

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Captiva Erosion Prevention District

Tween Waters Inn, 15951 Captiva Drive, Captiva, Florida 33924
January 14, 2015 @ 1:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Jim Boyle, Chairman; Doris Holzheimer, Vice Chair; Harry Kaiser, Secretary; Dave Jensen, Treasurer; Mike Mullins, Commissioner

Staff Present: Kathy Rooker, CEPD Administrator; John Bralove, CEPD Assistant to the Administrator; Hans Wilson, Hans Wilson and Associates

Stroemer & Company: Jack Alexander

1. Call to Order

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:00 P. M.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called and the results are outlined above.

3. Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kaiser moved and Commissioner Jensen seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December 10, 2014 Regular Board Meeting and approve them as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public to be Heard

There were no comments from the public.

5. Financial Report

a) Budget Performance Ending December 31, 2014

Commissioner Jensen reported that ad valorem and special assessment tax collections were in line with the budget and parking revenue is strong. He called for questions and there were none.

6. Old Business

a) Permit Update

Commissioner Boyle reported that CEPD had received the new permit from the DEP but is still waiting for Federal Fish and Wildlife Service approval. He added that the Service informed Lauren Floyd of CBI last week that no additional information was required for the biological opinion. It has been drafted and was under technical review. The Chair said that it appears to be on schedule to be issued in March.

7. New Business

a) Blind Pass

The Chair reported that at the Coastal Advisory Committee Meeting he attended on December 15, Blind Pass was discussed. Steve Boutelle shared with the committee that the permit for dredging expires in February 2015 and the County has requested a two-year extension, which they are

confident they will receive. The Chair said the County is anticipating submitting a local government funding request, probably in August, to the DEP to dredge in FY 2015-16. The Chair added that Mr. Boutelle reported the County's view, based on photographs, was that as of mid-December, about 60,000 cubic yards had been deposited in the channel and maintenance dredging could wait until FY 2015-16. Chairman Boyle said he thought it was more than this by January based on his observations and Commissioner Kaiser agreed. He added he learned at the meeting that the County is content to continue to do the dredging themselves using TCD funds.

b) Sanibel Agreement

Chairman Boyle continued his report on the CAC meeting. The City of Sanibel is requesting an extension of the existing agreement before its expiration in April 2015. Steve Boutelle said he did not think it necessary to extend the current agreement for two reasons: 1) since sand had just been put there in December 2013, no more could be placed until December 2015 at the earliest because of turtle nesting concerns; and 2) there was no need based on the current rate of erosion. The Chair added Boutelle said conditions at the Blind Pass area have changed significantly from what they were in 2000 when the Agreement was put in place.

Chairman Boyle reported that he told the CAC that he supported everything that Mr. Boutelle had said and that before any new agreement were to be reached with CEPD, some consideration needed to be given to putting a structure on the Sanibel side of the pass, whether it were a short terminal groin or some other type of structure. Chairman Boyle also pointed out that he had previously had a conversation with the DEP and that they agreed that technically speaking there should be a structure on the other side of the Pass. However, Sanibel's Comprehensive Plan does not allow structures on the beach and Sanibel might have to look at this. Chairman Boyle gave 3 reasons to have a structure on the Sanibel side: 1) less sand would need to be placed on north Sanibel because there would be less erosion; 2) it would afford more storm protection for San-Cap Road; and 3) it would facilitate keeping the Pass open.

Sanibel's CAC representative at the meeting, James Evans, agreed to making future decisions based on science but he was not authorized to agree to anything at this point. Mr. Boutelle suggested and the CAC members agreed to set up a subcommittee comprised of James Evans, Hans Wilson, Kate Gooderham, and Mr. Boyle to develop a scope of work that the County would then send out for proposals to do an engineering study of Blind Pass. Mr. Evans said he would have to review this with the Sanibel city administration to determine whether they would accept such a study.

Continuing his report regarding the CAC meeting, Chairman Boyle said a discussion ensued as to who would do the study. Various entities represented on the CAC had used both CBI and Humiston and Moore for similar work. The Chair said that Mr. Boutelle said the County would pay for the study, which might cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The Chair said that following the CAC meeting, he had a conversation with CBI staff and Ms. Rooker. CBI indicated they could work jointly with Humiston and Moore, an option that the Chair said Mr. Boutelle preferred. The Chair said he reported the willingness of CBI to work with Humiston and Moore to Mr. Boutelle. Mr. Boutelle said he would talk to Humiston and Moore. Chairman Boyle said he thought the best solution was to have both firms work on the study so that both CEPD and the City of Sanibel would feel they are represented.

In response to questions as to whether the DEP had put anything in writing regarding their view of needing a structure on the Sanibel side of Blind Pass, Ms. Rooker said that recently the DEP had drafted a Strategic Beach Management Plan and in their synopsis they mentioned their recom-

mendation regarding a structure on the Sanibel side. Commissioner Mullins commended both Chairman Boyle and Steve Boutelle on their approach. Chairman Boyle concluded his report by saying that he would keep the Board informed but at this point CEPD has not heard back from Sanibel.

c) Red Fish Pass

Chairman Boyle introduced this subject by saying that there was a movement within the DEP as a result of a shortage of sand on the East Coast of Florida to encourage communities to use inlet sand as a source of sand for renourishment rather than going offshore for it. He said he talked to staff at CBI to get a history of the Red Fish Pass shoal as a sand source for CEPD and gave some data and history that was in on Page 14 of the Agenda Materials. He said the potential savings from using this source rather than going offshore is the difference between \$10 a cubic yard compared to \$16 that CEPD paid for the last project, not including the costs of mobilization and demobilization. Using 700,000 cubic yards used in the 2013-14 project as typical, the potential savings is \$4.2 million. The Chair added that he estimated the cost of getting a permit modification to be \$400,000. He added that DEP might pay up to 75% for the inlet management plan costs and some of the geotechnical work, which might be as much as \$300,000 of the \$400,000. He thought CEPD should start looking at a local government funding request to submit to DEP in August. There is also the opportunity to apply for TDC funding. The Chair added that with regard to the Red Fish shoal, once it becomes an island, the opportunity to use it as a sand source is eliminated. Therefore if CEPD wants to pursue this opportunity, it should start now. The savings can be significant.

Mr. Wilson commented that the West Coast Inland Navigation District is the principle funding source along with Lee County for the dredging of Big Carlos Pass. It is a navigational project. Red Fish Pass is one of the main navigational conduits for boating going to the Gulf of Mexico for Lee County. If CEPD is looking for funding sources, CEPD should talk to officials at the West Coast Inland Navigation District. If designed properly, Mr. Wilson said, taking sand from that source could be an enhancement to navigation. Chairman Boyle said Tom Pierro of CBI would attend the February meeting to share more details.

d) Post Rope Replacement Proposal

Chairman Boyle presented two proposals for post rope replacement and asked for a motion to approve the less expensive proposal from Aquatic Plants proposal for \$7,200 to replace the existing rope with a new weather-resistant rope. Commissioner Mullins made the motion and Commissioner Holzheimer seconded it. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Administrator Report

a) FEMA Update

Ms. Rooker called Commissioners' attention to Page 18 of the Agenda Materials containing a chronology of recent activity regarding CEPD's FEMA claim. Using the FEMA receipt date, she said FEMA has until January 19 to respond. She went over the steps that would be taken if CEPD needed to appeal the Project Worksheet. She also said she will contact the Chief of FEMA to make sure that their deadlines have not slipped.

b) Tilling

Ms. Rooker reported that the tilling was completed last Thursday morning and everything had gone well. The tiller was impressed with how cooperative businesses and residents had been and how

well planned the project was. Ms. Rooker mentioned how helpful South Seas and Tween Waters had been.

c) Florida DEP Strategic Beach Management Plan

Ms. Rooker reported that the state is updating this plan more often to reflect current conditions. As she reported last month, CEPD had received a draft of the plan and sat in on a video conference discussion of the draft held by DEP. After that conference, Ms. Rooker, Tom Pierro of CBI, and Steve Boutelle held discussions to edit the plan. Mr. Boutelle submitted the edits for the Captiva area and north Sanibel to the DEP on behalf of the County and CEPD. DEP will review the feedback and determine what suggestions CEPD and the County offered they agree with. Ms. Rooker added that the DEP has said that the data will be updated annually and strategies updated annually or every two years. Ms. Rooker cited examples of strategies - update the Red Fish Pass and Blind Pass Inlet Management Plans - and expressed her pleasure that the state is asking for feedback from CEPD and updating the plans more often so that they do reflect current conditions.

9. Public to be Heard

There were no comments from the public.

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kaiser commented that peoples' attitude toward beach renourishment has changed dramatically for the positive since the 1980's.

Chairman Boyle reported that he had attended the Sanibel-Captiva Republican Committee meeting last Saturday for the purpose of meeting Representative Ray Rodriguez so that Representative Rodriguez will be more familiar with CEPD.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:44 pm.