

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 13, 2024

TO: Town Council Members

FROM: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

VIA: Melissa Ceriale, Shore Protection Board Chairperson
Patricia Strayer, Town Engineer

RE: Shore Protection Board 2023 Annual Report

DATE: January 22, 2024

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

A chairperson and vice-chairperson are selected by the members. The 2024 SPB members are as follows:

2024 Shore Protection Board	Position	Current Term Expires
Melissa Ceriale	Chair	1 st Term – 12/2025
Warren Belmar	Vice Chair	2 nd Term – 01/2025
Peter Matwiczuk	Regular Member	1 st Term – 12/2024
Ronald Matzner	Regular Member	1 st Term – 12/2024
Erick Reickert	Regular Member	2 nd Term – 12/2025
Doug Rogers	Regular Member	1 st Term – 12/2024
Joel Zylstra	Regular Member	1 st Term – 12/2024

Melissa Ceriale, Warren Belmar, and Erick Reickert are currently serving their final year of a three-year term. The remaining member's terms will end in December 2024, and will be eligible for reappointment at that time. SPB members are allowed to serve for two (2) consecutive three-year terms.

The Board met two (2) times during the 2023 calendar year. A third meeting was scheduled for November but was ultimately cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

2024 Shore Protection Board	Meetings Attended	Jan 27	Mar 30
Melissa Ceriale	2	P	P
Warren Belmar	2	P	P
Peter Matwiczuk	2	P	P
Ronald Matzner	2	P	P
Erick Reickert	2	P	P
Doug Rogers	1	E	P
Joel Zylstra	2	P	P

P = Present
E = Excused
U = Unexcused

CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITION

The Town's proactive on-going coastal management efforts have helped to maintain storm protection along the Town's 12.2 miles of shoreline. During late October/early November and December, we have had two significant winter weather events which impacted our shoreline. Despite the erosion brought by these storms, the sand that was placed on the beaches in recent projects is not lost. The majority of the sand will move south and then back to the dry beach as the wind and waves shift direction. This is a typical response to this weather pattern during this time of year.

The Town's Public Works staff and consultants have been monitoring the shoreline closely and will continue to do so providing updates as needed.

2024 COASTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS

Sand Transfer Plant

Sand Transfer Plant operations have continued during 2023, with more than 120,000 cubic yards of sand bypassed under the inlet, from Singer Island to Palm Beach Island for the year. The goal of the Inlet Management Plan for bypassing is 202,000 cubic yards, which the plant has not met due to maintenance issues with the sand transfer plant. Due to Hurricane Nicole in 2022, the plant was in need of mechanical repairs. These repairs consisted of rebuilding a jet pump and replacing well piping for that pump. Other projected work for the Sand Transfer Plant includes a Boom Crane Rehabilitation for structural repairs and an investigation of a secondary discharge line for cleaning. These repairs are likely to take place in the 2024 calendar year. The Staff is actively researching grant opportunities to assist with the funding of these projects.

This is a cost issue that needs to be closely considered. The Sand Transfer Plant has been a good sand source for the overall beach program, and the SPB is concerned about the losing the functionality of the contribution of this sand into our system.

Lake Worth Inlet Maintenance Dredging

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) preformed their annual Lake Worth Inlet Maintenance Dredging which took place between February and March of 2023. They dredged approximately 300,000 cubic yards of sand from the inlet. The sand was placed on the dry beach from the jetty in Reach 1 to Merrain Road in Reach 2.

The next inlet maintenance dredging is expected to commence in January 2024. The USACE project will result in removing approximately 100,000 cubic yards of sand from the inlet and place it on the near shore in Reach 1. This project is a biennial event where USACE choses to place sand in the near shore area every other year, which mitigates the impacts to the Town residents in this area.

Mid-Town Beach Nourishment

Town staff is working with USACE to implement a Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) project. The purpose of this project is to replace sand that was lost in the Federally authorized Mid-Town Beach Renourishment Project due to the impacts of Hurricane Ian in 2022. This project, and

other FCCE projects, are fully funded by the USACE. If staff is unsuccessful in resolving the easement issues in a timely manner, the FCCE project will be delayed to November 2025.

The SPB is very concerned about the successful implementation of this project. The SPB is requesting permission to become more involved in the communication of the issues that might hinder the project implementation and create a stronger public awareness of the issues.

Phipps Ocean Park Beach Renourishment and Dune Restoration

The project was scheduled to take place prior to April 2024 but has since been pushed back to November 2024. Part of the project will include the replacement of a sand stockpile that was impacted during Hurricane Nicole in November 2022. The stockpiled sand is able to be used in the Sloan's Curve area of Reach 7, the dunes in Reach 8, and the dunes in Reach 9 (South Palm Beach), as needed. To assist with offsetting the losses from Hurricane Nicole last year, a cost-share agreement with FEMA is currently underway.

Town staff are continuing to work with USACE on finalizing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and therefore, the Record of Decision for the Reach 8 project. The FDEP application has been submitted and is being processed. A recent request for additional information was received and is being responded to. Staff expects the EIS to be finalized this calendar year.

The SPB suggests communications be increased in the south part of the Town to ensure that the residents understand that the BMA is indeed working on their behalf. There continues to be a understandably high level of frustration by residents. This is a high priority for the SPB in our goals of communications to residents to work closely with this part of Town.

Sand Search

Staff have received two (2) Beach Management Funding Assistance Grants from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for a sand search and delineate borrow area for the next nourishment event. Currently, the grant agreements are being finalized and the sand search investigation is proposed to take place in 2024.

Monitoring

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.

2023 SHORE PROTECTION BOARD ACTIONS

The Board approved the four (4) informational videos. After getting Town Council approval, the Board directed staff to post the videos to the Town's website. Board members were encouraged to show the videos at individual gatherings.

2024 PROPOSED SHORE PROTECTION BOARD ACTIONS

The Board's focus continues to be communicating the success of the program and project issues with the residents of the Town. They have identified different opportunities for communications such as; presenting the results of the annual sand movement and erosion rates to the Citizens Association, preparing an annual report of progress in a press release for the Shiny Sheet and the Civic Association; educating the public on the importance of planting the dunes; and potentially assisting staff with

easement acquisition for different projects. A key focus of communications is to continue informing Town residents on the importance of the BMA, the successes we have seen over the past 20 years, help allay concerns and frustrations, all with the end goal of building the confidence of our Town residents for our Town Council and staff as we move forward with large and impactful future decisions to be made on our resiliency.

cc: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works
Jason Debrincat, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works