

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Shore Protection Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2009, in the Town Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following Shore Protection Board members were found to be in attendance: E. Elwyd Ecclestone, Gerald Frank, Lewis Katz, Bobbie Lindsay Buck, Lee David Goldstein, Scott Hicks, and Richard A. Raffo.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Ecclestone.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADDED discussion of Reach 7 and 8 following item XIII.

ADDED under Item XVIII., Board Member Katz requested that the Shore Protection Board members discuss the Agenda, which included the creation, process, and input from the board members.

ADDED under Item XVIII., Board Member Lindsay-Buck requested discussion of establishing objectives of the Shore Protection Board.

The Agenda was approved as amended.

Motion made by Vice Chair Frank, seconded by Member Goldstein to approve the Agenda as amended. On voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2-26-09 SPB

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2009 MEETING

Member Hicks called attention to page 2, of the January 27, 2009, Minutes on line 38 thru 40, that it needed to be revised. Town Manager Elwell explained that it was not the intention of extending the pipeline to prevent sand from being deposited in the areas where it was being deposited now, but was expanding the opportunity to deposit the sand elsewhere. Mr. Elwell noted that it would be clarified in the Minutes before the Board received it for approval at the next meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the January 27, 2009 Meeting was deferred to the March 12, 2009, Shore Protection Board meeting.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

Member Goldstein commented that the citizens of Palm Beach were becoming fragmented over individual projects and areas, instead of seeking a solution for the entire island, as this was the mission. He added that their goals and level of protection needed to be decided before individual programs were developed.

Member Katz said that he agreed with Mr. Goldstein, but should not forget the past, and welcomed the discussion regarding the comprehensive beach restoration. It was important to learn from things done right, especially from things that were not done right. As the Board moves forward, it would have a long term versus a temporary solution, as all the taxpayers were represented.

Carla Herwitz, 2275 S. Ocean Blvd., commented that she submitted to the Board, a written statement on how to expedite the permitting process of correcting the emergency situation at the north end of Reach 7. She provided a technical report, by Ms. Karyn Erickson, regarding a response by Public Works Director Paul Brazil, at the last meeting, that new sand on the northern portion of Reach 7 had washed into the ocean, it nevertheless was protecting the upland areas from a storm surge. Chair Ecclestone asked that she hold the report until the Board addressed the issue, later in the meeting, under item VIII. She also submitted a statement, by Mervyn Manning, to the Board.

William Cooley, 8 Windsor Court, commented regarding an opportunity for those who wanted to present other issues and presenters, speakers for consideration to the Board, outside the three minute allotted time.

Chair Ecclestone indicated that he would need to know details of the presenters, as the Board would be contacting over 10 consultants over the next few months.

Miles Coon, resident of the Reef, commented regarding action by the Board versus

discussion, as there was an emergency situation at the beaches.

Chair Ecclestone indicated that their recommendation would be provided to the Town Council before on or before November of 2009.

Ellen Howe, 2295 S. Ocean Blvd., Harbor House, commented that there was an emergency situation at Harbor House, as Jim Bowser and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) visited that site last September. She asked about the outcome and the plan was.

Mr. Brazil indicated that he would look into the matter and let her know.

Peter Pettie, 3400 S. Ocean Blvd., commented regarding the problems in the Town as far back as 10 years ago. He noted that the Town did not want to maintain the groins, which was the reason for the problem today.

Chair Ecclestone commented that groins would have been less expensive than putting sand on the beaches every several years.

Member Goldstein commented that the water could not be touched during the month of March due to the turtle nesting season.

VII. SOME PERSPECTIVE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN'S ORIGINAL SHORE PROTECTION BOARD [Garrison Lickle]

Gary Lickle, 400 S. Ocean Blvd., as Chairman of the prior Shore Protection Board, provided an overview of the Town's original Shore Protection Board, including the following comments:

- Since 1984, he had watched the waves up against the seawall, the removal of the groins, the revetment project, the PEP reef, and the eventual groins and the nourishment of mid-town beach.
- The challenge of the Board was that everyone solicited was an expert, having their own opinion on what should be done.
- Listened to every expert for three years.
- Plan was for ten years.
- No silver bullet could solve shore problems.

- Treatments were expensive.
- There was a need listen to credited professionals to understand the current technology.
- At the implementation stage, do not want to manage by crisis, so they need to take their time to develop a plan and then follow through with it.
- The largest obstacle was the Army Corps of Engineers, the permitting process, and the State's view of what could and could not be done.
- The advocacy of groins was the perfect world. However, the State of Florida, Army Corps of Engineers, and the FDEP would not permit it, unless their perspective changed.
- A broader constituent base was needed, which would include all of the affected cities and towns, in order to lobby for any changes to be made.

He reviewed the 12 bullets listed in the summary that was contained in the original Shore Protection Board's Executive Report, along with commentaries on what was learned.

Responding to Board Member Raffo, Mr. Lickle noted that there were obstacles of permitting, cost, and ultimately the neighbors to the south, for Reaches 7 and 8 projects. Groin-filled, inlet to inlet, would have been the perfect solution.

Board Member Katz thanked Mr. Lickle for his presentation. He summarized the accomplishments of the Town in the last 20 years that was proposed in the Comprehensive Plan. Mid-Town Beach was nourished three times, Reach 7 in 2006, and it would be duplicated on Reach 8, if a permit is obtained.

Town Manager Elwell commented that there were additional accomplishments, but that Mr. Katz correctly identified the three full scale beach restoration projects.

Board Member Frank commented on the Countywide Coastal Council, and indicated that Gail Coniglio, a member of the Town Council, was a representative on the Council, and he added that there were known hot spots regarding beach restoration.

Town Manager Elwell noted that David Rosow was also a member of the Countywide Coastal Council as a representative of the League of Cities.

Chair Ecclestone thanked and complimented Mr. Lickle on his leadership.

VIII. EROSIONAL HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH AND REVIEW OF BASIC COASTAL PROCESSES

[Dr. Robert Dean, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida]

Dr. Robert Dean, University of Florida, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the history of the Town and a review of basic coastal processes.

Several of Dr. Dean's responses to questions were as follows:

- Provided an explanation of the principle of mitigation: it provided a hard structure for the natural hard bottoms that were covered by beach nourishment.
- The Town's goal of replacement of sand should be 100%, and feeding the north end of the island at the natural rate would be ideal. There was some interest in reinstating the net long shore sediment transport along the east coast of Florida. He suggested looking for more distant sources of sand that were more abundant.
- When the template was full, the sand placed in the near shore ends up on the beach, but it takes a very long time. It was recommended that sand be placed in water depths less than 12', which was outside the conventional depth of closure.
- He had not worked with the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, and he did not know about the projects of the neighbors to the south and north, nor if they were permitted; he did see a sketch of the design of the permit of the project to the south. He had not seen any communities in the State of Florida where the application had been used, only in very erosional hot spots, i.e. south of the South Lake Worth Inlet.
- He was not involved in the Reach 7 project, but he had read about it. The overfill factor highest point was 1.65.
- If a structure is placed on a beach, it would fill up on the north side, erode on the south side. If another structure was placed to correct erosion on the south side, the problem would be transferred farther south.
- He would be concerned about the potential impact further south, regarding the segmented breakwaters that were intended to be placed off of Singer Island. He noted that a permit requirement should require that they be covered with sand.

Director of Public Works Paul Brazil noted that whether to self mitigate or not on the offshore breakwaters was an issue that had not been resolved regarding Singer Island and the Town of South Palm Beach.

Discussion continued regarding structures, and Dr. Dean noted that installing structures would be difficult and once you started, it would have to continue.

Dr. Dean indicated that it would be worthwhile to discuss with the designers for the projects on the west coast, and also there was a mile of T-Head groins in Deerfield Beach, an option that should be examined.

IX. REPORT REGARDING FLORIDA SHORE AND BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE [Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

Item IX. was deferred until the next meeting.

X. MONTHLY REPORT ON SHORELINE CONDITION [Robert Weber, Coastal Coordinator]

Item X. was deferred until the next meeting.

XI. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS REGARDING LAKE WORTH INLET, REACH 1, AND REACH 2 [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

Item X I. was deferred until the next meeting.

XII. PORT OF PALM BEACH PRESENTATION REGARDING LOCAL DREDGING OF LAKE WORTH INLET [Manuel Almira, Executive Director, Port of Palm Beach]

Tom Lundeen, Deputy Director and Port Engineer, Port of Palm Beach, provided a presentation about the local dredging of the Lake Worth Inlet.

Deputy Director Lundeen proposed the idea that the Town of Palm Beach and the Port of

Palm Beach engage in a partnership to dredge the Lake Worth Inlet.

Discussion occurred among the Board members and staff and several of the following comments were made:

- It was a good idea and would be a win-win situation, as it kept the beaches to the south filled with sand.
- It would be a significant amount of work to identify the cost, and new permits would be required for dredging.
- The dredge would have to be built, although a used one could be bought; a new one would take 8 to 9 months to build.
- The dredge would supplement and be an additional cost to the Sand Transfer Plant, which cost up to \$300,000 a year to operate.
- Tri-party agreement with the County was recommended.

Motion made by Board Member Frank to bring before the Town Council for recommendations.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Town Manager Elwell suggested that staff should work together to develop the idea further, along with Palm Beach County, and bring it before the Shore Protection Board when it was more concrete. The Board agreed by consensus to proceed as Mr. Elwell suggested.

Penny Cutt, former U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee, noted that new state legislation mandated the placement of sand on the down drift beaches.

XIII. PROPOSAL FOR INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF REACH 7 PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND THE "ERICKSON REPORT" FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD IN MARCH

The Board discussed hiring a firm called ATM to conduct an independent review. Part of the study would include the review of the Erickson Report. Town Manager Elwell indicated that if the Board agreed to hire ATM at today's meeting, then the plan was to have ATM provide their report at the second March meeting (March 26, 2009) of the Shore Protection Board.

Chair Ecclestone stated that whatever recommendations that ATM reports will be the final word.

Motion made by Member Goldstein and seconded by member Hicks to approve ATM, not to exceed \$10,000 in costs.

There were several comments from the public that disagreed with the Motion. Chair Ecclestone asked representatives from the five condominiums that participated in the hiring of the Erickson group, to come back in two weeks with response to the ATM report being the final word and if they would be in agreement with that.

Member Goldstein withdrew his motion.

Member Hicks made a Motion, seconded by member Goldstein, to wait two more weeks, get the condominium approvals, to use ATM to review a report. On voice vote, the Motion passed with Member Katz dissenting.

XIV. ACCELERATION OF SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEETINGS TO PREPARE A LONG TERM PLAN OF PROJECTS AND OTHER ACTIONS (WITH OPTIONS) FOR TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY NOVEMBER OF 2009

Town Manager Elwell indicated that the Town Council asked for recommendations from the Shore Board by its November Town Council meeting.

Member Goldstein said that some of the guest speakers should include the recommended people/firms that Mr. William Cooley would like to hear from. Mr. Cooley was asked to submit the names to the Board or Town staff. The meetings will occur every two weeks for the next several months.

Per Member Lindsay-Buck's recommendation, Town Manager Elwell asked the Board to submit to him two lists: objectives and a list of people that they would like to hear speak to the Board.

XV. TOWN-WIDE AND REACH SPECIFIC MAPS FOR SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBER USE [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

Mr. Brazil asked for approval to contract for the production of maps for the members and one large wall-to-wall map that would be in the Engineering building. This would allow for the Board members to easily access photos of the areas that were being discussed.

Motion to approve Mr. Brazil's suggestion was made by member Katz and seconded by Member Goldstein. On voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding adding locations of the groins and the time frame was to have this completed by next month.

XVI. SCHEDULING OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Staff Proposes March 12 and March 26. The Board agreed to those two dates and to meet on April 8, 2009.

It was decided for the next few months, there would be an accelerated schedule for meetings bi-monthly until the board was educated on all of the shore issues.

XVII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- FDEP Presentation of State Program and Permitting Requirements (March 12)
- USACE Presentation of Federal Permitting Requirements (April)
- Further Review of Reach 7 Performance and Possible Remedial Actions (March)
- Mid-Town (Reaches 3, 4, & 5)
- Town-Wide Erosion Rate Analysis ("Sediment Budget")
- Structures (Presentations by Experts)
- Alternative/Innovative Technologies
- County Breakwater Projects

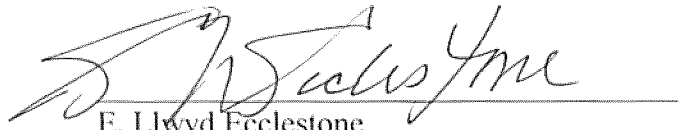
Town Manager Elwell indicated that the structure topic should be discussed at the March 26th meeting, and the Sand Transfer Plant will be discussed at the March 12th meeting.

Member Katz wanted to discuss the agenda process. This was discussed initially at the first meeting. If a member has an item to be added to the agenda, then it can be e-mailed to the Town Manager who will confer with Chair Ecclestone, who is the person responsible for approving the agenda.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Shore Protection Board meeting was adjourned at 12:50p.m.

APPROVED:



E. Llwyd Ecclestone
Chairman