

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: December 13, 2016

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Thomas G. Bradford, Town Manager

FROM: E. Llwyd Ecclestone, Shore Protection Board Chairperson
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager

RE: Shore Protection Board Annual Report

DATE: November 28, 2016

The Shore Protection Board (SPB) is comprised of seven (7) members appointed by the Town Council for three (3) year terms. A recommendation for implementing term limits for this permanent board appears later in your agenda.

A chairperson and vice-chairperson are selected by the members. The 2016 SPB membership was as follows:

| 2016 Shore Protection Board Member | Position | Current Term Expires |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| E. Llwyd Ecclestone | Chairperson | 12/2017 |
| Gerald Frank | Vice-chairperson | 12/2016 |
| Kane Baker | Regular Member | 12/2018 |
| James C. Gavigan | Regular Member | 12/2018 |
| Lee David Goldstein | Regular Member | 12/2016 |
| Reuben B. Johnson, III | Regular Member | 12/2018 |
| Lewis Katz | Regular Member | 12/2017 |

The Board met five (5) times in the 2016 calendar year.

| 2016 Shore Protection Board Member | Meetings Attended | Absences | Jan. 21 | Feb. 25 | Apr.14 | Oct. 27 | Nov. 21 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| E. Llwyd Ecclestone | 5 | 0 | P | P | P | P | P |
| Gerald Frank | 5 | 0 | P | P | P | P | P |
| Kane Baker | 5 | 0 | P | P | P | P | P |
| James C. Gavigan | 5 | 0 | P | P | P | P | P |
| Lee David Goldstein | 5 | 0 | P | P | P | P | P |
| Reuben B. Johnson, III | 5 | 0 | P | P | P | P | P |
| Lewis Katz | 5 | 0 | P | P | P | P | P |

P=Present
E=Excused
U=Unexcused

CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITION

The Town's proactive on-going coastal management efforts have resulted in improved storm protection. No buildings are in imminent danger. Sand from the 2015 USACE Inlet Maintenance Dredging in Reach 1, 2015 Mid-Town Beach Renourishment Project in Reaches 3 and 4, and 2016 Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment Project in Reach 7, have fed sand into Reaches 2, 5 and 8 respectively to enhance shoreline stability.

Rough weather in October 2016, starting with Hurricane Matthew and including several nor'easters, caused sand to move from some locations. This short term movement of sand resulted in the seasonal change from the wider and higher beaches in the summer, to the narrower and lower beaches in the winter. The impacts from hurricane Matthew are being measured. The Town will submit project worksheets to FEMA for possible future reimbursement of the sand losses identified within both the Mid-Town and Phipps project areas.

2016 COASTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS

The following coastal protection projects were completed in 2016:

- Phipps Ocean Park/Reach 7 Beach Nourishment project (from Phipps Ocean Park to Kreuzler Park) including more than 1,000,000 cubic yards of sand;
- Dune Restoration at Sloan's Curve, including approximately 10,000 cubic yards of sand;
- Reach 3 Dune Restoration (from approximately El Mirasol to Sunset Avenue), including approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sand;
- Reach 8 Dune Restoration (from Bellaria Condominium to La Bonne Vie Condominium), including approximately 10,000 cubic yards of sand; and
- North Ocean Boulevard Seawall Replacement in Reach 2.

Dune vegetation was planted along each of the above listed beach nourishment and dune restoration areas. In total, more than 84,000 plants were installed along more than four (4) miles of shoreline in Reaches 3, 4, 7, and 8.

Monitoring work continued as required by State's Beach Management Agreement (BMA) and/or Federal permits and was previously approved by Town Council.

The Town continues to await completion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Reach 8. The USACE is expected to publish a Record of Decision (ROD) for the EIS sometime in the spring of 2017. Results from this study will identify possible solutions to be considered for Reach 8. The ROD is the last action that the USACE needs to take to finalize the EIS before the Town can resume State and Federal permitting for a project in Reach 8.

Groin Rehabilitation permitting has continued through the 2016 calendar year. Federal permitting is expected to be completed sometime in the spring of 2017. Although the BMA serves as the State permit and Groin Rehabilitation is included within the BMA, the Town will need to request an Individual Project Approval (IPA) prior to the work beginning. Because the IPA process is relatively short, the IPA request will not be submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection until the federal permitting process has been completed, or is near completion.

2016 SHORE PROTECTION BOARD ACTIONS

FY 2017 Coastal Management Program Budget. In April 2016, the Board unanimously recommended a FY17 Coastal Management Program Budget of \$9.8 million. The Shore Protection Board recommended FY17 budget include nearly \$5.8 million for a beach project with mitigation in Reach 8. With the Final EIS published by the USACE in June 2016 and, with the USACE informing that a ROD would not be issued in 2016, Town Council removed the \$5.8 million Reach 8 project from the FY17 Coastal Management Program Budget. The SPB will revisit the Reach 8 project following USACE issuance of the ROD. If construction can be anticipated to occur in FY18, the SPB will consider recommending that the Town Council include the project costs within the FY18 Coastal Management Program Budget. Should the shoreline condition necessitate a storm protective action before a project is added for FY18, Town Council appropriated \$1.3 million in FY17 for a Reach 8 dune restoration project.

Sand Forepassing. Sand forepassing is a proposed project that includes mechanically moving excess dredged sand from inlet maintenance in Reach 1 to the beaches in Reach 2. In April 2016, the Board unanimously recommended Town staff to proceed with the permitting process for sand forepassing in Reach 2 in coordination with the next USACE inlet maintenance dredging event. Since that time, Town staff has regularly discussed the details of the next USACE event with USACE staff as a sand forepassing project would most appropriately occur with the next dry beach placement of inlet maintenance dredged sand. The next USACE inlet maintenance dredging event is tentatively scheduled for the winter of 2017. The schedule of the next event may be adjusted if winter weather causes channel shoaling. Once the schedule has been more defined by the USACE, Town staff will be taking the Board's recommendation to a future Town Council meeting for direction.

Coastal Vulnerability Evaluation. The Town Council adopted a 10-Year Plan in 2013 which included several Town-wide recommendations. One of the items in the 10-Year Plan, as recommended by Woods Hole Group in their peer review of the long-term Coastal Management Program, was to perform a flooding vulnerability assessment. On April 13, 2016, the Board unanimously recommended that Town staff work with Woods Hole Group to refine the scope of work to include specific emphases on the lagoon bulkhead and coastal flooding from the lagoon. On October 27, 2016, Town staff presented a revised scope of work from Woods Hole Group and the SPB recommended that the Town Council authorize a Coastal Vulnerability Evaluation to supplement the Town's Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan.

The Breakers/Clarke Beach Shore Protection Alternatives. Following a presentation by The Breakers and their consultant in February 2016, the Shore Protection Board recommended that both Town staff and Town consultants continue to work directly with The Breakers and their consultant with the design and permitting of a shore protection solution for The Breakers/Clarke Beach vicinity. The initial design work is ongoing. The Breakers and Town staff are expected to continue working together in January 2017.

cc: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works