



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING HELD ON

MARCH 6, 1997

I. CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the Shore Protection Board was called to order on March 6, 1997, at 9:45 a.m. in the meeting room of the South Fire Rescue Station of the Town of Palm Beach.

II. ROLL CALL: On roll call the following Board members were found to be in attendance: Chairman Lickle, Vice-Chairman Moffett, Mrs. Curran, and Messrs. Dimm, Isiminger, Levy, Martino and Raffo. Staff members attending were: Town Manager Doney, Assistant Town Manager Elwell, and Ms. Reedy from the Town Clerk's Office. Town Council member McLendon also attended a portion of the meeting.

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

IV. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL DATED JANUARY 31, 1997, FROM APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES TO UPDATE THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

This was a meeting with officials from the City of Lake Worth, the Town of South Palm Beach, Town of Lantana, and the Town of Manalapan to discuss the proposed update of the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan, and the potential for an inlet-to-inlet beach restoration project. Those attending were: Margot Roberts, Mayor of South Palm Beach; Ernest Muro, South Palm Beach Commissioner; Charles Helm, Town Manager of Manalapan; Dan Reidy, Director of Marine Safety/Sports Complex of Lantana; and Ray Smith, Projects Engineer of Lake Worth. Also attending the meeting were Mike Barnett and Rick Reikenis of Applied Technology and Management, Inc., and Bob Clinger of Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management.

Mr. Lickle said in the past year the Board members have listened to experts including University Professors, World Renowned Individuals, Geologists, and Engineers. Everyone agreed that the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan should be updated and an inlet to inlet plan should be implemented. The Board Members felt it was very important to relay the information they have gathered to the residents of the Town and to the neighboring communities.

Mr. Lickle said if the southern communities chose to participate in this knowledge gathering process, it did not mean they were obligated to participate in the beach renourishment project. This meeting was strictly an informational exchange on updating the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan.

Mr. Lickle said if the Town Council decided to proceed in this matter, projects would go forward that will include renourishment and some form of hard structures in various places. The communities in the south will eventually benefit from the project because the sand will migrate to those areas.

It was not clear if the southern communities have monitoring data, but it was believed that until the Town's PEP reef and Mid-Town beach projects, there had not been any type of long term monitoring. If the Town goes ahead with this project, monitoring will be a high priority.

COMMENTS FROM THE SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES:

Mr. Ray Smith from the City of Lake Worth said they have the second smallest area of beach with only 1,475 feet of beach front compared to 15.6 miles of beach from inlet to inlet, and they were not aware of problems in their area. He said they have a fishing pier, and possibly it acts somewhat like a groin, although there are no baffles in the piling which are perpendicular to the littoral flow. The Lake Worth beach has always been substantial, and continues to be. Mr. Smith said he was not authorized to contribute to the plan as yet, but he would like to take back to the City how they can benefit from the project. He said huge quantities of sand can be taken out to sea in a matter of days, and huge quantities can be brought back in a matter of days.

Mr. Lickle said no one is expected to make funding commitments today. This was more of an exchange of information in the hope of a vote of confidence that the Town is heading in the right direction. He said he is aware that there are some areas where ATM will advise that nothing should be done. Mr. Barnett of ATM said their initial study included the City of Lake Worth, and the State of Florida does not recognize any areas in Lake Worth as being critically eroded at this time.

Mr. Dan Reidy, Director of Marine Safety/Sports Complex for the Town of Lantana, said they have approximately 750 feet of beach, and are pretty much in the same position as Lake Worth. They are unaware of any critical conditions on their beach, and in fact, it is in better condition now than it has been in many years. He said he is not aware of what, if anything, Lantana could contribute to or benefit from the project.

Mr. Charles Helm, Town Manager of Manalapan, said they have approximately 3 miles of ocean front that is private property. The Town has no public beach. He said from the Chilingsworth Curve to the South Lake Worth Inlet, which is about one mile, they have the fillet which is produced by the north jetty of the inlet, and the beach in that area is rather wide. To the north of that area the beach is sand starved, and there is some severe erosion. He said the effects of the inlet in the Town have been in dispute for many years. He said they have a settlement agreement which was signed in September of 1996 by Palm Beach County, Manalapan, Ocean Ridge, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Part of the agreement is that the four entities would participate in an Inlet Management Plan. The Technical Review Committee has reviewed the work list for the Inlet Management Plan, and the Contractor will provide an updated plan schedule of work.

Mr. Helm said the agreement calls for a lot of surveying and monitoring of beaches both north and south of the inlet. He said right now there is a major beach restoration project about to begin south of the inlet. The agreement calls for the installation of a low profile groin north of the inlet which will prevent damage to the beaches from the Sand Transfer Plant. There will be a 12 month study to determine the average profile of the ocean floor up to 30 feet. There will then be a seven year study to determine the effects of the groin which can be adjusted. A completion date of August or September of 1998 is projected. Mr. Helm said in his view, any other profiling may be duplication, but the Town of Manalapan has not taken any position on what the Town of Palm Beach is proposing.

Mr. Lickle said it seemed like the South Lake Worth Inlet Management Plan is dealing with the same thing that the Town of Palm Beach is dealing with in the Lake Worth Inlet Management Plan. He said the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan is designed to be complementary to the Inlet Management Plan, and to work in conjunction with that plan. He felt that ATM would be sensitive to any duplication of existing monitoring. Mr. Lickle said his understanding is that the Inlet Management Plan specifically treats the inlets, and then reaches to the south, but after that it stops. The Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan would be inlet to inlet.

Mr. Helm said that was true. The majority of the profiles will be approximately one mile from the inlet. He said the position of the Town of Manalapan is that the effects of the Sand Transfer Plant reach further north, and there will be additional monitoring one mile north.

Mr. Ernest Muro, Commission Member from the Town of South Palm Beach said they have 5/8 of a mile of beach. He said he had waded into the ocean the day prior to this meeting, and found the beach very healthy. Also, he has walked from the north end of South Palm Beach to Lantana and at this particular stage he concluded the beach is very healthy. He said as far as the involvement with the Town of Palm Beach project, he could not make a determination on that at this point.

Mayor Margot Roberts of South Palm Beach stated that she has lived on the ocean front since 1976, and has witnessed a lot of movement of the sand. She said right now they are in line with Palm Beach for a dune restoration project. Mayor Roberts stated that winter is usually a critical time for the beaches because there is so much erosion, but at this time there is a lot of sand out there. She said they had to walk a long way out into the water for the water to rise above their knees.

She could not explain where the sand is coming from because it could be from the PEP reef, the Palm Beach Mid-Town beach restoration, or the sand transfer plant. The ocean has been very active the last few weeks and, it appears that it is bringing sand onto the beach. There is no guarantee as to how long the sand will remain there.

Mayor Roberts said she doesn't go along with engineering data regarding the time it takes for sand to move down drift. When the Sand Transfer Plant shut down in 1989 they lost beach, but when the plant was put back into operation within a few months they noticed a difference in their beach.

Mr. Lickle said their ultimate goal is to collect data which would be programmed into a computer that would create a moving profile. It is hoped that in 3 to 5 years that program would be available so that anyone could retrieve all the information including storm event dates, project event dates, and other data. That would allow correlation of storm events, projects, and shut downs of sand transfer plants, etc. Soon there would be a working profile providing information which could be exchanged between the Town of Palm Beach and other local communities.

Mr. Doney said that everything up to 1984/85 is incorporated in the Town's Coastal Construction Plan. He said there are no groins in Lake Worth, South Palm Beach, or Lantana. Mr. Helm said there are no existing groins in Manalapan. Mr. Helm said they have approximately one and a half mile of seawall which extends from the Ritz Carlton to the Chilingsworth Curve. He said the seawall was constructed in the mid 1960's.

Mr. Helm said that Manalapan's share of the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan update would be about \$23,000, based on the Town's percentage of linear shoreline. He said they are also participating financially in the South Lake Worth Inlet Management Plan, and in his opinion the South Lake Worth Inlet Management Plan would duplicate a lot of what the Inlet-to-Inlet Plan would produce. Mr. Helm said his Commission's main interest is the final decision of what action the Palm Beach Council decides to take.

Mr. Clinger of Palm Beach County said he is not a proponent of the plan or otherwise, and today he is just an observer. He said he has been working with this program since 1980, and he recalls when Lantana appealed to the County when their dunes were under attack. When the dunes come under attack that means the beach is not wide enough to protect them, and Lantana has a problem with the dunes being attacked about every five years. He said the cost of their participation in the update would be very low, perhaps one or two percent, but if they only utilize one line of the survey it probably would mean four or five hundred dollars reimbursement in addition to all the other information that the Town of Palm Beach is willing to share.

Mr. Clinger said these communities should consider benefits other than recreational. He said Lantana has a retaining wall which already is under some stress, and if they are considering major work seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line which will involve structures, they will need to do studies before undertaking any projects. He advised that the studies the Town of Palm Beach is considering would be well worth the money that the Town of Lantana and the City of Lake Worth would be expending.

Mayor Roberts asked how the dune restoration program would impact upon Palm Beach's study? She said it is the south end of Palm Beach that is involved in the dune restoration program which has been on line for a few years. The County has done a lot of work there, and a lot of studies have been done.

Mr. Clinger said what the Town of Palm Beach is looking at is a lot more comprehensive than doing a beach restoration project. He said they will be looking at what potential structures can be used to reduce hot spots, possible dune restoration, and trying to coordinate all the Towns together.

Mr. Dimm said the State standard for monitoring is 30' and he wondered why the ATM plan calls for only 25'. Mr. Barnett said that ATM obtained a quote from a survey firm, but they will dictate where the profile will terminate. Mr. Dimm said the Town should conform to the State standard.

After discussion, the Board **RECOMMENDED** THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT THE APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL AND REVISED SCOPE OF WORK DATED MARCH 3, 1997.

Report of the Special Shore Protection Board Meeting of March 6, 1997

The Board also set a tentative next meeting date for March 27th or March 28, 1997, with alternate dates for April 14th or 15th.

Mr. Lickle said he would like to have the matter of "peer review" put on a future meeting's agenda. The Board was informed that Dr. David Aubrey, Senior Scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Chairman of the Woods Hole Group, has stated that he would be available to discuss the peer review process with the Board. The Board agreed to invite Dr. Aubrey to attend a future meeting.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.


Garrison D. Lickle, Chairman

Prepared by:
Jacquelyn Reedy