

Sebastian Inlet District
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4 PM, February 14, 2024
Sebastian Inlet District Office
114 Sixth Avenue
Indialantic, FL 32903

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Chairman Jenny Lawton Seal, Commissioner Beth Mitchell (Vice Chair), Commissioner Michael Rowland (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner David Barney and Commissioner Lisa Frazier. Also, in attendance were: Executive Director James Gray, Contracts & Budget Director David Kershaw, SID Public Outreach Associate Ed Garland, SID Legal Counsel Shawn Demers, Ken Torres (SISP), Sam Cox (SISP), Marie Yarbrough (AtkinsRéalis), Bryan Flynn (ESA), William "Tuck" and Cathy Ferrell (North Beach Civic Association), Mike McGarry (Brevard County), Lt. Grant Eller (FWC), Capt. Mike Maher (fishing guide).

Under Agenda Item I

Call to Order – Chairman Lawton Seal called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Under Agenda Item II

Approval of the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of December 13, 2023. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Barney seconded the motion. The **motion carried 5-0**.

Under Agenda Item III

Presentations

Update on the Brevard County Beach Management Program — Mike McGarry, Brevard County Beaches Program Manager

Mr. McGarry gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Brevard County's Beach Management Program which spans from Cape Canaveral south to the Brevard County south beaches. He displayed a map showing six project areas that included sand bypassing projects at Port Canaveral, nourishment projects at the North Reach (along 9.8 miles in Cocoa Beach) and Patrick Space Force Base, 7.8 miles of emergency dune repairs at the Mid Reach area (south of Patrick SFB), a 3.8 mile-long nourishment project at the South Reach area (Indialantic and Spessard Holland Park area) and local emergency dune repairs along 14 miles of the south beaches. Commissioner Barney asked Mr. McGarry for the sand volumes being deposited at each of the project sites. Mr. McGarry said the county placed 300,000 cubic yards (cy) of sand on the south beaches over the past two years and 500,000 cy are planned for the South Reach and Mid Reach. The North Reach will bypass about a million cubic yards in about two years. Commissioner Mitchell asked if there is a sand trap at the Canaveral inlet. McGarry said the sand trap is located at the south side of the navigation channel. He also shared "before and after" beach projects completed via truck hauling and dredging. He responded to commissioners' questions about truck hauling at the south beaches. He said the county has been successful in leveraging its tourist tax money to access state and federal funding for projects. Commissioner Mitchell asked whether the county's beach survey overlaps with the District's monitoring. Mr. Gray said Brevard County's survey activities are not as frequent and don't extend to the same depth offshore. Mr. McGarry supported Mr. Gray's comments. Commissioner Mitchell asked if there is a way to make the county's and District's surveys more cohesive. Mr. Gray explained that the District's monitoring is seasonal and closely follows inlet dynamics. While there may be inconsistencies between the two surveys, the same monitoring protocols are used.

Commissioner Frazier complemented McGarry on the positive environmental impacts of the county's beach projects. Mr. McGarry's complete presentation is included in the recorded meeting minutes.

Under Agenda Item IV

Information and Discussion Agenda

- A. Media and Information
No discussion.

B. Executive Director's Reports

1. Update on the North Jetty Maintenance Project

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the North Jetty Maintenance Project. He said ESA has conducted core samples and met with FDEP and USACE regarding permitting. He shared photos of further deterioration that has occurred where ESA had conducted an earlier temporary fix. The planned two-phase solution calls for building an armor stone revetment to stop sand from migrating into the inlet. In addition, a seawall will be installed on the backside of the revetment. Responding to Commissioner Barney, Mr. Flynn confirmed that ESA would use sheet pile to build the seawall, sinking it into the lime rock. Mr. Gray noted that the project is eligible for DEP Beaches and Inlet cost-share funds and the District will be applying for funds.

2. Update on the 2024/2025 Sebastian Inlet Sand Trap Dredging and Beach Placement Project
Mr. Gray gave a brief overview of the upcoming project. The District is on a cycle to dredge the inlet sand trap and channel of about 150,000 cubic yards of material. The material will be placed within the District's permitted Sectors 1 project area, located within the State Park. Responding to Commissioner Barney, Mr. Gray said the material is beach compatible. The District is working with AtkinsRéalis on the design, which will be similar to a previous dredge and placement project. Anticipated construction is on track to begin in about a year.

3. 2024 Legislative Update

Mr. Gray shared information on two legislative items that could potentially impact the District. First, the District's funding request for \$2 million for north and south jetty maintenance and safety improvements received proposed funding of \$1 million in the House budget. The Senate did not include funding for the project in its budget. The District and its lobbyists will work towards full funding for the project. Mr. Gray also addressed House Bill 7013 which would place 12-year term limits on elected governing board members of independent special districts. The bill also requires special districts to adopt performance goals and objective and performance criteria. The District has already conducted goals and objectives for several years. Development of performance criteria would be a simple task for the District. He also noted that Senate Bill 1322 proposes requiring a two-thirds vote by a commission to approve tax increase or a non-rollback based budget.

4. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Mr. Gray reviewed a Consent Agenda item for the Commission's consideration. (Details are found under Item IX).

Under Agenda Item V

Public Outreach Activities

Mr. Garland provided an overview of recent and upcoming public outreach activities, including highlights about the District's most popular social media posts, recent and upcoming presentations, and a quarterly cleanup event scheduled for February 16.

- A. Mr. Garland gave an update on the District outreach activities, including social media statistics, public presentations and website activity. He also gave a brief presentation about the District's new app, which included a video highlighting the app's features. Mr. Gray said District staff have been testing the app and will announce its availability to the public on February 15, 2024. Commissioner Rowland asked whether the app would include updated fishing regulations. Mr. Gray said the District's initial intent is to focus on navigation but that the app will evolve in time. Mr. Garland also noted that the District's website and app already include links to FWC fishing regulations. Commissioner Barney requested additional news features, to which Mr. Garland said he plans to expand following the soft release of the app. Commissioner Rowland is also contacting fishing social media sites and publications to promote the app. Mr. Garland said he is launching an expansive campaign for the app.

Under Agenda Item VI

Park Matters – Sebastian Inlet State Park Manager Ken Torres said he is working on strategies to complete repairs at the north jetty, which he shut down a week earlier due to storm damage that posed public safety risks. Mr. Torres has contacted contractors, but he said they are unwilling to install the heavy grates. He is hoping to make repairs in-house. He currently has five vacancies on his staff, which has delayed progress. He said he may be able to complete repairs and reopen the jetty in another week.

Under Agenda Item VII

Legal Counsel Update — Shawn Demers (Gray Robinson)

Mr. Demers said he is working with his legal staff and Mr. Gray to develop options that will allow District commissioners to fulfill a state mandate requiring elected officials in special districts to complete four hours of ethics training each year. Mr. Demers said the training program may include online and in-person instruction.

Under Agenda Item VIII

Public Comment Period

Mr. Ferrell, speaking on behalf of the North Beach Civic Association, said recent storms impacted dunes in Sectors 1 and 2. He sought a timeline for when future sand placement will occur. Mr. Gray said the next placement will likely occur at the beginning of January 2025 in Sector 1. The District has a schedule in place to implement the District's Inlet Management Plan, and Mr. Gray said he would keep Mr. Ferrell apprised of future projects once they are scheduled.

Under Agenda Item IX

Consent Agenda

- A. Authorized Work for Commission Review

No items.

- B. Recommended for Approval

1. Work Order No. 2324-007-EAI, Ecological Associates, Inc., 2024 Post-Construction Sea Turtle Monitoring (March 2024)

Mr. Gray said post-construction sea turtle monitoring is required by FDEP. The work order calls for EAI, a subcontractor for AtkinsRéalis, to contract directly with the District to complete sea turtle monitoring for the month of March 2024 due to contracting delays with Atkins. The total amount of the work order is \$9,156.11 and will be invoiced on a time-and-materials basis only for the actual expended effort.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Barney seconded the motion. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Under Item X
Commissioner Items

Commissioner Barney

Commissioner Barney raised concerns regarding conflicts between boaters and angler fishing from the shoreline at the state park. He introduced Capt. Mike Maher, who described a recent verbal altercation he had with an angler who lobbed a lure onto his boat, striking a female passenger. Vice Chair Mitchell noted that the rift between shoreline anglers and boaters has been an ongoing issue for years. She said the District has no jurisdiction over the issue. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the state that empowers the state with regulating activity at the state park. Lt. Eller said he and other FWC officers plan to patrol the area for two weeks in response to the complaints. He also offered to speak further with Capt. Maher after the meeting concluded.

Vice Chair Mitchell – Thanked Mr. Demers for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Frazier – Nothing.

Commissioner Rowland – Nothing.

Chairman Lawton Seal – Nothing.

Under Item XI
Unfinished Business
No Unfinished business.

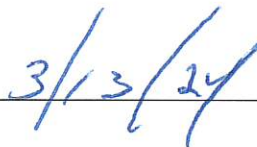
Under Item XII
New Business
No new business.

Under Item XIII
Adjournment — Chairman Lawton Seal adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.



Secretary/Treasurer

Date



3/13/24