

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

Amended minutes per motion 10/11/2000

September 6, 2000

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Barbara Blush, George Greenfield, Sully Lowe, Sid Rice, Dennis Velasco, Chuck Coward, Don Hambidge; Jim Terry, Pinellas County; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech.

In the absence of Chairman Robert Minning, who was called out of town unexpectedly, Don Hambidge called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:30 PM in the City Hall Auditorium at 120 - 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida

1. The draft minutes of the July 12, 2000 meeting had been prepared and previously distributed to the members for review. On appropriate motion the minutes were accepted as drafted.
2. Mr. Terry reported that the beach renourishment project has been completed. The dredge has demobilized, the sand has been tilled to meet marine turtle nesting permit conditions and the area is now being final graded/smoothed. Post-construction surveys have been performed, but the final numbers on fill volumes and placement limits will not be available until those surveys have been reviewed and released by the Corps.
3. Mr. Terry also provided an update on the groin construction project. The contractor has passed the contract deadline and is still not finished with the work. Under the terms of the contract, liquidated damages are being assessed now for each day the project remains unfinished. An additional 30 to 45 days are expected to be necessary to complete the work. On next Friday the contractor indicated he will begin placing the concrete walkway/cap on the completed portion of the groin. Mr. Terry discussed some changes to the design of the walkway system which eliminated the access walk from the north side because there is really no 'approach' from that side.

Committee members had a number of observations and questions about the two projects. Sid Rice noted that there has been on-going erosion of the sand on the north side of the groin since construction began and expressed concern about the possible undermining of the toe armor rock in front of the bulkhead in the area. Mr. Terry responded that the area would be monitored.

Chuck Coward, responding to a question, stated that the contractor still had not cleaned-up the Capri Isles site, but that the issue could not be addressed under the County's contract or through the liquidated damages clause.

Both Dr. Greenfield and Mr. Rice observed that there had been very high beach erosion losses in the vicinity of 125h Avenue; they estimated up to 30 feet of erosion within the first few weeks of the fill placement. Mr. Terry and Dr. Truitt agreed that such losses, resulting from the initial

onshore-offshore adjustment of fill, are typical and to be expected in sand placed hydraulically (i.e. by dredging). This 'slumping' of the lower profile and the formation of vertical bluffs (escarpments) on the upper part of the beach appear as erosion, but result from waves adjusting the overly steep construction slope toward a more 'natural,' flatter slope. Although the changes can look alarming, little net sand is lost.

4. During the previous week Committee members received a preliminary draft of the written Beach Management Plan for review. Following a brief introduction by Dr. Truitt, the members discussed the document in general and then provided written "mark-ups" to be addressed/revised in the next draft.

Among specific points discussed, Dr. Greenfield felt that the section on "Public Interest Issues" was not strongly enough worded and did not go far enough in identifying the State, County and City as responsible for providing protection (e.g., beach restoration) to the aggregate upland construction for which they had issued various building permits and similar approvals.

Jim Terry was concerned that the implementation section (page 13) seemed to call for the City to take over the entire maintenance program including permits and borrow area investigations, and cautioned that such an effort was unnecessary and not in the City's best interest. Dr. Truitt clarified that the permits and borrow area discussed were *only* related to the sand transfer project, not the entire program, and that the language would be improved to make that point clearer.

5. Remarks by members.

Dennis Velasco followed-up on his previous note that Bob Hite with Channel 8 in Tampa was completing a special on beaches and erosion problems. Mr. Velasco has a taped copy of the special which he would make available to members. He said one of the main points made was that there might be erosion control approaches which are more permanent than fill projects.

Dr. Greenfield provided additional information about the water quality monitoring program (Pinellas County Health Department's "Pilot Research Project") which had been reported on in July. He characterized the program as "a test of a test" in which the single parameter screened, the enterococcus bacteria, is being evaluated for its potential as an indicator of fecal pollution -- it has not been determined as yet whether or not it is a valid tracer and, therefore, the monitoring may be incomplete.

Barbara Blush had draft copies available of the new Dennis Jones Beach Management Act (Chapter 161, FS).

There were no further member remarks or suggestions.

6. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for October 11, 2000 at 1:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.