced that he was not aware of that until
12 that moment and had no impact on the preparation for the discussion.

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14 **Motion made by Member Goldstein, seconded by Vice Chair Frank - to approve this**
15 **owner application as well as create future policy to allow staff to approve similar**
16 **applications.** Chair Ecclestone recused himself and announced that he would be using the same
17 engineer and would have a similar application in a few months. He filled out Form 8B and filed
18 it with the Town Clerk. **On voice vote, the motion carried 6-0, with Chair Ecclestone**
19 **recusing himself.**

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21
22 Member Raffo spoke regarding the inlet dredging. The Inlet at low tide is -26 feet. Chair
23 Ecclestone asked if the fill could be used on the beaches. Chair Ecclestone passed around a May
24 26th Palm Beach Post article that pertained to the artificial reef off of Singer Island and how the
25 reef would benefit fish and snorkelers. He would like to have the Shore Protection Board create
26 more positive Public Relations for the Town and its shoreline projects.

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29 VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

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31 Dan McDonnell, 2784 S. Ocean Blvd, Citizens Association; Chairman, Beach
32 Committee; spoke of the Citizens' Association role in finding a shoreline solution. He indicated
33 that they are trying to educate the public through newsletters and communications with the
34 various condos.

35
36 Ellen Howe, 2295 S. Ocean Blvd., Harbour House, indicated she would inform the
37 Condo board later today of any decisions that the Shore Board made. She indicated that there is
38 no more sand at Phipps Ocean Park.

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41 Member Katz asked about the beach situation at Phipps Ocean Park and asked for state
42 help in getting sand. He asked Mr. Brazil for help.

43
44 Larry Goldberg, 3360 S. Ocean Blvd., commented about the mitigation reef in Singer
45 Island and how it was related to beach renourishment projects. Chair Ecclestone informed Mr.

Goldberg that the Corps and State were handling the permit it may not be issued by the fall. Town Manager Elwell clarified that the beach restoration permit was obtained, but the other emerged breakwater permit is not approved yet from both County and State staff.

VIII. RETAIN A CONSULTANT TO BEGIN STATE PERMITTING FOR FEMA REIMBURSABLE SAND PLACEMENT [Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

Public Works Director Brazil presented and gave a history of former storm losses. Staff submitted worksheets for losses on engineered beaches to FEMA and have received approval from the state and now are at the federal level. The Town could get up to a 70% reimbursement from the government. Staff recommended that the Shore Protection Board direct staff to request funding from the Town Council to pursue state and federal permits for Reaches 3, 4, 7 and 8 dune restoration projects.

Motion by Member Goldstein to approve up to \$120,000 on permitting; approve project as presented; and continue without FEMA approval Member Lindsay Buck seconded. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

IX. COASTAL PROJECT PRIORITIES [Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

Public Works Director Paul Presented immediate action, short and long term Staff requested that the Shore Protection Board review the priority list for budgeting purposes and provide additional direction, if necessary. The projects would be incorporated into the FY2010 budget and the long term financial plan. Information was provided to the Shore Board Members with their back-up regarding each of the projects:

Immediate Action – Projected Group Total \$6,645,520

- FEMA/Dune enhancement sand placement in Reaches 4, 7, & 8. (Total project cost to be funded \$5,495,520; FEMA reimbursement \$3,013,890; Town net expense \$2,481,630)
- Permitting for Phase II sand transfer plant, including extended discharge, “L” groin modification, operational permit (est: \$350,000)
- Participation with Port of Palm Beach and Palm Beach County regarding planning and permitting for purchase/contract dredging in and around inlet with disposal of sand on Town beaches (tri-party group, Town share est. \$150,000)
- Coastal Structure study for Reach 7 (est. \$150,000) and begin permitting for Reach 7 renourishment (est. \$250,000)
- Reach 8, structures alternatives study with Palm Beach County or separate Town effort (est. \$500,000)

Short Term – Projected Group Total \$1,300,000

- Begin permitting of the Mid-town Beach renourishment (est. \$250,000)
- Study for the placement of groins in hot spots and possible rehabilitation program (est \$150,000)
- Expanded sand search looking north and south of Town limits for beach compatible sand (est. \$400,000)
- Work with USACE to place inlet channel maintenance dredged sand on Town beaches (add Mid-town as disposal site; eliminate nearshore disposal, 20-25' water depth to alongshore or on beach) (Est. \$250,000)

Long term – Projected Group Total Est. to be determined

- Update the Town's Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan (Est. \$200,000)
- Pursue a dune enhancement permit for Reach 2 (est. \$150,000)
- Construct coastal projects being planned and permitted in Immediate Action Group and Short Term Action Group (est. tba)

Motion for approval of staff recommendations made by Vice Chair Frank and seconded by Member Goldstein, with the addition of Reach 1 as engineered beach to be added to the list of items per Member Lindsay Buck. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ecclestone asked about the schedule of the Sand Transfer Plant. Town Engineer Jim Bowser stated that they have met with the contractor and consultants are finalizing drawings. It should be completed later on this week and the contractor is assembling the shop drawings for items to be purchased. There would be an approximate 12 week delivery time. Next, the Contractor will prepare the schedule. He expects the plant to be in operation by October 1. **There will be monthly updates included in the meeting back-up.**

X. SHORE PROTECTION BOARD GOALS, INCLUDING TOWN ACCOMPLISHMENTS
[Scott Hicks, SPB Member]

Member Hicks provided a summary of accomplishments Vice Chair Frank commended Hicks and said it was very well done and said it was a good summary. **Chair Ecclestone asked that a summary be included in the meeting back-up each month.**

XI. TRI-PARTY UPDATE [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

a. Port Dredging

Public Works Director Paul Brazil announced that everything is on schedule and they are considering the consultant for permitting. He has offered that the Town would pick the consultant. The three parties involved the Port, the county and the Town will develop the scope of work to choose a consultant. He noted that the money has already been approved.

b. Inter-Local Agreement

Public Works Director Paul Brazil announced that the Town has received a draft of an interlocal agreement from the County. He expects to have a draft document for review to the Shore Protection Board by the next meeting. This will be included in monthly updates.

Mr. Brazil suggested that there not be a firm deadline for selecting consultants to make sure that the town gets the best qualified. Chair Ecclestone indicated that there are five consultants that the Town could contract with today. The selection Committee for the Coastal Engineering Services is Public Works Director Paul Brazil, President Pro Tem Gail Coniglio, Chair Ecclestone, Coastal Coordinator Rob Weber, and Town Engineer James Bowser. They will meet in mid-June and the committee recommendations will be presented at the July 14th Town Council meeting.

Discussion of selection meeting criteria ensued and it was the consensus of the Board to be able to see all of the criteria to be able to comment on it. **Chair Ecclestone also asked for monthly updates of all of the Town Council actions that pertain to the Shore Protection Board.**

XII. MONTHLY SHORELINE CONDITION ASSESSMENT[Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

Rob Weber, Coastal Coordinator, at the request of Member Hicks, asked to see the condition assessment. He went through the 41 locations he photographs at low and high tide each month. Member Hicks said that over time- this will become a great historical tool. Vice Chair Frank commended Mr. Weber on his efforts.

XIII. INTRODUCTION TO CSI [Timothy Blankenship, P.E., Director of Engineering, Coastal Systems International, Inc.]

1 Timothy Blankenship Director of Engineering from Coastal Systems International, Inc.
2 gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Shore Protection Board. A copy was submitted into the
3 record. Ms. Penny Cutt and Mr. John Studt also contributed to the presentations. The Shore
4 Protection Board Members asked many questions regarding recommendations and solutions. Mr.
5 Brazil reminded the Board that there is more than one party (State and Federal) that need to be
6 satisfied when a project is undertaken.

7 Council Member Richard Kleid addressed the quality of sand. He asked about the
8 expense of sand if it was trucked in or brought by barge, would the Town roads be able to handle
9 that. Mr. Brazil responded that a large beach fill project of one million cubic yards, would not be
10 practical to truck it in. It would also need FDOT's permission. Developing off-shore sources, for
11 a large project is probably only practical approach- dune projects are feasible to truck in. Mr.
12 Kleid suggested that the Board concentrate on where they are going to get sand and set realistic
13 goals.

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15 Member Hicks indicated Mr. Kleid was on target with his concerns.

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17 Larry Goldberg, 3360 S. Ocean Blvd. asked question about PEM (pressure equalizing
18 modules) installation. Mr. Blankenship responded that they are the consultant for the project and
19 the study of the modules is ongoing. The final report will be out in June - the 6 month report did
20 not show a lot of success.

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23 Member Katz commended Mr. Blankenship on his presentation and stated that it was
24 very educational. **He directed Mr. Brazil to ask for similar presentations.**

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XIV. PEER REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1998 CCMP UPDATE & LATEST
MODELING/ANALYSIS TOOLS FOR COASTAL ENGINEERING PROJECT DESIGN
[Bob Hamilton, Woods Hole Group]

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29 Bob Hamilton, Vice President, Business Development/Coastal Engineer for Woods Hole
30 Group from Massachusetts, gave a power point presentation to the Board. A copy was submitted
31 into the record. He stated that they had conducted a peer review from the 1998 Comprehensive
32 Coastal Management Plan (CCMP) update. The Shore Protection Board Members asked
33 questions of Mr. Hamilton.

34
35 Ellen Howe from Harbour House talked about WHOI (Woods Hole Oceanographic
36 Institute). Mr. Hamilton said they are not WHOI and are a separate entity.

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XV. GEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON SHORELINE MANAGEMENT [Robert Young,
Ph.D., Director, Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, Professor, Coastal
Geology, Western Carolina University]

TIME CERTAIN 2:00 PM

Member Raffo left the meeting to attend a medical appointment.

Robert Young, Ph.D. gave a power point presentation to the Board. A copy was submitted into the record. He noted that he was an expert witness for the Reach 8 Administrative Hearing as an expert witness for the Petitioners. He explained his geological perspective of shoreline management. He indicated that the bad news was that there are no simple solutions for the Palm Beach shoreline.

Chair Ecclestone thanked Dr. Young for coming and presenting to the Board. Mr. Brazil asked about modeling and said all of those things (modeling and studies) are required to get a permit. Council Member Kleid asked if coastal engineering firms have on staff geologists, or only to give reports and if not, should they. Member Hicks stated that his firm does have geologists on staff. He recommended that having a geologist is a good idea. Coastal Coordinator Weber stated that his former firm did have a Professional Geologist (PG) on staff. CSI indicated they subcontract with geologist and agree with the holistic approach. Dr. Young said he would even be willing to assist pro bono (less travel expenses) to the Town but has a full time academic position and can't do full time project management. A mission of his program is to educate communities in coastal geology.

XVI. PRESERVING OUR BEACHES, REEFS, AND WATER QUALITY, AND THE CULTURES THAT DEPEND ON THEM [Terry Gibson]

Chair Ecclestone left the meeting and Vice Chair Frank was passed the gavel to conduct the remainder of the meeting. There still was a quorum present.

Mr. Terry Gibson is an environmental advocate who writes articles for surfing hunting and fishing magazines and provides advice to many different types of groups. He gave a power point presentation to the Board. A copy was submitted into the record.

Mr. Gibson currently serves on the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council's Habitat Advisory Committee. Mr. Gibson was also one of the Petitioners for the Reach 8 Administrative Hearing. Council President Pro Tem Coniglio asked about moving pumped sand to Reach 8. Mr. Gibson said that you need to be careful not to bury the reefs in the process.

Member Lindsay Buck asked Mr. Gibson if he and other environmental groups were willing to work together with the town to move inlet sand to places on the shoreline with severe sand deficits. She mentioned that some near shore hard bottom might be covered in the process. He said that the permitting was going to control the issues and that the natural habitats are dying and decreasing at a rapid rate and would be sensitive to further losses. Vice Chair Frank agreed

with Member Lindsay Buck and said that the beaches used to be large in Reaches 7 and 8. They aren't trying to take anything away- but trying to get back what was taken away.

XVII. MULTI-PURPOSE ARTIFICIAL REEFS [John Hearin, ASR America]

John Hearin, Coastal Engineer from ASR America in Cocoa Beach, gave a power point presentation to the Board. He provided a copy of the presentation for the record. He respectfully disagreed with Dr. Young on many points. He said it was like comparing Pac Man to Active Duty IV. Several Council Members in the audience asked questions regarding the different types of nourishment projects ASR has worked on, and their impacts on reef bottoms.

Robert Gotlieb, South Palm Beach asked about the high water mark if reef balls were used. Mr. Hearin indicated it is project specific and studies would need to be done first to provide an answer.

Member Goldstein asked about the Singer Island project and said it was estimated to cost \$30 million and ASR estimated their costs would be about half of that. Mr. Hearin stated there are a lot of projects in the Caribbean that are using the reef balls. Member Hicks asked if there have been any attempts to permit reef balls. Mr. Hearin responded that USACOE has an innovative technology program- they will be installing a reef ball pilot project in Miami. Mr. Brazil asked about accretion in one area and erosion in another down drift. Mr. Brazil asked about the PEP reef and indicated that the Town had negative effects from it. Mr. Hearin stated the PEP reefs were installed too close to shore, and in the event of a textile reef failure, you could literally cut the bags open and remove the deflated bags. The type of foundation needed is dependent on the bottom surface for a mitigation reef.

XVIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS [Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

- Sediment Budget, Robert Weber (June 25)
- Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan Update
- Jeff Howe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (June 25)
- Robbin Trindell, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Imperiled Species Management (June 25)
- Introduction to Coastal Technology Corporation (June 25)
- Jennifer Bistyga, City of Boca Raton (June 25)
- Vladimir Kosmynin, FDEP Environmental Consultant in Marine Ecology
- Permeable/Semi-Permeable Structures
- Erosion Control Lines and Engineered Beaches
- Critically Eroded Beach Designation
- Coastal Project Funding
- Lake Worth Lagoon
- Discussion of CCMP

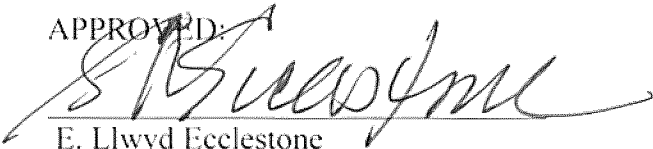
1 XVIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS [Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

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4 Member Hicks asked about informational items and that the Board did not discuss the
5 upcoming CCNA process. **He would like to see a list of criteria for ranking and have it**
6 **presented at the next Shore Board Meeting. The rest of the Board was in agreement with**
7 **this request.**
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10 XIV. ADJOURNMENT

11
12 There being no further business, the Shore Protection Board Meeting of May 28, 2009
13 was adjourned at 4:27p.m.
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16

17 APPROVED:

18 
19 E. Llwyd Ecclestone
20 Chairman
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