

MINUTES OF THE SJPBAC MEETING, DECEMBER 9, 2005

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CO-CHAIRMAN RAY GOLZ AT 1:05 P.M.
Former chairman Bill Kennedy has resigned.

II. ROSTER AND ROLL CALL: Paula passed out a roster for everybody. First 14 people are considered the working committee and voting members (attached as Attachment A)

11 VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ray Golz, Laurel Eiler, Tom Graney, Steve Newman, Ron Westmark, Charlie Weston, Steve Conroy, Edward Wood, Marsha Henry, Roland Wilson, Susan Wright

NOT PRESENT:

Bill Cleveland, Mel Madgison, Joe Pafumy

ALSO PRESENT, INTERESTED CITIZENS:

Fay Westmark, Ron Shaffer, Buzz Geoghagan, Bey & Beverly Brown, Linda Wood, Richard Brenner, Joe Barbay, Julia Cunningham

ALSO PRESENT, OFFICIALS AND AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Phil Ciarvella, FDEP, Don Butler, County Manager, Commissioner Bill Williams, Harold Mitchell, St. Joe State Park, Lorna Patrick US Fish & Wildlife, Howard Lovette, FDOT project manager

Brief overview by subject matter experts was given of their background and interest and/or involvement with the beach restoration project.

FDOT: Howard said what happens with the restoration project will have impact on what FDOT's engineers recommend. There will be public hearings on the matter and what people say will have a lot to do with the alternative selected. Offered to help and give candid input whenever possible. Ray asked Howard a question about how beach restoration might impact the road. Howard said the difference is the 25 million dollar bridge or 50 million dollar bridge. Can't speak for DOT and doesn't know if they'll participate in any beach renourishment, but it will be brought up as an alternative. They will have a value engineering study and are hopeful to bring in coastal engineers from UF on the subject and look at cost/benefit of whatever

they have to do. Sometime in March or April this will occur and would like somebody to come up for four or five days to participate in the meeting in Chipley. The meeting will be to look at alternatives and take input from the experts and anybody who has information to present.

Don brought up the beach association conferences in spring and fall. Another conference is the National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology in Sarasota January 30-February 1. Registration fee is \$395 - Paula stated TDC approved the sending of one person to that conference.

IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES:

Minutes were read. Call for changes or additions.

MOVED AND SECONDED the minutes be approved. Motion passed, 11-0.

V. SUNSHINE LAW CLARIFICATION. Second page of handout covers Sunshine Law. All meetings are public and noticed and public welcome to attend. Work done by task forces or subcommittees when fact-finding are exempt. Do not make recommendations - present facts to BAC and then the full committee makes recommendations. Tim McFarland was unable to attend. Need additional clarification on committees and what is considered fact-finding. Get guidance on phone conferences.

VI. FDEP MATCHING STATUS TO DATE. Ray asked Phil to review how the match is determined and where we are to date.

1. Funding based on public access to the beach - parks, parking, cape palms, state park. If 100% of shoreline was considered accessible to the public, 50% matching funds would be available from FDEP.
2. Based on our accessibility, length versus public access, we're in the 12% to 20% at this point for state match. Ways to increase accessibility by increasing parking and access. Rish Park isn't generally considered open to the public although it's state-owned land. If that can be worked out to gain a separate foot-path access at the extreme south end, that would increase the public access a lot and increase the level of funding from the state. (No use of the actual facilities such as the lodging or pool is required nor being sought.)
3. Bill Kennedy is doing a mapping of exactly where the access points will be. To date, we have been offered two privately-owned access points as

easements but have not actually begun soliciting others yet. We need 50 parking spaces every half-mile (can be parallel parking on the roadside or angle parking from a 10-foot deeded easement strip).

4. Sally Davenport with Coastal Tech is working on exploring feasibility of getting resort credits for Barrier Dunes, SeaCliffs, etc.

VII. ENGINEERING UPDATE. Charlie Weston gave an update on MDR's work (the coastal engineer). Michael Dombrowski was not able to attend, but he did speak at the CCA meeting and Charlie summarized that presentation and the work done to date. The engineering study is due to be completed the end of February and we will know the exact costs and recommendations for sand sites, structures, etc., at that time. The new slides shown at his presentation gave a good representation of the possible sand sites under consideration and what the breakwaters might be like, as well as a representation of what the beach would be like, with restored dunes and walkovers as part of the plan. Michael will be present at our January meeting and has asked for a time slot to present findings and bring us up to date on the project status.

VIII. WEBSITE.

Laurel pointed out the lag time from when events occur and the point at which a newsflash is posted. Tim McFarland advised that if a newsflash is informational only, we don't need to have it approved by him and that should improve our ability to post important information in a timely manner. The PR committee would like to add the information about purchasing t-shirts online. Paula has stated that TDC can handle the distribution of the t-shirts if we collect an additional \$5 or appropriate amount to compensate TDC for the postage and Alicia's time to mail them. PR committee would also like to pursue putting a "pay pal" donation button on the site. People may wish to show financial support for the project but currently don't have a simple method to make a donation.

Discussion occurred on the addition of a message board to the website. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to add a board. Motion passed 11-0. Laurel or Paula will contact Rick Lambertson and get it set up and going forward.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

1. COMMUNICATION: Discussion on improving communication with the community in general, possibly using the lighted sign at the fire department or message

boards. Paula noted funds had been approved and permission received to place a secure notification board at the BP. Discussion occurred on having signs placed identifying the unincorporated area of St. Josephs Peninsula. Don Butler advised that request should be made to DOT. Discussion occurred on how to use the Stronge economic report and distributing the information to the residents of the county. Tom discussed the impact on local businesses and an effort to get businesses to support the project and display a window sticker or some other indicator of their support.

2. COMMITTEES OR WORKGROUPS (WITH ROSTER FROM SIGNUP SHEETS THAT WERE PASSED AROUND):

Communications, PR, marketing. Responsible for website, producing public info materials, press releases, marketing, email lists, mail lists.

MEMBERS: Tom Graney volunteered to chair. Ron Westmark, Laurel Eiler, Susan Wright & Julia Cunningham.

Funding. So far been focused on the MSTU because of the timing requirements to get it in place to be available for any portion of the funding as required by the projected timeline, but other funding options from a variety of sources will be investigated and explored.

MEMBERS: Charlie Weston, Steve Conroy, Bill Cleveland, Edward Wood, Marsha Henry, Susan Wright & Ray Golz.

Beach Access. Work on identifying and securing the access points, parking, etc., to maximize public access and FDEP matching contribution.

MEMBERS: Tom Graney, Laurel Eiler, Julia Cunningham & Susan Wright.

Environmental Impact Committee. Review plans when finalized by the engineer and provide comment and input on potential environmental impacts. Work with state and federal agencies on these issues.

MEMBERS: Edward Wood, Ron Westmark & Steve Newman.

Economic Impact & Engineering Feasibility Review Committee. Review the economic impact report and be sure it's complete and answers all the questions that are relevant to the community and the project. Paula noted the TDC commissioned and paid for that study. Tom noted TDC has not yet released the final report or decided exactly how to release it. Paula said once it's approved it becomes public record. Committee would also review engineering study prior to finalization to make sure it addresses all relevant issues to the community.

MEMBERS: Roland Wilson, Steve Newman & Ron Westmark.

3. COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT, PURPOSE, AUTHORITY, ETC.

Discussion occurred on mission, goals and funding of the committee. Paula noted the TDC established a fund of \$55,000 dedicated to the advancement of beach restoration as a dedicated line item. The SJPBAC has a \$5,000 allotment for operating expenses, surveys, etc., and ability to request more.

Discussion occurred on the proposed mission statement. At the conclusion of the discussion a resolution for the mission statement as follows was **MOVED, SECONDED**, and passed 11-0.

Whereas, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners has created the St. Josephs Peninsula Beach Advisory committee. It has the following mission statement:

"To bring about the successful restoration of the beach of St. Josephs Peninsula no later than December 31st, 2007, and to devise a follow-on plan for future beach maintenance. This goal to be accomplished in accordance with the guidance of the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners."

Additional bullet points for goals will be prepared by Don Butler with input from the committee and provided for attachment to the minutes.

4. COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

The committee chairmanship was discussed due to the resignation of Bill Kennedy. Charlie Weston stated his desire to step down as co-vice chair.

MOVED, SECONDED, and passed 11-0 to elect Ray Golz as the new committee chair.

MOVED, SECONDED, and passed 11-0 to elect Susan Wright as a co-chair.

MOVED, SECONDED, and passed 11-0 to elect Laurel Eiler as a co-chair. Additionally Laurel will continue her role as committee secretary and be responsible for preparation of minutes. Paula will continue to work with the chair and co-chairs on agenda preparation and distribution.

5. HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan) & ITP (Incidental Take Permit) issues. Don Butler brought up the subject of the application two years ago which has not yet been acted on. He noted it will be relevant when moving forward with the restoration plan and discussion occurred on the subject.

6. MDR REPRESENTATIVE. It was noted that with Bill Kennedy's resignation from the committee MDR should elect another designee to attend our meetings in accordance with their contract.

7. MSTUs. Extensive discussion occurred on the MSTUs as advertised and the concerns of various committee members with regard to the millage rate's current legal cap, the term of the MSTUs, etc.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the following resolution was MOVED, SECONDED, and passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0 (Charlie Weston and Steve Conroy were not present for the vote).

The SJPBAC recommends the Gulf County Board of Commissioners pass the three MSTUs with caps of 6 for the gulf-front, 4 for the interior and 2 for the bay side but emphasizing that the millage rate that will be set on the MSTUs can only be as high as needed to meet the debt service annually and the length of term for these millage rates will not exceed the time it takes to pay off that original bond debt. If the referendum for any particular geographic MSTU fails, that MSTU will be rescinded.

The resolution with any necessary letter of explanation will be presented to the commission at the 12/13 meeting and made a part of the record.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 5:55 p.m.

RESOLUTION
of the
ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RE: Mission Statement

The under-named persons representing voting members of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Advisory Committee who were present at the duly called and convened regular meeting of this committee on December 9, 2005, do hereby consent to adopt the following Resolution, and direct that this consent be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of this committee.

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Advisory Committee (the "Beach Committee") was formed by action of the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (the "Board of Commissioners") on August 9, 2005, for the purpose of providing clear and informed guidance to Gulf County and its contractors as information, strategies, design and financing options are developed for a Beach Erosion Control Project, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners thereafter desired to broaden the local representation of the Beach Committee through the recent appointment of five new voting members, and

WHEREAS, the Beach Committee now desires to achieve unanimous agreement among its voting membership as to the appropriate mission to be accomplished by the activities of this committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Beach Committee hereby restates and approves the following mission statement:

"The mission of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Advisory Committee is to bring about the successful restoration of the beach of St. Joseph Peninsula no later than December 31, 2007, and to devise a follow-on plan for future beach maintenance. This mission is to be accomplished in accordance with forthcoming guidance from the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners."

ADOPTED, by unanimous affirmative vote, by the following Beach Committee members on December 9, 2005.

Steve Conroy (Y)
Laurel Eiler (Y)
Ray Golz (Y)
Tom Graney (Y)
Marsha Henry (Y)
Steve Newman (Y)
Ron Westmark (Y)
Charlie Weston (Y)
Roland Wilson (Y)
Edward Wood (Y)
Susan Wright (Y)

Ray Golz, Chairman

RESOLUTION
of the
ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RE: Municipal Service Taxing Units

The under-named persons representing voting members of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Advisory Committee who were present at the duly called and convened regular meeting of this committee on December 9, 2005, do hereby consent to adopt the following Resolutions, and direct that this consent be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of this committee.

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (the “Board of Commissioners”) on December 13, 2005, will consider the adoption of ordinances authorizing three separate Municipal Service Taxing Units (the “MSTUs”) for the purpose of providing beach erosion control and re-nourishment services, facilities and programs on St. Joseph Peninsula, and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Advisory Committee (the “Beach Committee”) believes the option of using MSTUs to raise local matching funds beginning in 2006 is vitally important for the purpose of restoring the critically eroding Gulf beaches on St. Joseph Peninsula, and

WHEREAS, the Beach Committee desires that the Board of Commissioners make certain modifications and qualifications in the text defining the three MSTU ordinances currently being proposed prior to their adoption in order to better satisfy the concerns of affected tax payers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Beach Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt three MSTU ordinances designated as Cape San Blas *Gulfside Beachfront*, *Gulfside Interior* and *Bayside*, and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Beach Committee requests that the Board of Commissioners amend the text of each of these MSTU ordinances so as to effectively cap the levy of annual ad valorem taxes NOT TO EXCEED 6 mills for *Gulfside Beachfront*, 4 mills for *Gulfside Interior* and 2 mills for *Bayside* properties, and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Beach Committee requests that the Board of Commissioners add language to each MSTU ordinance to specify that the millage rate that will be levied for each MSTU can only be as high as needed, and retained only for as long as necessary, to satisfy the retirement of debt as described in Section 5 of the ordinances, and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Beach Committee requests that the Board of Commissioners include a provision in the text of each MSTU ordinance stating that should a bond referendum as described in Section 5 of each ordinance fail to be approved by the voters that such rejection will cause that particular MSTU to be rescinded or otherwise become null and void.

ADOPTED, by unanimous affirmative vote, by the following Beach Committee members on December 9, 2005.

Laurel Eiler	(Y)	Ron Westmark	(Y)
Ray Golz	(Y)	Roland Wilson	(Y)
Tom Graney	(Y)	Edward Wood	(Y)
Marsha Henry	(Y)	Susan Wright	(Y)
Steve Newman	(Y)		

Ray Golz, Chairman