

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Michael Zito, Interim County Administrator

THROUGH: Richard B. Szpyrka, P.E., Public Works Director

FROM: Eric Charest, Natural Resources Manager

SUBJECT: Sebastian Inlet Technical Advisory Committee Update

DATE: April 10, 2023

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection's Coastal Engineering and Geology staff are charged with establishing or updating Inlet Management Plans (IMPs) that identify comprehensive approaches for addressing the erosive impacts of Inlets on adjacent beaches per Florida Statutes Chapter 161. Coordination among local governments, state agencies and the private sector is a critical component when creating or updating IMPs.

Indian River County (IRC) participated in the 2000 FDEP Technical Review Committee in which the initial Sebastian Inlet Management Plan was developed. IRC participated again in 2004 when an update to the Sebastian Inlet District's IMP was recommended, with adoption of the update taking place in 2008.

As a result of on-going studies in and around the Sebastian Inlet and adjacent beaches since the 2004 update, a better understanding of the transport of sand has been obtained. As such, the FDEP convened a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on January 26, 2022 for involving key stakeholder groups and professionals to utilize the most recent scientific information available to provide technical expertise and feedback to the FDEP for decision making in order to update to the Sebastian Inlet IMP.

Representation on the 2022 TAC included the FDEP, the Sebastian Inlet Tax District Commission, Brevard County, Indian River County and a local stakeholder contingency. Indian River County received technical support for its' TAC participation through APTIM Environmental and Infrastructure, LLC (APTIM) under the Continuing Contract Agreement for Continuing Engineering Services.

Since the initial January 26, 2022 TAC meeting, 3 additional meetings were held in which voluminous data was shared with the committee members. The data was presented in order to support an update the Inlet's IMP, which includes the sediment budget, monitoring programs and other management strategies.

At the April 5, 2023 fourth and final TAC meeting, the TAC members discussed their respective update scenarios and proposed sediment budgets for the IMP, with the goal of concluding the final

TAC with agreement on a comprehensive update strategy for the Sebastian Inlet IMP. Supported by advanced shoreline modeling efforts performed by APTIM, IRC and TAC members came to an agreement on an updated sediment bypass volume of 75,000 cubic yards on average per year that the Sebastian Inlet District would be responsible for placing on the downstream beaches within IRC to address the erosive impacts of the Sebastian Inlet. That volume has since been recommended to the FDEP for inclusion in the updated IMP.

Specifics to the proposed updated comprehensive IMP are currently being worked out, and Staff anticipates bringing before the BCC an update to the recently extended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Coordination of Supplemental Beach Nourishment and Related Coastal Activities between IRC and the Sebastian Inlet District. The MOU update is expected to identify how the Sebastian Inlet District and IRC will continue to work cohesively in order for the Sebastian Inlet District to comply with the update to the IMP when adopted.

FUNDING

This update is being provided for information purposes and does not require any funding.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Board continue to support Staff as approaches towards updating the MOU are discussed, with the MOU being brought back before the BCC at a later date for approval.

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR April 18, 2023