

HIGHLIGHTS AND POINTS OF INTEREST FROM JANUARY BAC MEETING

1. ENGINEERING AND SAND SEARCH REPORTS:

- Michael Dombrowski is making significant progress.
- His preference of three options presented, supported by unanimous motion of the committee, is to pursue an option with three factors of note.
- Factor 1, the project is extended southward from the Stump Hole. This will protect the road and the lighthouse as a side benefit of also making the project more effective and increase the time before estimated renourishment. It does mean the Eglin Air Force Base will potentially be involved.
- Factor 2, the option involves the use of groins placed at the southernmost point of the project. The groins are the least expensive structure option presented and provide more flexibility than the other option presented.
- Factor 3, the "borrow site" options no longer include the shoals off the tip of the Cape.
- In a meeting with DEP this week, their input was very favorable and supportive of the plan.
- The sand search is going well and the core samples are showing good sand quality and color. As described by the DEP geologist, "it's really pretty."
- Howard Lovette pointed out the importance of getting our preliminary information to the FDOT before they do their Value Engineering study in March. Members of the BAC were invited to attend the FDOT meeting in Chipley. FDOT money, while not supported by any precedent, still is not out of the question.

2. MEETING WITH SPEAKER BENSE.

- Members of the committee will be meeting with Speaker Bense along with some county officials and commissioners, Michael Dombrowski, and Phil Flood to explore funding options beyond the beach management program.
- Discussion will focus on our designation as a rural area of economic concern, among other things.
- Goal is to look for additional funding sources that will further reduce the Gulf County matching share.

3. REFERENDUM VOTE IN MARCH MAY BE AN INSURMOUNTABLE HURDLE.

- Engineering final report not expected until mid to late February. Without final cost projections, it's impossible to inform nonresident or resident

property owners sufficiently to allow them to make an informed decision on the cost/benefit of the project.

- Committee is looking to the commission for guidance and support for the possibility of pushing the vote to a later date (realizing we must have the vote in time for the commission to make any commitments to the state on funding match).

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS.

- The committee will be looking to begin grant applications for any possible funding for constructing public access walkovers, restrooms, parking signage, etc. If the grant writer is on board, their input on any possible additional grants to offset any of the beach restoration project costs would be deeply appreciated as soon as possible.

JANUARY 13, 2006, SJPBAC MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES

RAY GOLTZ CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:10 P.M.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 1:10 P.M. BY CHAIRMAN GOLZ.
ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

RAY GOLTZ, CHAIRMAN, VOTING
PAULA PICKET, TDC, NONVOTING
TOM GRANEY, VOTING
RON WESTMARK, VOTING
ROLAND WILSON, VOTING
LAUREL EILER, CO-CHAIR, VOTING
SUSAN WRIGHT, CO-CHAIR, VOTING
HAROLD MITCHELL, BIOLOGIST STATE PARK, TECHNICAL ADVISORY
LORNA PATRICK, US FISH & WILDLIFE
MELODY RAY CULP, US Fish & Wildlife
STEVE NEWMAN, VOTING MEMBER
BUD ARNOLD, ASHWOOD REPRESENTATIVE
ANDREA HEARD, RESIDENT IN PROJECT AREA
REX ANDERSON, RESIDENT IN PROJECT AREA
ANNE ANDERSON, RESIDENT IN PROJECT AREA
MARIE LOGAN, THE STAR
HOWARD LOVETTE, FDOT
MARSHA HENRY, VOTING MEMBER
DIANE GUESS, VOTING MEMBER
DEBBIE HOOPER, RESIDENT
BILL CLEVELAND, VOTING MEMBER
STEVE CONROY, VOTING MEMBER
JOE BARBAY, BARRIER DUNES REPRESENTATIVE

II. APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The resolution drafted by Chairman Golz on the mission statement was read to the committee. (A COPY OF THE FOLLOW ON GUIDELINES TO BE ATTACHED; NEED TO GET FROM THE BOCC.) The resolution on the MSTUs drafted by Chairman Golz was read to the committee. Discussion on the resolution occurred. **A MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH NO CHANGES, WITH RESOLUTIONS ATTACHED. MOTION PASSED 11-0**

III. MICHAEL DOMBROWSKI COASTAL ENGINEERING REPORT (POWERPOINT PRESENTATION) KEY POINTS FROM PRESENTATION.

- A. Three options were presented: a "sand only" approach (requires 4.8 million cubic yards and loses 1.7 million to the south), a sand with breakwaters (requires 4 million and loses 265,000 to the south and retains 540,000 cubic yards in place) and a sand with groin placement (performs as well as the breakwaters, retains 30% more sand, costs less and provides more flexibility to adjust the groins to conditions). Due to the findings thus far, the project is recommended to now extend beyond Stump Hole and the lighthouse approximately 1 mile further south than originally proposed. DEP supports this finding for project performance.
- B. Michael is trying to set up a meeting with the Air Force regarding the part of the project south of Stump Hole.
- C. The protection of Stump Hole was discussed and presenting the project to FDOT prior to their Value Engineering Study in March. Howard Lovette continued to encourage our participation in that meeting in Chipley in March.
- D. Questions were asked about the overall approach to the project. When constructed, the project will have a "critical line" that's approximately 25 to 35 feet further out than the current shoreline. When the shoreline erodes back to that point, that's when renourishment would be done. That point still provides upland structure protection. The performance of the project was estimated at 7.5 years before that line is reached. In addition to the beach being increased in elevation an average of 5 feet, the dune line will be constructed with walkovers. The dunes will be 10 to 12 feet high and again provide protection to the structures behind them. Mean high water would be extended out about 100 feet. Care will be taken not to impede turtle nesting and will also provide a "shelf" to increase performance of the fill for storm protection.
- E. Study findings indicate if not mitigated, it's possible that the erosion will expand to the east/west portion of the cape as well. The wave angle has been changing since even before Hurricane Opal and the angle of attack, from about 1993 forward, began to cut into the shoreline, causing the higher levels of erosion. The sand is transported to the north tip of the cape in the state park.
- F. Questions and concerns about whether the in-water structures would be approved. Both the breakwaters and the groins would be large enough to break the surface. Breakwaters particularly create fish habitat, but even the groins will do so to some extent. There is precedent for them. Groins may require more monitoring for turtle nesting impact, but they are being used on the east coast and Lorna Patrick will check with her counterparts who have experience with them to bring us more information on what will be involved. Permitting from both FDEP and Federal agencies has been obtained in other areas for these types of structures. Discussion occurred on placement of the groins and

breakwaters. The locations of the groins would have a positive benefit to the lighthouse.

- G. Additional questions were asked about the Air Force base and how extending the project would affect us with costs, permits, etc. Michael is going to be making contact ASAP to get answers from the Air Force and see what their position is with regard to the project and their possible participation in it. Paula noted that historically the area of the lighthouse prior to 1990 was a huge fishing area and a main access point for beach driving.
- H. SAND SOURCE was discussed. Currently taking cores offshore. They've taken 10 to 15 of the 45 to 50 cores they plan to harvest. In his meeting with the DEP on this week, Michael asked the state geologist how the cores from the most promising area looked and received very favorable feedback. Really white sand and slightly coarser than what's on shore, which will 'stick" to the beach and perform really well. **THE BORROW SITE OFF THE TIP OF THE CAPE SHOALS HAS BEEN ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION DUE TO ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS, WAVE ENERGY, ETC.** Currently looking at a borrow site about a mile offshore in the areas of R85-95. The impact of removing the sand appears to not affect the wave patterns, etc., at all.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED to proceed with the groin option. After discussion, the motion passed 11-0.

- IV. OLD BUSINESS: BEACH CONFERENCE IN SARASOTA. Engineering people to attend. TDC allocated funds for one individual including travel, room & board, conf. registration. Ray suggests the chairman goes to the meeting from that committee. Ray will probably be going as well.
- V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - A. FINANCE COMMITTEE. Steve Conroy reported on their subcommittee meeting. The goal of the finance committee is to discuss all possible local and state funding options, public and private, with the ultimate goal being to minimize the local portion of property tax owners' burden. Supplemental sources, suggestions to explore: realtor license fees, builder/developer impact fees, real estate closing impact fees on project area properties, formation of foundation for private donations from businesses and individuals with vested interests (also make sure those people are recognized with possibly a billboard or sign), an increase in the TDC bed tax to raise additional revenues, possible

sales tax revenues, fundraisers through a festival or food fair to raise public awareness, sale of merchandise like hats and shirts, and possible beach driving assessments supplemental to what's currently being charged. Some members of the BAC will be meeting with Speaker Bense a week from next Tuesday, the 24th. Michael Dombrowski will be there. Discussion will include possible state financial participation outside of the traditional beach management program. Paula noted that something to address with Bense was Gulf County's designation as a rural area of critical economic concern (one of only three in the State of Florida). Laurel asked to include Phil Flood in the meeting. On the goals and objectives of the committee, Susan will vent alternative funding sources through Tim McFarland and no later than the next meeting on 2/10 will be in a position to report back on what can be done.

- B. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT COMMITTEE. The main issues are to get with the various state agencies and understand any potential issues upfront and address them or consider them in the design if possible along with keeping the rest of the committee informed on what the issues are. Quality of the beach sand has been a big issue. Question was asked of Michael; doesn't DEP have specifications as far as sand criteria? There's certain criteria, the color, size of sand, performance.

- C. ECONOMIC IMPACT AND ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE. Met last week, but the committee was still looking for a mission until they came today and they found out more what they needed to do. They're waiting for the economic and engineering reports. Paula noted that all that is missing in Stronge's report is what happens if we don't do the restoration. There was also discussion on the engineering plans, when presented to the BOCC that perhaps an interim report can be made available at the beginning to middle of February before the presentation. Also noted that the report should be given to the commissioners in advance and personal follow-up to see if they have questions prior to the meeting. It was discussed to put Michael's PowerPoint presentation, once finalized, on the website for anybody to view. Some members of the committee requested a copy of it as well for their use. Lois noted that for our purposes we should consider two pages of three-column type in bookman 9 font to be the maximum length of anything to hold a reader's attention.

- D. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. Tom Graney volunteered to be chair and reported the goal to finalize a product to communicate with residents and absentee owners. Compiling names, mailing addresses, etc. And need to decide what to communicate to them with – newsletter, website, telephone calls, etc., to get on the same page and stop rumors and concerns and unnecessary adversarial relationships. Have a goal to engage more business owners. Try to be marketing/public relations contact for general public throughout the county. Make presentation and design the presentation to define the problem and talk about the solution and try to move the entire county into a supportive mode and get funds from the county for dune walkovers, whatever, and develop a schedule of communications through June or July to maintain this activity. Wants to have a single point of contact for questions or comments. There is concern that the referendum cannot be on the ballot in March because too much of the information on costs, engineering, etc., will not be available until late February. Laurel recommended we contact the BOCC and let them know we would prefer to have the vote later if at all possible and get their input on the situation. Susan and Laurel will work from the communications committee to send the commissioners and also follow up with a contact by phone. Laurel will provide full minutes to the BOCC and bullet points and the chairs will coordinate contact with the commissioners if they have questions. Full committee to be provided with what the commissions are provided with. Ron will contact Linda Griffin about the cost of the election.
- E. BEACH ACCESS COMMITTEE – Ray will inform Julia Cunningham that we elected her chair in her absence. Laurel and Susan will email Tim McFarland with the questions from the goals and objectives statement and also email Phil Flood to get more specifics on the accesses and how to maximize the FDEP match (emails sent by laurel and Susan on 1/15/06).

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:30 P.M.