

" Start date for Sunset Renourishment as late as 4/2000 . "

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

November 10, 1999

1:30 PM

PRESENT: Alan Sansotta, George Greenfield, Dabney McLean, Sid Rice, Dennis Velasco, Bob Minning, Andy Neff, Cliff Truitt.

Also present: Nicole Elko, USF

The Beach Stewardship Committee meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chairman Alan Sansotta in the City Hall Auditorium at 120 - 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida

1. The draft minutes of the October 6, 1999 meeting had been prepared and previously distributed to the members for review. Without objection, the minutes were accepted as drafted.
2. Mr. Terry was not present, so Andy Neff reported on the status of the north groin and Sunset Beach projects. The pre-construction meeting with the Contractor for the north groin had been held and a notice to proceed was issued by the County. The Contractor indicated he expected to start work around Thanksgiving.
3. As noted at last month's meeting, the Corps' dredging contractor for the Upham/Sunset Beach Renourishment Project was diverted to perform a post-storm fill placement/recovery project in St. Augustine before mobilizing to Pinellas County. This work is underway and there is no further report except confirming that our start date will be after the first of next year, perhaps as late as April.
4. During the September Committee meeting Jim Terry had offered to contact the Corps staff to request a general review of the shoreline conditions on the island and to have them look at any needed modifications to the project design. Mr. Neff had drafted a letter to Jim confirming this and suggesting several specific issues which the Corps might look at as part of such a review including planning for emergency response following storms. Mr. Terry has now responded in a letter to Chairman Sansotta (October 18, 1999). Committee members reviewed and discussed the content of the response letter. One of the overall goals of the Committee is to continue to work with the County through Mr. Terry to transform the existing plan/program into one that is both better in content (more suitable to the City's needs) and also is better understood by the public.

In response to discussion that our document reviews and discussions over the past months had been valuable in helping understand the County and Corps process, Dr. Greenfield stressed that such understanding was important, but we needed to have a specific mechanism in place to guarantee the implementation of any future plans.

Chairman Sansotta agreed and observed that we have been fortunate to have had relatively mild winter storm seasons recently and no direct impacts from the several tropical storm which threatened the area. He questioned that if there had been more severe storm conditions, could we expect a timely post-emergency response from the County, State and Corps given that by 1999, the City had still not been able to recover the sand losses to its beaches resulting from the 1993 oil spill recovery operations. Chairman Sansotta went on to discuss a presentation he had made to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council on November 8th (copies handed-out), in which he described the formation and activities of our Beach Stewardship Committee, and additionally, suggested the creation of a new Coastal Management "authority" at the County level. He envisioned that this entity would be made up of representatives of local governments, technical and academic staff, and concerned citizens who would become involved in actual decision-making about beach management in the County.

5. Bob Minning followed-up on his research into the emergency beach recovery planning by the Captiva Erosion Prevention District. Mr. Minning provided copies of the Captive plan which provides for three levels of response to beach problems: regular, "hot spots" and emergency. The plan was adopted in March 1999 by an 86% favorable vote. He noted that although Captiva has taken steps to provide funding authorization, long-term permits, pre-design and similar planning, the District Director had confirmed that there still could be a potential delay/problem with actually engaging a dredging contractor at the time of need. They have prepared and published preliminary bid specifications, but finalizing them, finding suitable contractors, reviewing bids and mobilizing might still take several months following a major storm.

On appropriate motion, the Committee sought the endorsement of the City Commission to begin to prepare a response plan similar in scope to that of Captiva.

6. Mr. Neff confirmed that he had completed and forwarded the final application to the State CZM program requesting grant money to help fund the work of the Beach Stewardship Committee.

7. The following were member remarks and suggestions:

Ms. Elko reported the results of last month's USF profile survey which constituted a full year's monitoring since the field work began in October 1998. The data show that Sunset Beach as a whole has not lost any volume over the monitoring period. There has been some re-distribution of sand within the area, but the section seems to be acting generally as a closed system.

With respect to the idea of a central Coastal Management authority, Ms. Elko also observed that Dr. Davis will be retiring from USF in the next year. A considerable amount of the "institutional memory" about beach conditions and projects in the bay area rests solely with Jim Terry and Dr. Davis because of their long involvement with the local program. She suggested that such an authority could also serve to develop and maintain formal records/databases to preserve and make more easily accessible such information for future use.

Mr. Velasco raised and discussed the idea of investigating a publicly-owned dredge as a method of reducing projects costs and providing the mechanism for more timely response to problems.

Alan Sansotta added that pursuing the "sand sharing" project/concept within the City would also be an alternative to raising additional funds for future renourishments.

Andy Neff announced that he was leaving his position with the City on November 19th. Rick Raus will work with the Committee on an interim basis until the Public Works Director position is filled. The committee members unanimously approved a motion commending Mr. Neff for his leadership and service on the Committee and suggested that a letter to this effect be prepared for him.

9. The next committee meeting date was set for December 8, 1999.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.