

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

March 1, 2000

1:30 PM

PRESENT: Alan Sansotta, George Greenfield, Robert Minning, Dennis Velasco, Sully Lowe, Chuck Coward, Don Hambidge, Cliff Truitt; Nicole Elko, USF; Jim Terry, Pinellas County.

Chairman Alan Sansotta called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:45 PM in the City Hall Auditorium at 120 - 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida

Ms. Sully Lowe was introduced as a new Committee member, filling the vacancy resulting from Dabney McLean=s resignation.

1. The draft minutes of the February 9, 2000 meeting had been prepared and previously distributed to the members for review. On appropriate motion the minutes were accepted as drafted.
2. Alan Sansotta noted that the ANational Coastal Summit≅ convened by the American Coastal Coalition will take place on June12-14, 2000 in Washington, D.C. The ACC=s website is: www.coastalcoalition.org.
3. Chairman Sansotta also stated that he will offer his resignation from the Committee following the upcoming City election. He suggested that a replacement Chair be selected at this time to assume responsibilities at the next meeting. Dr. Greenfield nominated Robert Minning and Mr. Minning=s appointment was approved unanimously.
4. The City has received the Florida Department of Environmental Protection=s letter requesting updates/additions to the listing of projects proposed for funding through the Florida Beach Erosion Control Program. Discussion was tabled until Mr. Terry could join the Committee from an earlier meeting with the Corps and contractors.
5. Alan Sansotta read a letter to the City from the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in response to our request for a formal summary of the north groin project status and schedule. The key dates in the letter were: Mobilization - ongoing; Site work started by 2/21; Drive sheet piles 3/6-7/3; Substantial completion by 7/27; and Final clean-up/close-out by 8/24. In spite of the schedule cited (today being 3/1), the groin contractor had not begun working yet. However, Chuck Coward stated that the contractor had pulled his City permit for demolition on 2\29. The contractor had also contacted City staff about a possible staging site for the rock operation. It appears now that he intends to directly barge-in the larger rock, but truck the smaller stone to a near-by site where it might be stockpiled and re-loaded onto a barge as needed for the construction. The City will cooperate to the maximum extent possible in order to expedite the work, provided all typical site restoration and similar code issues are addressed. Mr. Terry

noted that the rock to be used will be from a Florida source -- a dolomitic limestone -- and the quarry already has been tested and approved.

6. Jim Terry continued with an update on the Upham Beach/Blind Pass work. The Corps=dredging contractor had determined that he needed a booster pump in the operation to efficiently move sand from Johns Pass to the entire length of Sunset Beach. While awaiting the pump, he elected to place an allowable volume of sand on the north end of Treasure Island (ASunshine≅ Beach). The contract allows for this placement to Apre-fill≅ the beach adjacent to the new groin. He has about 5,000 cubic yards left to go and then he will switch back to Sunset Beach and complete that fill. The surveys indicate that there might be as much as 100,000 cubic yards of sand available at Johns Pass above the original estimate. About 75,000 to 80,000 will be placed at Sunshine Beach, but the remaining excess will allow for the fill at Sunset Beach to be extended by up to a thousand feet further north than the preliminary design (i.e. 1000 feet beyond the 800-foot extension already planned). The second dredge continues excavating and pumping sand from Blind Pass onto Upham Beach with a goal of completing the fill and at least some additional oil clean-up by April 1.

7. Nicole Elko made a presentation to the Committee, summarizing the results of the USF monitoring and sand budget study. (The details of the presentation are omitted from these minutes because the full written report will be available next week).

8. The results of the USF study let to discussion of the status of the proposed Asand sharing≅ project. Mr. Terry presented a brief outline of tasks necessary for moving ahead with the project and getting a County consultant on board to develop the details of the design and permit application. Dr. Truitt asked if the County planned to submit the sand sharing project as part of their capital program in response to the FDEP funding list update (item 4, above). Mr. Terry explained that such a project had already been included in the form of the Upham Beach/Sunset Beach fill project now underway. If that project had not gone ahead as originally planned, using the Johns Pass borrow area, the same funds would have been diverted to a mid-key transfer project to address the need on Sunset. It was suggested that the transfer project be included in the current funding request anyway, to complement the work proposed on the design and permits -- the result would be an >on-the-shelf= project including funding to help address any future emergency and/or borrow area problems. Mr. Coward noted that the City=s coastal consultant could be available in the short-term to assist County staff with the proposed project description and other information needed by the May 1, 2000 funding application deadline.

9. Other Business and Member remarks and suggestions:

The cost of flying aerial photography for Treasure Island is about \$1,900 and the County will continue to absorb that cost as part of its on-going monitoring. The next flight has been ordered already for next month, weather conditions permitting.

The County=s monitoring contract with USF has been revised and extended for the next year. This will result in continuing input into our historical database.

Dr. Truitt passed out an outline of the elements in a typical beach management plan for discussion at the next meeting. The goal is to outline those specific tasks necessary to bring the Committee=s past efforts into a formal framework.

Mr. Velasco noted the effort and expertise that Ms. Elko had brought to the monitoring study and presentation, and suggested that staff prepare an appropriate letter and/or resolution commending her work.

Dr. Greenfield agreed and also suggested that we not overlook the public information/communication opportunities offered by the study completion. Committee members discussed putting the presentation into a program which could be shown to the City Commission and other groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, homeowners= associations, the Voter=s Watch and similar. It was suggested also that a summary page be posted on the City=s website.

There were no further member remarks or suggestions.

10. The next committee meeting date was set for April 12, 2000.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.