

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Shore Protection Board was called to order at 9:05a.m. on Thursday March 26, 2009, in the Town Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, all Shore Board members were present, except for Member Katz, who had an unexcused absence.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ecclestone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Ecclestone announced he would like to move Item VIII to immediately following the approval of the agenda, since the guest speaker, Daniel Bates, had to leave by 10:30 a.m.

The Agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2009 MEETING

Motion made by Member Goldstein and seconded by Member Hicks to approve the Minutes as presented. On voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS

Member Goldstein indicated that near term projects should be as follows:

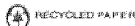
- Purchase dredge barge with the Port only after the USACOE and DEP agree to dredging and putting compatible sand on dry beaches

SPB 03-26-09

Post Office Box 2029 • 360 South County Road • Palm Beach, Florida 33480

Telephone (561) 838-5416 • Facsimile (561) 838-5417

E-mail: townclerk@townofpalmbeach.com • Website: www.townofpalmbeach.com



- 1 • Hire coastal engineering firm to establish and build offshore breakwaters,
2 and/or groins north of Sloan's Curve, so that Reach 7 beach and dunes can
3 be stabilized. He would like to see the work accomplished by winter
4 2010.
- 5 • Ask Town Council to work with the County and develop a partnership
- 6 • Contact State Senator Jeff Atwater, as President of the Senate, to make
7 sure ALJ Meale's opinions do not change Florida Coastal Permitting
- 8 • Everyone in the room should make an effort to listen to the DEP tape of
9 Mike Barnett from the last Shore Protection Board meeting. In contrast to
10 today, there were no answers that could be helpful.

11
12 Member Frank requested that the Shore Board be first on the list on any
13 information that comes back from decisions made by the Council in relation to the
14 Judge's opinions and the reach 8 project. They request to be kept it in the loop on any
15 information received. Chair Ecclestone added that anything the Town Council decides,
16 relative to the Shore Board or the beaches, should be received immediately. Town
17 Manger Elwell indicated that they have been doing that. Member Frank agreed and said
18 he hopes that continues.

19
20 The Palm Beach Coastal Committee, Council President David Rosow and
21 Council President Pro Tem Gail Coniglio are a part of, should give timely reports on what
22 is happening there. And the Shore Board Members should be given some time to give
23 them more input to bring back to their meetings. That loop should be closed. Town
24 Manager Elwell clarified that Member Frank was asking for updates at the Shore Board
25 Meetings.

26
27 Member Raffo talked about Reach 7 and Reach 8, and indicated that the staff,
28 Paul Brazil and Rob Weber, are very educated on the subject. He asked them for what
29 the Shore Board should do. He indicated that the Town employs them and pays them,
30 they should be able to tell the Shore Board what to do and how to do it, and he wanted to
31 hear that now.

32
33 Mr. Brazil responded that he has intentionally tried not to tell the Board what to
34 do. They have tried to provide an education and the background and not lead where the
35 program should go. Staff does have their own ideas and thoughts, and offered to write
36 them down for the next meeting. Both Member Raffo and Chair Ecclestone wanted an
37 answer today. Mr. Brazil complied and said the problem starts in Reach 6. There is a
38 very large groin that is impounding a large amount of sand. The geometry of the shoreline
39 also changes right at the North end of Reach 7. The sand is getting pushed offshore. The
40 erosional rates are very high. In the North end of Reach 7, an isolated structure is needed.
41 For now, a different source of sand is needed, to relieve immediate concerns. Focus on
42 the North end of Reach 7 and feed into the Par 3 golf course. South of the Pier, the
43 problem starts up again. At the very south end of Reach 8, there are near shore hard
44 bottoms. It is similar to what you would see in Reach 2.

1 Mr. Brazil continued that if you wanted to provide storm protection in the form of
2 a structure, needs to be mindful that any structure would bury any near shore hard bottom.
3 There is a catch 22- at the south end of Reach 8. The hope was, in getting a permit for
4 Reach 8, and the County doing the breakwaters, that sand would actually start impounding
5 there, and naturally the system would build up there on its own. For not having the
6 permit for Reach 8, and not getting one anytime soon, staff hands are tied.

7
8 Extending structures into that area, offshore breakwaters, is probably the best bet
9 in the short term.. He stressed that this was his personal opinion. There are consultants,
10 the County, and a lot of other people to talk to. Being realistic about the permitting
11 environment, those are the options. Member Raffo asked Mr. Weber if he agreed with
12 Mr. Brazil and he said that he did.

13
14 Mr. Brazil also indicated that what had or had not been done in the past was the
15 result of past Town Council decisions. Short term fixes were not considered. If this
16 Shore Board were to attempt short term fixes, it also needs to be approved by the current
17 Town Council.

18
19 Town Manager Elwell added the amount of per unit sand cost is several times
20 higher when you are trucking in sand vs. pumping the sand. The other is that you were
21 not getting as much protection. He added that Mr. Bates said earlier that morning, that
22 the next good storm washes the sand away.

23
24 Chair Ecclestone indicated he was prepared to take a vote today to recommend to
25 the Council that the Shore Board wants to take action immediately and piggy-back with
26 County projects.

27
28 Member Raffo stated Reach 6 received its revetment because A1A was
29 threatened. Is there any danger by Sloan's Curve that the road situation could increase the
30 chances of obtaining a permit. Mr. Brazil indicated that the "need" needs to be identified
31 and even in Reach 8, it is not deemed "critically eroded" and therefore does not qualify
32 for some projects.

33
34 Council Member Richard Kleid, 2660 South Ocean Blvd., asked Mr. Brazil that
35 if the Shore Board recommended to go out immediately for a permit to join with the
36 County in putting breakwaters in the southern end of Reach 8, would that impact the
37 present permit that the Town has, and is still outstanding. It was his recollection that one
38 of the reasons that Council did not move as quickly was because it would lose the present
39 permit. Mr. Brazil responded that Council Member Kleid was correct, and the two
40 permits could not exist at the same time.

41
42 Town Manager Elwell stated that the Shore Board is already on a course because
43 of actions recommended by the Shore Board and approved by the Town Council to hire
44 additional coastal engineers. They will work on the types of issues discussed today That
45 process takes a few months. It may be June before the selected groups could be retained
46 and able to work on projects for the Town. In the meantime, the Board was working on

1 establishing objectives today and in getting actively into a planning process so that when
2 it is time to pursue structures and other types of projects, it is in conjunction with a
3 broader prospective of protecting the entire shoreline.

4
5 The Town Manager stated that the Board needs to take a step back and develop a
6 plan. In addition, there is no money for all of the proposed projects the Shore Board
7 wants to do. Commitments should not be made at the front end of a planning process that
8 cannot be fulfilled .

9
10 Chair Ecclestone stated that his opinion was the County opened up an opportunity
11 that had not been there before. He acknowledged that he recently discounted the County
12 at a Town Council Meeting, but after speaking to Mr. Bates today, he feels that the
13 County should be given a chance.

14
15 Member Lindsay Buck agreed with the Town Manager and said there needs to be
16 a plan and a set of objectives first. There will be both short term and long term goals.

17
18 Member Raffo stated that working with the County does not involve hiring an
19 engineer, and does not see a down side.

20
21 **Motion made by Member Raffo to recommend to the Town Council to enter**
22 **into an interlocal agreement with Palm Beach County. The motion died for lack of**
23 **a second.**

24
25 There was discussion as to whether or not the County has been helpful at all to the
26 Town in the past. Mr. Brazil and Town Manager Elwell responded that the County has
27 been responsive.

28
29 Town Manager Elwell really stressed to the Board, that for the past few decades,
30 the staff level had been actively engaged with County staff. What is happening now, is
31 there is a more concerted effort by the coastal communities, and County to put together a
32 legislative agenda where changes to the laws and permitting can be more aggressively
33 looked at. That's important, but it is separate form the projects the Town of Palm Beach
34 wants to protect the Town, and how those would be implemented. What is being
35 discussed today, is an interlocal agreement that would be run, much like Delray Beach,
36 where they run the program, but get help from the County, with money and time, or
37 whether it's more like Juno Beach and South Palm Beach, where the County takes charge
38 of the project and there is much less control by the Town.

39
40 Member Lindsay Buck suggested putting this as a goal and explore the
41 information about what the County agreement would say.

42
43 **Motion was to recommend to Town Council to direct Town staff to engage**
44 **the County Staff in the development of what the formal aspects of that relationship**
45 **would be: cost sharing, management responsibility, how and who will do what. And**
46 **bring back that proposal to the Shore Board for further evaluation. Motion made**

1 by Member Goldstein and seconded by Vice Chair Frank. On voice vote, the motion
2 carried with Member Raffo Dissenting.

3
4 Motion made by to Member Hicks have the Town investigate joining the
5 South Palm Beach breakwater project. He asked for a report from the County at
6 the next meeting, and decided to withdrew his motion.

7
8 Town Manager Elwell informed the Shore Board that the Town Council would be
9 meeting at 2 p.m. to discuss the litigation with Reach 8, and if a decision were to be made
10 one way or the other regarding that, it could change what the Shore Board recommends.
11 The action today, if it is taken, should include whatever decision the Council makes.

12
13 Gail Coniglio, President Pro Tem of the Town Council, wondered if the
14 conversation could not step into the legalities of Reach 8, but explore the monitoring
15 aspect that Mr. Bates spoke of. The monitoring portion can be expedited.

16
17 Town Manager outlined that on the April 8th Agenda, the Board will be provided
18 information to be able to make a recommendation to the Town Council about to more
19 aggressively pursue getting involved with the breakwater project.

20
21
22 VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

23
24 Deborah Serrano, from Redmond Washington, representing SandCastle
25 Technology. She was trying to present and environmentally, eco-friendly product that has
26 been used in Satellite Beach, FL with success. Chair Ecclestone told her to submit her
27 information to the Town Manager and he would distribute it to the Board. Member
28 Goldstein indicated he would be interested in taking a trip to Satellite Beach to see the
29 results. Member Hicks asked to see some independent review.

30
31 Andre Bolaffi, 2295 S. Ocean Blvd., addressed the board on procedures and goals.
32 He commended them on working with the County and secondly inquired about Lantana
33 being able to get their permits so quickly.

34
35 Carla Herwitz, 2275 S. Ocean Blvd., reiterated that Chair Ecclestone asked that
36 the 3 Sloan's Curve condominiums, Harbor House, and the Reef address the Board with
37 one voice. She has been authorized to speak on their behalf yet added every citizen has
38 the right to speak on their behalf. She applauded the Board for their resolution to work
39 with the County. She urged the Board acknowledge that the Town has a serious
40 emergency problem in the northern end of Reach 7 and the southern end of Reach 8. She
41 encouraged them to get a permit for Reach 7, and fast track the hot spots in Reaches 7 and
42 8.

43
44 Mervin Manning, 2100 S. Ocean Blvd., represented 212 residents of the three
45 condos at 2000 S. Ocean Blvd. located immediately south of Sloan's Curve. As stated by
46 Ms. Herwitz, supports the concerns and indicated that the recent storm resulted in waves

1 reaching the base of the dune. During the past few days, with the winds, but no rain, the
2 same wave action has continued. In the event of a more violent storm, the residents could
3 be placed in great jeopardy. Immediate action needs to be taken.

4
5
6 Orator Woodward, 251 El Bravo Way, read a letter that he had received from the
7 Mayor in April 1988. He wished to point out that a lot of time has gone and applauds the
8 Shore Board decision to move forward with the County.

9
10 Robert Davidow, 2100 S. Ocean Blvd., appreciated the efforts of the Board, but
11 because of Sunshine Laws and the time constraints due to the meeting formats. There is a
12 lot of need for project management and be more productive.

13
14 Peter Pettie, 3400 S. Ocean Blvd., gave his comments regarding the length of time
15 it takes for the Town to accomplish anything. He indicated that mid-town beach is only
16 15 yards deep right now. He offered many other suggestions on correcting Reach 8 and
17 other areas of the Town.

18
19 **Informational Items:**

20
21 **VIII. PALM BEACH COUNTY COASTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS INCLUDING**
22 **CONSIDERATIONS AT SINGER ISLAND AND SOUTH PALM BEACH**
23 **[Daniel Bates, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management]**

24
25 ***This item was heard immediately following the Approval of the Agenda, Item***

26 **IV.**

27 Chair Ecclestone introduced Daniel Bates, Palm Beach County Environmental
28 Resources Management. He indicated that the Shore Board would like to form a more
29 positive relationship with the County regarding beach and shore protection. Secondly, the
30 Shore Protection Board would like more information on the offshore breakwaters that are
31 planned for Singer Island, and what the County is doing in cooperation with State DEP
32 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE).

33
34 Mr. Daniel Bates, announced he had brought Leanne Welch, Program Supervisor
35 for the County Beach Program and presented a power point presentation to the Board.
36 Mr. Bates indicated that the relations with the Town are good and that there is a good
37 communication effort. He added that with a re-newed Tri-Party emphasis ongoing, there
38 may be a joined effort with Port Issues.

39
40 Mr. Bates discussed the County Financial status, and described how much funding
41 is designated for beach projects and nourishment. There are municipal partnerships as
42 well, like South Palm Beach, where the County manages the projects. There are also
43 projects such as Boca Raton and Delray Beach where those Towns manage the projects.

44
45 Mr. Bates stated that when there is beach erosion down drift, the first step is to try
46 dune restoration. It is a way to buy some time since the permit process is lengthy. By

1 having an annual contractor, repairs can begin with a few days after a storm. He offered
2 the County assistance if the Town should ever need it. In 1997 there were T-head groins
3 placed in the area near the Boynton Inlet. The Sand Transfer Plant there, is not doing
4 well and that plant is totally be replaced. He indicated that this was a joint project with
5 the Federal Government, and federal funds were being contributed. The jetty structures
6 and the entire plant will be replaced.

8 He spoke in detail about the various projects that the County is working on: Juno
9 Beach, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Riviera Beach, South Palm Beach/Lantana and
10 Singer Island. He also described breakwaters and how they are created to restrict the flow
11 of sand down drift.

13 Chair Ecclestone asked if the County takes the lead on the projects in Singer
14 Island etc. Mr. Bates responded that the only projects the County doesn't take the lead
15 are Delray Beach and Boca Raton. Chair Ecclestone followed up by asking how Palm
16 Beach could partner with the County and was informed the process begins with an
17 interlocal agreement that have criteria that needs to be met. The area would have to be a
18 "critically eroded" area as designated by the State. And thirdly, environmental impacts
19 are studied and how they are minimized.

22 Mr. Bates indicated that a project such as in Riviera Beach, the City pays 20% of
23 the costs to the County. Chair Ecclestone asked the Town Manager if the Town had
24 contacted the County in regard to doing work for them.

26 Town Manager Elwell informed Chair Ecclestone that the decision that had been
27 made and looked at when a project needed to be done, that the prior Town Councils had
28 decided based on the criteria that the County uses, that the Town did not wish to
29 participate. The Town had wanted to be more in direct control of the program without
30 the necessity of coordinating with the County.

32 Chair Ecclestone also asked who were the engineers on the projects and it was
33 discussed that the County has several staff members, oceanographers, biologists etc as
34 well as subcontractors. He followed up with asking Mr. Bates if they could arrange a
35 time to discuss the types of engineers and staff that the Town has as well to see if the
36 Town needs more engineers.

38 Chair Ecclestone asked that on a breakwater project, does that count as self-
39 mitigation. Mr. Bates responded that it is an unresolved issue with the State and other
40 agencies. From a biological standpoint, the County must show that the environmental
41 replication is working. If this is done successfully, then those types of projects might be
42 viewed more favorably in the future.

44 Member Hicks stated that he feels there needs to be a strong partnership with the
45 County to develop inlet-to-inlet solutions. He asked about the discharge pipe at the
46 Boynton Inlet and was informed that it is located at the second groin down. He also

1 asked about the anticipated down drift of sand and Mr. Bates responded that they do not
2 anticipate any. He clarified that the Boynton Inlet is much different in scale than the Lake
3 Worth Inlet and also has different dynamics. Member Hicks asked more questions
4 regarding breakwaters.

5
6 Member Frank welcomed Mr. Bates and stated that he had attended several
7 meetings regarding South Palm Beach and they had been very informative. He
8 encouraged Mr. Bates to forget what other Councils and Boards have decided in the past,
9 and focus on developing a closer relationship with the Town. Member Frank indicated
10 that the County is far ahead of the Town in terms of design of projects. It would be a
11 detriment to the Town not to use the County's knowledge. As far as some of the
12 regulations required by the State, he feels they could be negotiable. There is a financial
13 impact on the Town as well. Member Frank stated that the Town gives the County a lot of
14 money in taxes, and does not see any of it returned. It is time for the Town and the
15 County to work together.

16
17 Member Frank also mentioned the Sand Transfer Plant. He inquired to see if the
18 County would consider working again with the Town on the Sand Transfer Plant when
19 the Town is paying for that all alone, and it may be the only one in the State self-funded.
20 The bottom line is that the Town wants to have a better relationship with the County and
21 Mr. Bates needs to tell the Shore Board how to do that.

22 Member Lindsay-Buck asked several questions regarding costs per mile of the
23 breakwater project but asked for the breakdown of who is paying what costs. The
24 Municipality pays 20%, the State pays ½ of the costs or slightly less, the rest is being paid
25 for by the County on the \$30 million dollar breakwater project. She next discussed the
26 state requirements regarding parking.

27
28 She next asked about the Sand Transfer Plant combined with the dredging with
29 the goal of returning 100% of the littoral flow of sand to the southern littoral flow south
30 of Singer Island. She indicated it was one of the Shore Protection Board's main
31 objectives.

32
33 Mr. Bates indicated that there is a Tri-Party Group that has been active for a long
34 time. The USACOE has also participated in the Tri-Party Group of the Port, the County
35 and the Municipalities are all at the table on a regular basis. Mr. Bates indicated that he
36 was happy to hear that the Town wants to be involved and get started moving on the
37 dredging project.

38
39 Town Manager Elwell indicated that the group has met in the past as much as six
40 times per year when there are legislative issues, and as needed on other items. Chair
41 Ecclestone indicated that he had tried to meet with Mr. Walesky from the County,
42 Chairman Koons along with Council President Rosow and Chair Ecclestone, but it did
43 not happen. Mr. Walesky refused to meet with the Town.

44
45 Town Manager Elwell announced that Council President Pro Tem Coniglio would
46 be attending the meeting next week along with staff members to discuss the Tri-Party

1 Agreement. In the past, the Mayor McDonald and Mayor Smith have participated in the
2 meetings, depending on if the issues were technical or not. Chair Ecclestone asked if he
3 would ever be allowed to attend. Town Manager Elwell indicated he was welcome to
4 attend as long as he didn't violate the Sunshine Laws.

5
6 Member Raffo thanked Mr. Bates for educating the Board. He asked for the
7 difference between placing groins in the Boynton Inlet and they are working well, but
8 doing structures in other locations. He asked why not do groins in all locations. Mr.
9 Bates explained that each location is different and has different dynamics. Mr. Raffo
10 mentioned the dredge project and asked Mr. Bates if he had any opinion on it. Mr. Bates
11 responded that dredges are used in many inlets. There are only two sand transfer plants
12 operating in the country right now and they are in Palm Beach County. He indicated that
13 the one in Boynton Beach is working well.

14
15 Member Hicks indicated he did not want to disagree too much with the concept of
16 using Sand Transfer Plants, but there is a reason why there are only two. He stated that
17 traditionally they are very inefficient operations and it is difficult to monitor their
18 production rates.

19
20 Mr. Bates added that the price of real estate is a factor too. Most residents do not
21 want to see a Plant in front of their house and are opposed to building them. The reason
22 Palm Beach has one, is that it was built a long time ago.

23
24 Chair Ecclestone stated that the Sand Transfer Plant is the best thing the Town has
25 going right now. Most of the Council and the Shore Board support the Plant and the
26 expansion of it.

27
28 Member Goldstein asked if the sand would be able to be place down the dry
29 beaches, where it is compatible, where there are "hot spots". Mr. Bates responded that
30 there is no better sand than bypass sand.

31
32 Town Manager Elwell wanted to shed some light on the topic. There have been
33 discussion between the Town and the USACOE, and DEP. Member Goldstein's
34 comment was to take the sand from the inlet to hot spot locations elsewhere in Town.
35 That topic has been addressed.

36
37 Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works, indicated he had spoken with DEP staff the
38 day prior, and requirements will be stiffer over time than they have in the past. DEP is
39 fully aware of what the Town is trying to do with inlet management of sand and have said
40 they will be realistic about using the sand from the inlet and its requirements. He said it
41 would pertain to both the Sand Transfer Plant and the dredged sand.

42
43 Member Frank stated that Mr. Bates must work closely with DERM, and there
44 have been some problems in even trying to have conversations with DERM staff. The
45 mission statement of that department does not reflect the non-communication. He asked
46 how to create a meeting where all could discuss the problem in Palm Beach and resolve

1 it. Mr. Bates indicated that there has been fairly frequent contact with Palm Beach staff
2 on many issues. He did not feel there was a communication error. Member Frank
3 indicated the residents need the County badly.

4
5 Member Raffo added that Mr. Bates has always been very accessible to him in the
6 past seven years. Town Manager Elwell clarified that he has heard there is a perception
7 that the County has not been responsive and that is not the case. In terms of accessibility,
8 the Town has previously NOT wanted to join with the County on projects. In his view,
9 the only thing lacking to date is a formal partnership. In terms of communication and
10 learning from one another, that has been fine. The Board can certainly discuss moving
11 towards a more formal type of partnership.

12
13 Chair Ecclestone stated that the Town and the County need to forget the past and
14 start forming a positive relationship. For some reason, the County is working on projects
15 to the North of Palm Beach, and to the South of Palm Beach.

16
17 Member Lindsay Buck stated that the history of the Town was to do everything by
18 themselves. She informed Mr. Bates, that the new Shore Board wants to have a good
19 partnership with the County and wants them to be part of the equation. If the priorities
20 and focus change to use inlet sand and to restore the trapped sand to the littoral flow, then
21 the environmentalists may join with the Town in their efforts.

22
23 Member Hicks suggested talking with Boca Raton and Delray Beach and get their
24 views on working with the County. Chair Ecclestone interrupted and said he disagreed.
25 Member Hicks continued that he agrees with forming a better relationship with the
26 County, but some freedoms will be lost by the Town and the Town should understand
27 what those freedoms are.

28
29 Chair Ecclestone asked Mr. Bates if he had an opinion on the ALJ decision on
30 Reach 8. He had heard excerpts coming from the County as to the chances of being
31 successful on appeal. Mr. Bates indicated that he was not an attorney and did not want to
32 comment. From a coastal management standpoint there were issues that need to be dealt
33 with and on a national and regional basis.

34
35 Member Hicks asked whether the South Palm Beach permit had been submitted
36 yet. Mr. Bates responded that it was on his desk. Member Hicks asked if it was too late
37 for the Town to participate in the extension of that project. Mr. Bates indicated that the
38 Town could participate. Mr. Bates emphasized that there is a strict time line, and doesn't
39 want to slow down the process by added more elements.

40
41 Council Member Bill Diamond, 220 Wells Road, asked if the decision of the ALJ
42 will stop the planned breakwaters already in progress, and it would not, according to Mr.
43 Bates. The decision had more to do with nourishment projects.

44
45 Council President David Rosow, 1460 N. Lake Way, asked if the County would
46 be willing to financially support an appeal of the ALJ decision. Mr. Bates responded that

1 in these economic times, they do not have the resources to do that, and it would have to
2 go before the Board of County Commissioners for a final decision.

3
4 Peter Pettie, 3400 S. Ocean Blvd., asked if environmental studies that have
5 already been done be used on future projects, since they take multiple years to conduct the
6 studies and obtain permits. Mr. Bates replied that the studies generally need to be project
7 specific, but could use them as background information. Permitting takes an average of
8 3-4 years now with all of the restrictions and requirements.

9
10 Chair Ecclestone thanked Mr. Bates for coming to the meeting and providing
11 useful information.

12
13 IX. PORT DREDGING / TRI-PARTY UPDATE [Peter B. Elwell, Town Manager]

14
15 *This item was discussed during Agenda, Item VIII.*

16
17 Town manager Elwell added that although discussed earlier, he wanted to inform
18 the Board that the technical staff involved in the Tri-party Agreement have already met to
19 discuss size of the dredge and how it might function, and certain other logistical details in
20 preparation for next week's meeting.

21
22 Member Hicks asked if he could also attend the meeting and he was informed that
23 only one Board Member could attend in order to comply with the Sunshine Law.

24
25 Action Items:

26
27 X. SHORE PROTECTION BOARD OBJECTIVES FOR 2009

28 [Sarah E. Hannah, Assistant Town Manager]

29
30 The Shore Protection Board Members discussed their various submittals and
31 decided the following would be the objectives of the Shore Protection Board:

32
33 1. Restore 100% of sediment trapped by the inlet to the littoral drift or beach south
34 of the inlet by a combination of:

35
36 a. Sand Transfer Plant Upgrade

37
38 b. Dredging the inlet and placement on or near the beach

39
40 c. Study Phase II location of pipe and its impact and permitting requirements with
41 the goal of placing more sand into the littoral drift south of Reach 1

42
43 d. Work with USACOE and FDEP to determine feasibility of placing sand further
44 down the beach, and shortening timeframe of permitting.

1 e. Explore potential for working with Port to acquire or lease a cutterhead dredge.
2 Before we “finalize an agreement”, we need to learn whether a small dredge can move
3 enough sand far enough south to get into the southerly drift and whether it makes
4 economic sense. Palm Beach should only be cost sharing in the placement of the sand.

5
6 f. Involve the County in achieving this objective.
7
8

9 2. Pursue placing dry sand on hot spots (north part of Reach 7, south part of Reach
10 8) from inland borrow sites to protect threatened property.

11 3. Examine coastal hard structure technology, costs, impacts and permitting
12 issues

13 a. New Structures

14 b. Existing structures

15 c. Observe the Singer Island permitting process

16 d. Explore interlocal agreement with County to add the south end of Reach 8 to its
17 South Palm Beach permit for breakwaters

18 4. Review previous Shore Board’s recommendations and conclusions from lessons
19 learned.
20

21 5. Initiate discussion, dialogue and problem solving through a series of guest
22 speaker s from government officials, industry experts, environmentalists and other
23 municipalities to obtain real solutions to shore protection that include other
24 municipalities and county. Make recommendations accordingly.

25 6. Work with state and federal agencies and government to revise laws and
26 regulations so that Town has realistic options for protecting its shoreline. (Assuming we
27 succeeded in reversing the sand deficit, the town needs some way to bring the shoreline
28 back to some semblance of its pre-inlet condition.

29 7. Where applicable, cause regulatory agency to re-designate certain Reaches as
30 “engineered beach” and “critically eroded”, e.g. Reach 1 should be an engineered beach,
31 etc.

32 8. Investigate whether seawalls should be placed in erosion prone areas not
33 currently protected by such as “last resort” property protection.

34 Chair Ecclestone said that the Shore Board should stay out of the Port
35 expansion and should focus on getting as much sand out of the inlet as possible. There will
36 be some people in the north end that will be unhappy.

37 Member Raffo indicated he disagrees with the Town Council in their decision to
38 go against the Port Expansion. The surrounding communities will be economically
39 devastated.

Motion made by Member Raffo, Chair Ecclestone passed the gavel to Vice Chair Frank, and seconded the motion to remove the item regarding stopping the port's expansion from the list of objectives. On voice vote, the motion passed 4-2 with Members Lindsay Buck and Member Hicks dissenting.

The Members expressed their disgust with the agencies taking so long, and dictating what the Town can and cannot do. Member Raffo indicated that it was time for the Town to stand up and fight. He indicated that all candidates stated they would vote for protecting the shores and they haven't done anything.

Member Raffo made a Motion to send a message to the Town Council to start taking action. After discussion, Member Raffo withdrew his motion.

Member Hicks offered to design a “scope of work” for the Board. He said there should be tasks, timelines, a foundation, and lessons learned all in one document. The Members agreed and gave Member Hicks authorization to work to staff.

In other matters, Member Frank wanted to present their ideas from today to the Town Council at the Special Town Council Meeting following the Shore Board. Mr. Brazil informed the Board that there is a lot of preparation prior to going to the Town Council with anything. There are procedures that needed to be followed. Town Manager Elwell, indicated that there needs to be thought given to the decisions before shifting directions and providing back-up to the Council. Chair Ecclestone requested the Town Manager authorize Mr. Brazil to meet with the County ERM staff to determine what kind of agreement the Town would need with the County and/or what options the Town has for it to partner with the County on our shore protection efforts. Member Raffo said this was not a big deal and it should not be so involved.

XI. SHORE PROTECTION BOARD LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR 2009

[Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

There were over 60 names submitted by the Board Members as potential speakers. The Board discussed who they would like to see in the order of importance and the top six will be scheduled for the next few meetings. Mr. Brazil indicated they can be categorized by expertise as well.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Shore Protection Board meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2009 was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

~~APPROVED:~~

APPROVED: 

E. Llwyd Ecclestone
Chairman