

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Captiva Erosion Prevention District

Tween Waters Inn, Ding Darling Room
15951 Captiva Dr., Captiva Island, FL 33924
Wednesday, December 9th, 2009 @ Noon

Commissioners Present: Mike Mullins (Chairman), Doris Holzheimer (Vice Chairman), Harry Kaiser (Secretary), Rene Miville (Commissioner)

Administrative Consultants Present: Kathleen Rooker (Senior Administrative Consultant)

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 12:05PM.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was performed and the results are detailed above. It was noted that representatives from Coastal Planning and Engineering and members of the public were in attendance.

III. Approval of CEPD Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kaiser made a motion to dispense with the reading of minutes and moved to accept them as written. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Public to Be Heard

There were no public comments at this time.

V. Financial Report

Kathleen Rooker presented the financial report. In regards to the general fund, two distributions of assessments have come in for November. Ad valorem taxes are also coming in. All TRIM materials were found to be in compliance according to the Florida Department of Revenue.

Ms. Rooker noted that the capital budget for this meeting was now including such projections for FY 09-10.

Chairman Mullins requested that a balance sheet should be included with this information for the next meeting.

The cash projection figures include \$138,000 in general fund and \$2.3 million in the capital fund. There was \$142,000 in expenditures and \$86,000 in income during the month of November, for a \$56,000 net projected decrease.

There is still an estimated amount of \$686,000 possibly due to Lee County for the Blind Pass project. Furthermore, there is an as yet unresolved payment to reconcile the advancement of state funds by the DEP to CEPD.

The DEP has a scoring card for distributing funds; one criterion for scoring points on this card is the timeliness of quarterly report filing. CEPD had zero points for the last project, since the past administrator, was generally late in filing reports with the DEP. Since then, CEPD are now filing on a timely basis, DEP has also agreed to an increase of \$40,000 worth of funding for monitoring. All quarterly reports for 2009 have been submitted timely to the DEP.

It was noted that the term “monitoring” is interpreted differently amongst various organizations. The Lee Tourism Development Council has not reimbursed CEPD for “monitoring”; however, they do offer reimbursements for “surveying”. Conversations between Chairman Mullins and Lee County officials revealed a lack of understanding that “monitoring”, in the capacity that CEPD uses, is essentially the same as surveying and should accordingly receive TDC funds.

VI. Report of the Senior Administrative Consultant

a) Parking Lot Revenue

Consultant Rooker explained that her previously announced “net receipts” for the parking meters did not include all expenses – these figures are after sales tax amounts, but prior to other expenses.

Chairman Mullins requested a histogram of data that includes expenses along with income. He also stressed the importance of downloading historical data from the parking meters’ built-in logs to reconcile with deposits.

b) Interlocal Agreement Fill Quantities

Consultant Rooker made a clarification from the last meeting: the 645,980 cubic yard sand credit covers 25.8 years, lasting until 2021. This is because the 25.8 year period starts with the 1995-1996 re-nourishment project.

Chairman Mullins stated that after reviewing the November 2005 minutes, there is evidence that Sanibel wanted to purchase and store additional sand. North Captiva also demonstrated similar interest. There needs to be more research into whether this request was met or not. Also, there needs to be a mark-up on the cost of sand if it is being sold in this manner. Ms. Rooker indicated there was no record that this in fact occurred.

c) Blind Pass Interlocal Meeting

Ms. Rooker reported that data regarding the success of the Blind Pass project will not be available from Lee County until late January, although they are willing to discuss preliminary observations and data before then.

Commissioner Miville discussed the sand templates and shifting, phenomenon which should be countered by experimenting with inexpensive sand excavation methods. Robert Neal should be cooperating with CEPD on these lower cost, experimental options.

VII. Old Business

a) Community Relations and Delegation Presentation

Chairman Mullins is scheduled to make a presentation against oil drilling at the December 15th Lee County Legislative Delegation meeting at Taeni Hall at Edison State College. The meeting runs from 10AM-6PM with a lunch break from 11:45AM-1:30PM. CEPD is scheduled to present around 2:00PM.

Commissioner Miville noted that appealing to the Florida House of Representatives is not as effective as lobbying the Senate.

Chairman Mullins reminded the board that CEPD was the first Lee County organization to pass a resolution opposing oil drilling in April of 2009. Since then, many other organizations have followed suit, with area media increasing coverage of the issue. He suggested that these factors make the delegation meeting very timely, and stressed the importance of continuing to inform locals on this issue.

Commissioner Holzheimer noted that the local TV media have been creating a discourse based on foreign oil dependence, gas prices, etc., even though these issues are not likely to be resolved by drilling in the Gulf.

Chairman Mullins reiterated the importance of dispelling these false arguments in favor of oil drilling.

b) Newsletters

The board overviewed the progress of the both the hard-copy and electronic newsletters. The Fall newsletter was mailed out the Monday after Thanksgiving, with the electronic newsletter mailed out the same week. A shorter and timelier email publication was recently initiated by the chairman to be sent periodically and was successfully implemented. These "CEPD Beach Briefs" are a method of reaching out to inform citizens about pressing issues on a timelier basis than the quarterly newsletter.

It was brought up that many people have reported not receiving the newsletter. In addition to a regular bulk mailing, a saturation mailing of an additional 400 newsletters will be performed at the Captiva post office as a regular part of the Newsletter processing.

The importance of reviewing the contact lists for both versions of the newsletters was stressed. The individual working on these newsletters will be submitting report on the effectiveness of the mailers based on tracking info provided by Constant Contact.

c) Blind Pass Ribbon Cutting and Blind Pass Celebration

Ms. Rooker attended planning committee meeting on December 8th. Ribbon cutting is still scheduled for January 15th; however the event may be an hour earlier, at 10 am. Parking will be at Bowman's Beach Park. Shuttles will be provided to transport attendees to Blind Pass. Sanibel will have a police officer on the Sanibel side, and Kathy Rooker is making arrangements for a sheriff's deputy to be present on the Captiva side of the pass. Various plaques will be awarded to participating organizations, and speakers will then be asked to cut the ribbon.

d) Emergency and Comprehensive Plan

Coastal Planning & Engineering has provided a proposal to update the Emergency and Comprehensive Plans. Steve Keehn of CP&E proposed combining both plans into one. Several individuals who have historic knowledge of Captiva dating back to the 1980's will be contributing to the plan.

Chairman Mullins expressed his disappointment regarding Lee County's deemphasizing the importance of "Advisory committees" such as the Coastal Advisory Council, citing reduced meeting dates. As well, he discussed several instances where information requests were inappropriately denied on the basis of "alleged" confidentiality. Many of the items were found to be easily obtained from the DOR, which ostensibly, was requiring the confidentiality. Also, said data is publically available on the Collier County website. Comparisons were made to Collier County's coastal advisory board, which has existed longer and embraces more cooperation from local organizations.

A member of the public contributed an example of an emergency repair situation that affected him personally in the past. This was followed by a discussion amongst the board and Steve Keehn regarding possible changes to the emergency and comprehensive plan, with specific examples including clean-up for fish kills and red-drift algae, as well as the emergency replacement of sand in the event of a storm. Substantially the past emphasis was on average needs across the beach rather than focusing on the needs of certain sectional "hot spots" which may require timelier addressing than the average.

Commissioner Miville moved to approve the contract. Motion was seconded and carried 4-0.

VIII. New Business

a) Three Year Monitoring Report

The most recent monitoring period was a year and a half long, given the duration of the Blind Pass project. It was noted that storms had considerable affects on the beach during this time. Accordingly, it was hoped that erosion might not occur as quickly over the next three to five years. However, discussion was had about the fact that Blind Pass having been closed may have resulted in less erosion than otherwise may have occurred, since passes add to the erosion problems. But, now the Pass is opened, we will have to watch the monitoring more carefully as the open Pass may exacerbate the erosion. Steve Keehn proceeded to report on shoreline changes – Captiva has lost 10.5 feet of beach over the past year and a half. Erosion over the past three and a half years is 28.6 feet. This is despite the fact that over 95,000 cubic yards of additional sand having been added in 2008. This leaves an estimated 47 feet of beach sand remaining from the most recent (2005-2006) re-nourishment project.

Secretary Kaiser asked a question regarding the sandbar present fifty to one hundred feet from the Captiva shoreline.

Steve Keehn responded, explaining that the sandbar is more prevalent on one-half of the island, and has built up more than in recent years.

Sanibel has gained about 58 feet of beach as a result of the Blind Pass project.

Chairman Mullins asked for this to be presented as a measure of sand volume. In another slide, Sanibel was shown to have gained at least 35,000 cubic yards of accretion.

Steve Keehn stated that, although the erosion rate on Captiva is currently high (90,000-100,000 cubic yards), this rate is optimistically expected to drop down to around 60,000 cubic yards over the coming years. However, the opening of Blind Pass does raise some concerns re this erosion rate.

Projections on the stability of Blind Pass were made given tide changes and current vectors. Through continued monitoring of current velocities in the pass, more accurate stability projections of the inlet will be available. A post-construction engineering report containing this data will be available in January according to Lee County.

It was presented that a “hotspot” near Redfish Pass and South Seas has stabilized since the expansion of the Redfish groin.

b) Execution of Extension DEP Project Agreement Grant 02LE2

Amendment number seven of the DEP contract extends the grant to December 15, 2010 and increases CEPD grant contract by \$48,012. Commissioner Miville issued a motion to approve. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

c) 2010 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for 2010 was reviewed by the board. The scheduled meeting times are not in conflict with holidays. The board discussed having meetings later in the afternoon to eliminate the issue of lunch accommodations. Chairman Mullins recommended maintaining the noon meeting time. It was decided that the regular meeting in September would be held on September 22, 2010. The final budget hearing may also be scheduled for September 22, 2010 if the date does not conflict with the School Board Budget Hearing or Lee County Board of Commissioners Budget Hearing.

d) Annual Board Reorganization

The annual board reorganization was postponed until January, as Commissioner Miville had to leave to attend another meeting. Chairman Mullins reminded all that the “Rules of Procedure” called for an annual reorganization of the board’s officers.

e) Internet Security

It was explained that several CEPD email accounts were able to be accessed without a password by exploiting a password recovery option in Google’s Gmail service. The recovery options for the accounts in question were to be disabled, with more rigid security to be implemented on all accounts used by CEPD.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Chairman Mullins reported that Captiva’s cost share for the last Captiva beach nourishment from Lee County was drastically lower as compared to that of Fort Myers Beach and historic cost sharing with Lee County. He concluded that Captiva is not receiving a fair share of county funding for re-nourishment projects and is being virtually punished for taking responsibility via assessments and ad valorem taxes to pay for its own projects. In doing this, county monies are going toward projects in other areas that do not adequately pay for these efforts with local support. Efforts must be made to increase Lee County’s cost-share by showing the benefits and return on investment that re-nourishing Captiva brings to Lee County.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25PM.