

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

May 12, 2004

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, Sully Lowe, Denis Velasco, Alan Bildz, Rick Raus; Nicole Elko, Pinellas County; Michael Walther, Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech.

Chairman Robert Minning called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:35 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida. Following the Call to Order, Cliff Truitt introduced Michael Walther, President of Coastal Tech, who was in the area for a n Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) Board meeting the next day.

1. The draft minutes of the April 14, 2004 meeting had been distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. Upon appropriate motion the minutes were approved as drafted.
2. Without objection the Committee added agenda items to include a report by Nicole Elko on Upham Beach, information about Committee member terms and appointments, and further discussion on Plant Our Beach.
3. Rick Raus presented an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) to retain an environmental consultant to conduct the baseline ecosystem data collection for future use in an expanded Beach Management Plan. He said that six firms had submitted responses showing a fairly wide range in proposed scopes and costs. There was Committee discussion about how to objectively narrow the list of proposers and what the subsequent steps might be. Eventually a sub-committee consisting of Rick, Dr. Greenfield and Cliff Truitt was appointed to review the submittals in more detail and report back. Nicole Elko was asked if she might provide sample consulting services selection forms and/or procedures used by the County.
4. Cliff Truitt updated the Committee on the Sand Sharing Project permit application. The borrow area survey has been completed by the sub-contractor and reviewed; the City is providing the permit fee check. Committee discussion continued on the 'timing' language in the Beach Management Plan and the degree of certainty in the Federal maintenance project going through as presently scheduled. Nicole Elko did confirm that the Corps had opened the project bids yesterday and it appeared the bids were within the allowable range compared to the Government Estimate. With respect to the project schedule/timing, she noted that the original Corps project was only for Upham Beach and did not include Treasure Island. She had the County's consultant modify the State permits to include Treasure Island, or it would not be done at all.
5. Nicole continued to describe the present plan for Upham Beach. The revised draft FDEP permit includes maintenance sand for Treasure Island and Upham Beach, plus 5 'T-head' groins for Upham. On Treasure Island the fill amount is about 150,000 cubic yards and it will be placed from Trailhead Park to the groin south of Sunset Beach. At Upham, the Corps contractor

will place the fill in the required template and then a County-hired contractor will excavate through the fill and place the groins. The groins vary in length, but the longest is about 400 feet. All the groins consist of sand-filled geotextile tubes stacked in a pyramid cross-section. Under the terms of the permit the sand fill can be placed during turtle season (planned for July), but the groins will have to wait until November. Nicole stressed that the groins are considered 'experimental' and she expects that the results will produce data that can be used to find a more suitable overall long-term approach to the problem. The fill project is still on a 3-year maintenance cycle and in the expected 2007 project the borrow source will be back to Blind Pass.

Alan Bildz asked if the presence of the condominiums and armoring next to Upham Beach might have affected the beach and contributed to this erosion problem. Nicole said that almost all of the past actions at Upham probably have contributed to the problem.

6. Robert Minning reported on a recent resolution considered by the City Commission that would apply to membership on all City advisory committees including the Beach Stewardship Committee. The resolution proposes limiting committee membership to two consecutive 3-year terms. The resolution as drafted was tabled because it would have created a 'technical' conflict with the composition of the Planning and Zoning Board; however, after that language is appropriately amended it is expected that the Commission will suggest putting the question to a referendum vote in November with any action taken retroactive to present committee members.

7. Mr. Minning continued with a question/proposal about someone making a presentation of some type on the Plant Our Beach Program at the upcoming annual meeting of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (September 29-October 1, 2004; Captiva Island). The Committee supported the idea and Mr. Minning will continue to coordinate with Paradigm Learning and FSBPA staff. This led to further general discussion about the County's re-vegetation program and the history of the City's previously proposed effort to use volunteers to place plants received through the County program. The timing of a planting effort with respect to the fill construction, identification of areas to be planted and ensuring there would be enough volunteer labor all remain issues in the present year/cycle just as they were previously.

8. Committee Member Remarks:

Alan Bildz confirmed that Chuck Coward has resigned as City Manager and the Commission would begin a search for a replacement manager. Commissioner Bildz asked if there were any special skills and/or experience that the Committee would feel especially important in a new manager and that should be part of any advertisement. The Committee members generally agreed that a new manager should have very strong communication and inter-governmental coordination skill/experience in order to effectively promote City interests with the County and Corps of Engineers.

There were no further remarks.

9. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for June 9, 2004 at 1:30
The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.