

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: December 14, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: Kane Baker, Shore Protection Board Chairperson
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager

RE: Shore Protection Board Annual Report

DATE: November 18, 2021

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

A chairperson and vice-chairperson are selected by the members. The 2021 SPB membership was as follows:

2018 Shore Protection Board Member	Position	Current Term Expires
Kane Baker	Chairperson	12/2021
Reuben Johnson, III	Vice-chairperson	12/2021
Warren Belmar	Regular Member	12/2021
Melissa Cerialle	Regular Member	12/2022
James C. Gavigan	Regular Member	12/2021
Vladimir Rapoport	Regular Member	12/2022
Erick Reickert	Regular Member	12/2022

Kane Baker, James Gavigan, and Reuben Johnson are currently serving their final three-year term ending in December 2021. Warren Belmar is completing serving his first full three-year term ending in December 2021 and is eligible for re-appointment. Both Vladimir Rapoport and Erick Reickert are serving partial terms since they were promoted from alternate member to regular member which ends December 2022. SPB members are allowed to serve for two (2) consecutive three-year terms.

The Board met three (4) times during the 2021 calendar year.

2021 Shore Protection Board Member	Meetings Attended	Absences	Jan 21	Feb 11	May 27	Nov 18
Kane Baker	4	0	P	P	P	P
Warren Belmar	4	0	P	P	P	P
Melissa Ceriale	4	0	P	P	P	P
James C. Gavigan	4	0	P	P	P	P
Reuben B. Johnson, III	3	1	P	P	P	E
Vladimir Rapoport	4	0	P	P	P	P
Erick Reickert	4	0	P	P	P	P

P = Present

E = Excused

U = Unexcused

CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITION

The Town's proactive on-going coastal management efforts have maintained storm protection along the 12.2 miles of Town shoreline. The shorelines in Reaches 7 and 8 (and Reach 9 in the Town of South Palm Beach) were further stabilized with beach nourishment and dune restoration efforts in early 2021. As a result of a mild hurricane season, all sand from the completed projects remained in place. A strong nor'easter in early November 2021 displaced some sand from the beach berm into the nearshore sandbar along most areas of the Town. This is largely a seasonal adjustment and the beaches will naturally recover. Most of the dune sand placed in Reach 9 was displaced from the limited dry beach as a result of the nor'easter.

2021 COASTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS

The Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment project was completed on April 27, 2021 which included the placement of 495,000 cubic yards of sand placed between Phipps Ocean Park and the Ambassador Hotel in Reach 7 along a shoreline distance of approximately 1.25 miles. The nourishment project was cost shared with FEMA at 75% due to hurricanes Matthew and Irma.

The project included a stockpile of sand placed on the beach between Phipps Ocean Park and the Par 3 Golf Course. More than 62,000 cubic yards of sand were truck hauled to various dune restoration areas in Reaches 7, 8, and 9: approximately 19,000 cubic yards in the Sloan's Curve area of Reach 7; approximately 23,000 cubic yards of sand in Reach 8 south of the Lake Worth pier; and approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sand in the Town of South Palm Beach. The dune restoration work was completed on May 5, 2021 and covered a shoreline distance of 1.65 miles. The Reach 7 and Reach 8 dune restoration projects were cost shared with FEMA at 75%. The Town of South Palm Beach was responsible for 100% of the Reach 9 dune restoration project costs.

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.

2021 SHORE PROTECTION BOARD ACTIONS

During the January 21, 2021 SPB meeting, the SPB members discussed goals for the upcoming calendar year and held a subsequent workshop on February 11. Due to the changes in project status

for Mid-Town, the board changed their goal entitled “Establish Long-term Easements for Construction Efficiency and State and Federal Cost Sharing” to read “Consideration of a Policy for Securing Federal and Town Easements Needed for Construction and Implications for State and Federal Cost Sharing”.

Five (5) 2021 Goals and Objectives were identified:

1. Improve Communication and public relations

Action: Limited due to the ongoing constraints related to the global pandemic. Public engagement and public participation are expected to increase in 2022 as health mandates are relaxed.

2. Support and Implement a coastal vulnerability and resiliency implementation plan that will consider the oceanfront and the lagoon.

Action: Woods Hole Group provided the Town with the Level Up Palm Beach Coastal Resiliency Implementation Plan in August 2021. Grant applications have been submitted to potentially obtain state cost share for implementing applicable capital improvement projects.

3. Develop and implement permitted coastal hard structure technology where appropriate.

Action: 90% design has been completed and State permitting is underway for the replacement of the Mid-Town seawall from north of Royal Palm Way to south of Gulfstream Road.

4. Work with State and Federal agencies and governments to implement projects to protect our shoreline.

Action: The Town is working with FDEP to update projects in the Beach Management Agreement to further protect our shoreline. The Town is working with the Corps to extend the Mid-Town Federal Shore Protection Project to the south following recording of the newly extended Erosion Control Line from Banyan Road to Southern Boulevard.

5. Continue maximal sand bypassing and inlet dredging.

Action: The Sand Transfer Plant has bypassed more than 130,000 cubic yards of sand in 2021. The Town has been working with the Corps in preparation for the dry beach placement of approximately 400,000 cubic yards of inlet-dredged sand beginning in January 2022.

During the November 18, 2021 SPB meeting, the SPB members unanimously recommended that the Town Council continue to authorize the Town and its consultant to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service to issue the Record of Decision for the 2016 Final Environmental Impact Statement and to continue work to obtain both the State and Federal permits for the Town’s preferred project in Reach 8.

ANTICIPATED 2022 SHORE PROTECTION BOARD ACTIONS

The goals currently being addressed in 2021 are expected to continue in 2022. With three (3) of the seven (7) Shore Protection Board positions to be filled with new appointees, it is expected that will necessitate some additional educational and informational sessions. The first meeting in January 2022 always includes a presentation of the sediment budget with the short term and long term shoreline and volumetric changes of our beaches.

During the November 18, 2021 SPB meeting, the SPB members agreed to revisit the Town’s Groin Rehabilitation Plan in 2022 with respect to both erosion control and public safety.

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