

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

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

FROM: Eric Charest, Natural Resources Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation of the Indian River County Beach Preservation Plan (2019 Update)

DATE: April 5, 2021

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

Indian River County developed and adopted its first comprehensive Beach Preservation Plan (BPP) in 1988, which included a management strategy for addressing coastal erosion along the County's 22.4 miles of shoreline. The BPP has been subsequently updated in 1998, 2002, 2008 and 2015.

On April 17, 2018 the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved a contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for professional coastal engineering services in Indian River County under RFQ 2018008.

On December 4, 2018, the BCC approved Work Order No. 1 with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for professional coastal engineering services related to updating the County's Beach Preservation Plan.

The 2019 Update to the BPP is complete and is being presented to the Board for approval. The BPP is an advisory document only, and approval does not commit the County to any specific action.

In addition to staff recommendation, on March 15, 2021, the County's Beach and Shore Preservation Advisory Committee made a supporting motion recommending approval of the 2019 BPP Update.

The main goals of the 2019 BPP update are consistent with previous versions and include:

- Avoid adverse impacts to environmental resources including nearshore Hardbottom
- Assess the vulnerability of upland property up to future storm events
- Document the overall performance of the management program from 2013 through 2019

Some of the highlights of the BBP update include:

- Erosional and/or accretional rates observed on the beaches within the County from the 2013 through 2019 time period.

- An evaluation of the County's beach management efforts, demonstrating continued success of the program with an annualized shoreline change of 0.3 ft/yr over the 2013 through 2019 time period.
- An evaluation of alternative beach management options was also performed for this update. This included strategies such as no action, beach fill, and use of coastal armoring structures; **concluding that the beach fill alternative remains the lowest, most cost-effective strategy for future beach management.**
- An outline of future program costs for planning purposes, including long term projections going out to 2034.
- An overview of potential funding sources to implement the plan.

FUNDING

Local funding of Beach Restoration includes a portion of Local Option Tourist Tax Revenue. No funding is required to approve the 2019 Update to the Beach Preservation Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the 2019 Update to the Beach Preservation Plan.

ATTACHMENT

Executive summary of the 2019 update to the BPP
Beach and Shores Committee Letter of Support

The complete Beach Preservation Plan can be viewed at the County's Coastal Engineering office in Public Works

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR APRIL 20, 2021