

August 16, 2022
ITEM 14.B.

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 25, 2022

SUBJECT: Update/Discussion on Sector 7 Beach Renourishment Project

FROM: Joseph H. Earman
Commissioner, District 3

Background

Sector 7 beach renourishment continues to be a significant issue for both the Beach & Shore Preservation Advisory Committee (BSPAC) and concerned citizens.

At the March 8th BOCC meeting, the Board – citing the lack of sufficient signed easements needed to move forward – elected to postpone the Sector 7 project until at least November, 2023, while staff applies for extensions to FEMA and FDEP funding. During their July 18th committee meeting, the BSPAC members attempted to work through some of the outstanding issues facing the Sector 7 project, but as the discussion progressed it became clear that the committee lacked key information it would need to make further recommendations to the BOCC.

Discussion

I wanted to mention a few topics the BSPAC has recently explored and offer an opportunity for the Board to discuss some of these, as the members see fit.

1. The potential costs for the two methods of renourishing Sector 7 beaches (specifically, offshore sand dredge and land-based truck haul) remain hazy. Staff is attempting to provide updated estimates based on previously-submitted bid data, but it seems clear that, if the FEMA and FDEP funding extensions (totaling about \$5.8M) are not granted, the Sector 7 project would be unachievable. However, even if the federal and state funds are extended, the BSPAC would ask for confirmation of the project's fiscal viability, given the ever-eroding buying power of the external funds.
2. I'd like to gauge BOCC support for changing the perpetuity of the current Sector 7 easement language, perhaps to a 20- or 25-year duration, in order to entice more signatories.

3. Establishing a viable southern access point for large dump trucks would be key to a truck haul solution in the lower 3,800' of Sector 7. However, the committee would like to alert the BOCC that using the most reasonable entry point -- Moorings Floralton Beach Park at the southern extremity of the sector -- would require the relocation of a sizable colony of gopher tortoises.
4. The county would need to weigh an agreement with the owner of a vacant lot in the northern half of Sector 7 (Angler's Cove to Treasure Cove) for staging of support services.
5. Assuming we can secure the funding extensions and negotiate a modified easement that satisfies all parties, we would still need time to gather easements and accesses, solicit qualified bids, and clear the logistical hurdles in order to place Sector 7 in 2023/2024 budget. (Fortunately, permits for the project remain valid for 15 years.)