

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

## Information for Town Council Meeting on: December 10, 2019

---

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: E. Llwyd Ecclestone, Shore Protection Board Chairperson  
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager

RE: Shore Protection Board Annual Report

DATE: November 22, 2019

---

The Shore Protection Board (SPB) is comprised of seven (7) regular members and three (3) alternate members appointed by the Town Council for three-year terms.

A chairperson and vice-chairperson are selected by the members. The 2019 SPB membership was as follows:

2018 Shore Protection Board Member	Position	Current Term Expires
E. Llwyd Ecclestone	Chairperson	12/2020
Lewis Katz	Vice-chairperson	12/2020
Kane Baker	Regular Member	12/2021
Melissa Ceriale	Regular Member	12/2019
James C. Gavigan	Regular Member	12/2021
Reuben B. Johnson, III	Regular Member	12/2021
Harvey Kinzelberg	Regular Member	12/2019
Stephen Jacoby	Alternate Member	5/2020
Warren Belmar	Alternate Member	5/2020
William Lorentzen	Alternate Member	5/2020

On January 24, 2019, Town Council re-appointed Llwyd Ecclestone and Lewis Katz. Mr. Ecclestone and Mr. Katz are currently serving their final three-year term ending in December 2020. Kane Baker, James Gavigan, and Reuben Johnson are serving their final three-year terms ending in December 2021. Melissa Ceriale and Harvey Kinzelberg are currently serving a partial term and will be eligible to be appointed for two (2) three-year terms. SPB members are allowed to serve for two (2) consecutive three-year terms.

The Board met four (4) times during the 2019 calendar year.

2017 Shore Protection Board Member	Meetings Attended	Absences	Jan 24	Mar 31	Apr 25	Nov 21
E. Llwyd Ecclestone	4	0	P	P	P	P
Lewis Katz	3	1	E	P	P	P
Kane Baker	4	0	P	P	P	P
Melissa Cerialle	4	0	P	P	P	P
James C. Gavigan	4	0	P	P	P	P
Reuben B. Johnson, III	4	0	P	P	P	P
Harvey Kinzelberg	4	0	P	P	P	P
Stephen Jacoby**	3	0	P	P	P	R
Warren Belmar	4	0	P	P	P	P
William Lorentzen*	2	0	P	P	R	R

P = Present

E = Excused

U = Unexcused

R = Resigned

\*Will Lorentzen resigned from the Board on March 19, 2019.

\*\*Stephen Jacoby resigned from the Board on September 15, 2019.

### CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITION

The Town's proactive on-going coastal management efforts have maintained storm protection along the 12.2 miles of Town shoreline. Despite heavy sand erosion associated primarily with Hurricanes Matthew (2016) and Irma (2017), and the close encounter with Hurricane Dorian in 2019, no buildings are in imminent danger. Sand from the 2015 U.S.Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Lake Worth Inlet Maintenance Dredging in Reach 1, 2015 Mid-Town Beach Renourishment in Reaches 3 and 4, and 2016 Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment in Reach 7, continue to feed sand into Reaches 2, 5, and 8, respectively, to maintain shoreline stability. Dune Restoration in Reach 3 (2016), Reach 4 (2017) and Reach 8 (2015 and 2016) continue to provide stability to the Town's overall shoreline. The shoreline in Reaches 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 (and Reach 9 in the Town of South Palm Beach) are to be further stabilized with expected sand placement efforts in late 2019 and early 2020.

### 2019 COASTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS

Sand Transfer Plant operations have continued during 2019 with more than 70,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand bypassed under the inlet, from Singer Island to Palm Beach Island, between January and mid-November 2019. The current volume is less than the volume (more than 100,000 CY) at this time last year and, together with the inlet maintenance dredging, falls short this year of meeting the inlet sand bypassing goals of an average of 202,000 cubic yards per year. The lower volume is likely attributable to the relatively mild weather this year. Long term, the bypassing goals are expected to be met.

Biological, physical, sea turtle nesting, and shorebird monitoring work continued, as required by State's Beach Management Agreement (BMA) and/or Federal permits, as previously approved by Town Council.

The Town continues to await regulatory action by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Reach 8 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Action by the USACE, such as publication of a Record of Decision (ROD) and an Intent to Issue, continues to be expected consistent with the Town's preferred alternative. The Shore Protection Board will review and consider a solution in Reach 8, including an FY 2021 budget item, once additional feedback is received by the USACE.

## 2019 SHORE PROTECTION BOARD ACTIONS

**Workshop.** On March 21, 2019, the SPB held a public workshop to informally discuss coastal-related topics.

Goals and Objectives. The Board endorsed the 2019 SPB goals with minor revisions. Two new goals were added:

- Coastal Vulnerability and Resiliency
- Communication

Groins. State and Federal permits have been received. The Board recommended that implementation of a Groin Rehabilitation Plan be approved by Town Council in the future, but recognizes that during the current construction window (November 2019 – April 2020) the focus must remain on time-sensitive beach nourishment and dune restoration with our Federal and State partners.

Vulnerability. The Board recommended that Town Council accept the Woods Hole Group Coastal Vulnerability Study and move forward with development of an implementation plan.

Public Education and Communication. The Board recommended that the Town publicize the condition of the beaches and the successes of the Beach Management Agreement with FDEP and the Town's beach nourishment program.

Stakeholder Coordination. The Board is to identify any areas of concern regarding both stakeholder and agency coordination and make recommendations to Town Council.

**Coastal Vulnerability Assessment.** In January, the Shore Protection Board received the draft report from Woods Hole Group. One element of the two-year study was to use a model to help the Town plan for present and future risks of flooding. With the proposed FY 2020 Coastal Management Program budget, the Board recommended development of an implementation plan to address Town infrastructure identified in the Coastal Vulnerability Assessment that is vulnerable to flooding.

**The Breakers/Clarke/Mid-Town Area.** In November, the Shore Protection Board received the results from the Technical Advisory Committee. A solution to further stabilize this complex shoreline has been identified by coastal engineering experts. The Shore Protection Board unanimously recommended that staff obtain a proposal from a consultant for design and permitting and advance that recommendation to Town Council for approval in January 2020.

**FY 2020 Coastal Management Program Budget.** In April, the Shore Protection Board unanimously recommended an FY 2020 Coastal Management Program Budget of \$38.8 million. To summarize, the budget included carryover for artificial reef construction, Sand Forepassing, Town shared costs associated with FEMA for Mid-Town and Phipps repair projects from hurricanes Matthew and Irma, program maintenance and monitoring requirements. In addition, the SPB's FY 2020 budget recommended adjusting the groin rehabilitation item from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 to construct the

first phase. Town Council adopted an FY 2020 budget consistent with 39 of the 40 individual items identified within the SPB recommended FY 2020 Coastal Management Program Budget. The only item approved by Town Council that was inconsistent with the SPB recommendation was groin rehabilitation (which was maintained at an annual appropriation of \$500,000). Construction of structural coastal projects, such as groins, can be funded through future bonds and would be considered following the active 2019/2020 construction window for beach projects.

#### ANTICIPATED 2020 SHORE PROTECTION BOARD ACTIONS

Prior to Town Council review and consideration, the Shore Protection Board will discuss and recommend actions for the following notable items in 2020:

- FY 2021 Coastal Management Program Budget, including Groin Rehabilitation;
- Permitting/implementation of a shoreline solution for Breakers/Clarke/Mid-Town area;
- Continued considerations for Reach 8 following USACE issuance of a Record of Decision and Town receipt of State and Federal permits;
- Receipt of a resiliency implementation plan to include actions to be taken along both the ocean and lagoon sides;
- Continued project monitoring of Mid-Town and Phipps and continued Townwide physical, biological, sea turtle nesting, and shorebird nesting monitoring in accordance with the BMA; and
- Coordination between beach raking and volunteer beach cleanups.

cc: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager  
H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works  
Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer