

**MINUTES
TOWN OF JUPITER ISLAND
BEACH PROTECTION DISTRICT MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024**

TIME: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 – 10:00 AM
PLACE: Town Hall Island Room – 2 Bridge Rd., Hobe Sound, FL
PRESENT: Present were Mayor Penny Townsend, Vice Mayor Marshall Field VI, and Commissioners Anne Scott, Patricia Warner and Joseph Taddeo. Also present were Town Manager Robert Garlo, Town Clerk Kimberly Kogos, Town Attorney Thomas Baird and IT Director Bill Sutton.

1. Consent Agenda

Category A- To be reviewed and approved (as is or as edited) by the Town Commission

- a. Minutes of the May 14, 2024, Beach Protection District Meeting

MOTION: *Field/Scott moved to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2024 as presented.*

ACTION: *Motion passed 5-0.*

- b. Beach Cleanup Season Summary

Mayor Townsend previously approved entire consent agenda, and it was passed by committee.

2. Beach Project Status*

Director Duchock noted appreciation for the change of date and time for the Beach Protection District meetings going forward.

Director Duchock informed the Commission that last week was the deadline for contractors to submit questions for the current beach project, and bids will be due Friday, July 14th at 3:00 pm. Responses will be reviewed, and a bidder will be selected and presented to the Commission at the July meeting for review and acceptance. Mayor Townsend questioned how many entities are expected to submit a bid. Mr. Duchock replied that because of the nature of the work (utilizing an ocean-going hopper dredge) and the scope, there are primarily only three contractors with the ability to perform the work: Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., LLC, Weeks Marine, and Manson Construction Co. Mr. Duchock stated that Weeks and Manson have been utilized for these projects for many years. In response to Mayor Townsend's question, Mr. Duchock noted that many keep fleets of hopper dredger - some even internationally. Mayor Townsend opined that a potentially large emergency operation (such as a situation on the Mississippi River Delta) could impede the Town's project. Mr. Duchock agreed that although commercial traffic would become a priority in such a situation and pull the fleet away from the project – currently that situation is not a concerning factor.

3. Beach Status*

Director Duchock updated the current Sea Turtle nest count noting that there are 425 Leatherback nests (which is a record high number), 2,665 Loggerhead nests and 75 Green Turtle nests on Jupiter Island as of yesterday. Although the Leatherbacks are close to the end of their season, both the Green Turtles and the Loggerheads will be increasing until tapering off in August.

Mr. Duchock noted that there were a few significant sea conditions during the month of May, but nothing especially concerning except for a few escarpments created in early June remaining at the present time.

Commissioner Taddeo expressed his concern about the many footprints seen around the turtle nests. Mr.

Duchock stated that many of the footprints may likely belong to his crew but noted that there are always many footprints around the nests on the Public Beach, including those of animals in search of the eggs. There are also guided turtle nest tours at night provided by the Hobe Sound Nature Center, but these tours are not invasive and typically do not disturb nesting turtles.

Commissioner Scott added that she has seen lights on the public beach at night many times. Director Duchock opined this could discourage a turtle from coming ashore, also noting that the Nature Center staff would be using red lights, which does not affect the turtles at all.

Mr. Duchock noted that because the escarpments near 45 N Beach Road are variable in length and height, turtles are turning away when they encounter it – which is called an obstructed nesting attempt. The state asks the Town to monitor and report these failed attempts so they can assist in evaluating the situation.

Director Duchock advised that almost the entire length of the project would require some fill and that there is funding in place to do 1.2 million cubic yards of sand. Areas will be resurveyed to determine the higher priorities first, and then distribute the rest of the volume where possible.

4. HB 7013 Requirements for Special Districts

Director Duchock noted that Florida House passed House Bill No. 7013, which the Governor signed on April 26, 2024. Specifically, the bill effects changes to F.S. Chapter 189, along with other statutes, concerning independent and dependent special taxing districts. The impact of the bill on the Town is a new requirement to establish and publish goals and objectives for the Beach Protection District, including performance metrics, and to report on those annually. Mr. Duchock noted that the first annual report is required to be published on the Town's website by December 2025 and referred to his handout which provides an example of goals and objectives. Additionally, he is also coordinating with other special taxing districts on preparation strategies and welcomed the Commission's comments. In response to Mayor Townsend's question, further discussion may take place later. Commissioner Warner opined that once each Commissioner has had an opportunity to review Director Duchock's proposal in detail, additional comments and ideas would be generated.

Commissioner Scott shared an email exchange from 2021 with a well-known and published Professor Emeritus at the University of South Florida who ardently cautioned against building underground structures on a barrier island.

Vice Mayor Field also offered comment that given the litigious nature of the world, the Commissioners may face some liability in the future if a collapse does occur during a hundred-year storm event.

Furthermore, Mr. Field opined that a waiver be on every building permit, as an awareness of potential future issues.

Mayor Townsend interjected that this topic has more to do with LDR's and Building. Mr. Duchock noted that he will begin to prepare a more detailed outline with performance metrics as a draft of what the Town would present for the House bill requirements and circulate among the Commissioners for comments.

Commissioner Warner asked Mr. Duchock if he has ever requested permission from the State to close the public beaches at night during turtle nesting season. Mr. Duchock advised he had not, but proposed reaching out to the local contact of FWC and see if there has ever been an instance that it was done.

Commissioner Taddeo noted that the Town would have to do it in conjunction with Martin County; discussion followed. (54:22).

5. Other Items*

There were no other items discussed.

Mayor Townsend adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Kogos, Town Clerk