

SJPBAC MEETING, FEBRUARY 10, 2006
APPROVED MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL –

Ray Golz, Chair

Tom Graney, voting member

Laurel Eiler, Co-Chair

Susan Wright, Co-Chair

Michael Dombrowski

Charlie Weston, voting member

Bill Cleveland, voting member

Roland Wilson, voting member

Anne Anderson, communication committee, nonvoting

Steve Conroy, voting member

Diane Guess, voting member

Marsha Henry, voting member

Ron Westmark, voting member

Kim Wren, DEP Aquatic Preserve Manager

Roy Ogles, DEP managed lands oversight

Ron Schaffer, concerned citizen

Andrea Heard, communications committee, nonvoting

Steve Newman, voting member

Harold Mitchell, SJP State Park

Phil Ciaravella, DEP

Phil Flood, DEP

Joy Barbay, concerned citizen

Shep Gonzales, concerned citizen

Bill Williams, BOCC

Don Butler, county manager

Paula Ramsey Pickett, TDC

Julia Cunningham, communications and beach access committees, nonvoting member

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MINUTES. Motion was made and seconded, passed 12-0

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. FINANCE COMMITTEE -- STEVE CONROY. Reported on the meeting with Speaker Bense. Said it was a favorable meeting and the speaker was brought up to speed on the status of the proposed beach restoration project. Stated he firmly supports it and promised to assist but we have to also support it financially as a community. Speaker Bense was asked for help on two specific areas: Getting access to an isolated portion of Rish Park for a public beach access

walkover and helping explore and encourage FDOT financial participation. Also noted Phil Flood advised the speaker that our group was the most organized he had ever seen and our progress was impressive.

The committee held a meeting this morning and were working on a timeline and have to talk about what has to happen by when. Another meeting of the committee is tentatively set for a week from Monday. There is a meeting with FDOT in the next few weeks with Michael and also the Chipley meeting is coming up in March.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT – STEVE NEWMAN. Next meeting in the next week or so and getting input from Buffer Preserve and US Fish and Wildlife. Ray asked for the environmental committee to bring us up to date at the next committee meeting.

C. ENGINEERING & ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES COMMITTEE – RON WESTMARK. Committee members feel as if they'll be doing a lot of redundant work and want to fold it into communications. Roland says put it all in plain English and give it to the communications committee. Roland says a lot of what's in the Stronge report isn't correct. Errors as identified will be provided so they can be passed to Dr. Stronge for explanation and/or correction. Ray noted we're due the final report soon and asked for this committee to take a look at it for errors, etc. What about getting Dr. Stronge to come and be available to the committee at the next meeting? New final study will have the forecast of what happens if we do nothing. After further discussion, the committee will continue to function and review the two studies. Michael will be providing a draft report at the end of February. Michael will possibly provide a draft executive report before the end of the month.

D. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – TOM GRANEY. Completed the final draft on two products we're working on now. First is a brochure as a mailer for every property owner in the project area as a background piece to bring people up to the same level of knowledge and why we need it, etc. Second piece is a "rack card" for local businesses to use to show their support and help raise public awareness. In the area of advertising, Julia Cunningham has been working with the Star, St. Joe News Network, Waterfront for May issue, first round of advertising is free and in some cases several rounds. Committee is finishing the mailing list editing. Let Tom know if you want to work on it. Ron asked that all members of the committee get any final drafts of proposed projects before we are asked to give input. A recess was taken so people who had not reviewed the documents could do so.

Motion was made and seconded to accept and distribute the mailer. Motion passed 12-0.

Motion was made and seconded to accept and distribute the rack card. Motion passed 12.0.

Motion was made and seconded to approve \$2,000 for the cost of the printing of both pieces and envelopes to send the mailer in. Motion passed 12-0.

The mailer will be placed on the website and an eblast sent out to everybody in the database.

E. BEACH ACCESS COMMITTEE – Laurel gave a quick PowerPoint to bring people up to date. The committee needs to get an FAQ from the county and the attorney so they can begin approaching property owners about the possibility of granting an easement. There was discussion on the concern of owners on the cape of how much they would be impacted by these easements. The committee will work to emphasize that the public accesses we do have are currently very seldom used, the Stump Hole access will be the most likely stopping point for people coming to the cape, and that nobody will be “forced” to grant an easement. The committee is working on distributing factual information to ease public concern.

IV. PROJECT ENGINEER’S REPORT – Project cost estimates range from \$21.6 million to \$18 million, depending on project scope, length, participation by FDOT, Eglin AFB, etc. [this item clarified with Mr. Dombrowski after the meeting for accuracy in minutes] Fuel costs are up, however, and bid prices have gone up quite a bit over the last year. There was discussion about cost overruns and Michael advised the only time our bid price would change to do overruns would be if we changed the project. There was discussion about the costs of environmental monitoring and questions about the beach width after construction, which would average 125 feet as well as a question about the sea oats that would be planted. Tom made the comment the public needs to realize the problems with the beach are not getting any better and is not going to get better without an intervention.

V. OLD BUSINESS – NO OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS –

A. Paula acknowledged the extraordinary assistance we’ve received from Phil Flood and Phil Ciaravella from FDEP as well as our project engineer, Michael Dombrowski. It was noted the support and input of all our consultants from the various departments of the state and federal governments have been invaluable to our progress!

B. FSBPA ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE REPORT. Laurel attended the conference in Sarasota and made a lot of contacts with other beach communities in Florida as well as Gulf Shores, Alabama. Learned a lot about other projects, and learned that in many ways we have a very simple, straightforward project. No hard bottom or sea grass issues, sand is close and good quality, etc. Laurel will follow back up with contacts made for testimonials on beach projects for use in marketing materials, pointers as we go forward in permitting, ECL, easements and the like. There will be formal proceedings prepared and the various seminars will be available to review. Also we received a slide from Jim LaGrone, FDEP, from his presentation on Hurricane Dennis. The slide illustrates that before restoration on Panama City Beach, 436 structures were damaged in Hurricane Opal. After restoration, only 12 were damaged by Ivan and 8 by Dennis.

C. TIMELINE – a proposed timeline was passed out for discussion.

The MSTU vote needs to be moved to the first week in June. MSTUs to be set 30 days ahead, which would be the very end of April. Funding committee will report at the April SJPBAC meeting, **which will be moved to the first Friday, April 7th**. Beach access committee has to be done by March 31st. Need to ask the commission if we have permission to have the results of the nonresident property owners' survey CLOSELY before the vote. Try to schedule a workshop for the county commission on Tuesday the 11th of April before their regular meeting for funding. Beach access will request a workshop with the BOCC at their earliest convenience for beach access and the timeline. Charlie asked for Don to be presented the timeline and take it to the BOCC for the overall project timeline. Town Hall meetings need to be scheduled – one for voters only and one for the general public. Should have them in April after the funding committee has its report. Once the changes are incorporated in the timeline, it will be distributed to the committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:15 P.M.

SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW February 13, 2006, Laurel Eiler