

**Sebastian Inlet District  
February, 2013 Regular Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, 5:00 PM, February 6, 2013  
Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum  
Vero Beach, Florida**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order –Chairman Mitchell**
  
- II. Approval of Minutes – Regular Commission Mtg. – January 9, 2013**
  
- III. Information and Discussion Agenda**
  - A) Media and Information**
  - B) Executive Director’s Reports:**
    - 1. Emergency Dune Repair Project**
    - 2. Discussion of Future Project Activities - Dr. Mike Jenkins, ATM**
    - 3. Discussion of DEP Project Ranking and Sand Budget**
    - 4. Inlet South Shoreline Erosion Control Project**
    - 5. Inlet Economic Surveys**
    - 6. Additional Items**
    - 7. Discussion of Consent Agenda**
  
- IV. Seagrass Comprehensive Mitigation Program – Year 5 Monitoring Update – Don Deis, Atkins**
  
- V. Park Matters – Terry Coulliette**
  
- VI. Legal Counsel Update – Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson**
  
- VII. Public Comment Period**
  
- VIII. Consent Agenda**
  - A) Authorized Work for Commission Review:**
    - None at this time.**

**B) Recommended for Approval:**

- 1. Request Approval of Work Order No. 1213-008-ATM-EA for Permit Required Post Construction Sea Turtle Monitoring. Daily monitoring and record keeping to be conducted March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> by Ecological Associates through ATM. Total Cost Not-To-Exceed \$84,375. (This has been budgeted for under Sand Trap Dredging)**

**IX. Commissioners Items**

**Commissioner Lawton Seal**

**Commissioner Culberson**

**Commissioner Perry**

**Commissioner Rowland**

**Chairman Mitchell**

**X. Unfinished Business**

**XI. New Business**

**XII. Adjournment**

**Minutes of the Sebastian Inlet District  
Regular Commission Meeting  
February 6, 2013  
5:00 p.m.**

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Sebastian Inlet District Commissioners was held at the Sebastian Inlet State Park Fishing Museum, 14251 N. A-1-A, Vero Beach, FL 32962. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Beth Mitchell. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Rowland to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried 5 - 0.**

Executive Director's Reports:

Emergency Dune Repair Project: The project was 60% complete. There was more sand in the DMMA than originally predicted by 2,000 – 3,000 cubic yards. A change order for Ag-Scape will be necessary to accommodate the additional sand. Commissioner Lawton Seal moved to approve amending the consent agenda to add a change order for Ag-scape, not-to-exceed \$30,000 for an additional 3,000 c.y. of sand. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Discussion of Future Projects Activities – Dr. Mike Jenkins, ATM – Due to finding more beach quality sand in the DMMA, the amount of sand purchased from Davis Mines may be reduced, if the fill template is full with sand from the DMMA. The objective is to empty the DMMA for the future sand trap expansion project. All calls received from IRC regarding the project have been positive. The cove road and a few areas within the Park will need to be addressed when the project is complete. The roads have been beaten up with the large trucks entering and exiting the DMMA and Park. Dr. Jenkins relayed that he is currently working on a Palm Beach County emergency dune project and they are paying \$38 per cubic yard as the sand has to be trucked 100 miles each way.

Discussion of DEP Project Ranking and Sand Budget – One of the ranking criteria DEP uses for cost sharing is how well an entity is mitigating for sand trapped in the inlet. Currently, the District sand trap has a capacity for 100,000 – 120,000 c.y. of sand; the expansion project should bring that number up to 200,000, which will cut down on maintenance costs as the District will dredge less. According to Dr. Zarillo, sand accumulates at 2 – 3,000 c.y. per month in the sand trap; Hurricane Sandy dumped an extra 12 – 15,000 c.y. of sand in the trap. The Technical Advisory Committee recommended an annual bypassing budget of 90,000 c.y., but it was never made official. Dr. Zarillo shows that the District is capturing all of the sand available and placing it on the beach. Dr. Zarillo shows 50,000 c.y. annually is being captured by the inlet, nowhere near 90,000 c.y. Mr. Smithson noted that if the District is charged with placing 90,000 c.y. of sand on the beach, it will need to come from somewhere else, as the inlet doesn't trap that much sand. Mr. Smithson stated that the numbers will need to be addressed with the state.

Inlet South Shoreline Erosion Control Project: Bryan Flynn and Marie Yarbrough of Atkins have been working with the permitting agencies. It was determined that SJRWMD would need to permit the project as DEP didn't want to permit their own project. SISP will be the applicant on the permit but the District will assume responsibility. Hopefully, the permits will be in hand by March, and then it will go out to bid. The project should begin by summertime.

Inlet Economic Surveys: Over 30% of the 700 boating surveys that were mailed out have been returned. 150 surveys have been completed on the District's web site. A marine related business survey will be included in the Commissioners packet next month.

Additional Items: Mr. Gray brought a draft letter of support for direct appropriation from the Legislature for beach restoration funding since FEMA denied their request. The request will be for counties from Brevard to Broward, who were hurt the most by Hurricane Sandy. Commissioner Culberson moved to authorize a letter of support to be written to the Legislature for emergency beach funding for Indian River County. **Motion carried 5 - 0.**

Discussion of Consent Agenda: Under Agenda Item VIII, B-1 is a work order for Ecological Associates through ATM, not to exceed \$84,375 for turtle monitoring as required by permit. The monitoring is for daily monitoring for eight months, for three years from construction. EAI must identify the species, count nests, mark them, log nesting success, measure escarpment and conduct lighting surveys and turn those records into the permitting agencies. E.A.I. is ranked #1 in this type of work and the monitoring will be eligible for state cost-sharing. Chairman Mitchell called for discussion. Commissioner Rowland spent some time making calls to various entities questioning if the costs were legitimate and asked if it was a no bid contract. Chairman Mitchell asked Dr. Jenkins to explain the E.A.I contract to Commissioner Rowland. The reason the contract did not go out for bid is because when the District went out to bid for engineering firms, ATM had EAI on their team. ATM was selected by the District for various reasons but one of them was because they had EAI on their team. Mr. Smithson explained that being in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge; the District must have a firm that is well respected and anything that goes on the agenda has already been vetted by him or it would not be on the agenda. Commissioner Rowland relayed that in his questioning, found that EAI was well respected and he felt that he had come full circle in the process. Chairman Mitchell requested that the District's legal counsel give a refresher course on what the role of a Commissioner is and the difference between policy and implementation.

Seagrass Comprehensive Mitigation Program: Year 5 Monitoring Update – Don Deis: Mr. Deis gave a presentation on a status report for the seagrass mitigation program's five year update. A permit for the channel extension was received in 2007 which called for specific components for seagrass mitigation. From 2007 – 2010 the seagrass transplanting was very successful and monitored very closely. The District "grew" more than 13 acres of seagrass in what once were damaged areas, prop scars and blowouts. Signage was erected on the grass beds to keep boaters off the beds. In 2010, the seagrass started to die off, not only at the inlet, but north and south of the inlet as well. In 2011 there was a 30.5 acre decrease in seagrass and by the end of 2012, only 9 acres remained. A consortium of 25 scientists have been working on the probable causes and it may have been a series of concurrent events that created local stressors. A cyanobacteria bloom which created nutrient issues, combined with a super bloom which smothered the grasses is one theory. A total of 34,000 acres of seagrass were lost in the northern Indian River lagoon from 2010 – 2012. Potential donor sites for transplanting are being considered during the scientific evaluation. Donor sites that are the most compatible to the recipient site are preferred and in April or May, some experimental transplanting may begin. Two years of monitoring show that no other plant species were affected, other than seagrass.

Park Matters – Terry Coulliette: Volunteers dived around the north jetty once the waters calmed down enough and recovered the grates that were blown out during Hurricane Sandy and the jetty is completely open. The concession stand has hit a snag with Brevard County on whether it is a restaurant or concession stand, but they are still hoping to open in mid-March. The Marina project is moving forward.

Legal Counsel Update – Jack Kirschenbaum – Gray Robinson: Mr. Kirschenbaum had nothing further to add.

Public Comment Period: Dr. Peter Fallon commented that the dune project looked great, that he was pleased with the District's flexibility with the new DMMA and that it was great seeing local governments working together. Dr. Fallon also noted that Mr. Tuck Ferrell had been elected President of the North Beach Civic Association and also held a seat on the IRC Beach and Shore Advisory Board.

Mr. Pasley inquired if there were any overlaps in what each government entity was providing. Dr. Jenkins explained that the State Park was using the District's and IRC's turtle monitoring. There has been a concerted effort to prevent duplication and to avoid spending unnecessary funds.


Consent Agenda: Commissioner Rowland moved to approve the amended consent agenda. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Commissioners Items: Chairman Mitchell expressed concern that if a Commissioner asks a vendor, agency or other inlets questions about the practices of the Sebastian Inlet, it may look as if the Commissioner was trying to undermine the Chain of Command at the District. Chairman Mitchell stated that was why she requested Mr. Kirschenbaum to refresh the Commissioners as to what the proper role of a Commissioner is, the Sunshine Law, the difference between policy and implementation, etc. Commissioner Rowland requested a review of Robert's Rules of Order.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Adjournment: Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

  
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Secretary/Treasurer

13 March 13  
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Date