

Minutes

Brazoria County Shoreline Restoration Task Force

March 10, 2010

The meeting was hosted by Brazoria County Floodplain in the Engineering Dept. conference room located at 451 N. Velasco St., Suite 249.

Members Present:

Mark Fuqua, Treasure Island Mud
Kelly Hamby, Brazoria County
Lisa McMichael, Port Freeport
Commissioner Payne, Pct. 1

Lisa Bailey, Surfside Beach
Richard Hurd, Parks Department
Tonya Barker, Town of Quintana.

Guests:

Bill Gbant, Rep. Bonnen's Office
Dodie Armstrong, US Rep. Ron Paul

Gloria Millsap, Sen. Huffman's Office
Millie Walker, Parks Department

The meeting was called to order by Mark Fuqua at 10:10 a.m.

Lorrie Council, Ray Newby, Matthew Mahoney and Thomas Durnin with the General Land Office gave the following update via telephone to Task Force members and guests:

- Surfside Emergency Beach Nourishment – Ray Newby said that Coast & Harbor Eng. (CHE) were 95% complete on the design. They have received no word on a request to amend the existing USACE permit. During a meeting with the Corps it was determined that there has been no communication with USFW. Lorrie Council said that she would follow up on this with a call to the USACE. Discussing the timeline, Ray advised that they may be able to go for bid with possible construction beginning in April, and if not then it would be October. He also explained why the beach nourishment was necessary before the revetment repair, and that after the revetment project the dune project would follow. This schedule would eliminate the need of involving the USACE. He also stated that the Corps was slow in getting the letter out to USFW. Lorrie discussed the FEMA P/W's for the rock and sand and said FEMA was waiting on the Biological Assessment from USFW. Lisa Bailey asked if it might not be a good idea to get USFW to come down and actually visit the site. Ray thought that might be a good idea.
- Surfside Revetment – Thomas Durnin said that the work order to CHE is in the works for the repair of the revetment.
- Quintana – Ray Newby said the beach nourishment project is also tied up with FEMA and USFW by expects approval and obligation of funding by summer. GLO will be starting on the PCA which will include the Rita P/W for repairs of which extensions have been granted. The two projects will be combined and done at the same time.
- Widening of Freeport Channel – Lorrie asked Lisa McMichael with Port Freeport for a timeline. Lisa did not know the exact date, but said they were hoping it would start sometime in April. Lorrie's concern was coordination of several projects going on at the same time in the same general vicinity.

- CR257 – Matthew Mahoney stated that Brazoria County has taken the lead on this project with GLO being in an advisory position. Commissioner Payne said that he hoped to go out for bids in June and begin construction in July. He also said that this project still has issues with the USACE and USFW.
- CEPRA Legislation – Lorrie said GLO would be making up project brochures for distribution during the session. GLO will be addressing legislator's concerns with monitoring of projects, funding matches, and the effectiveness of CEPRA funding.
- San Luis Pass Inlet Management Study – Ray told Mark Fuqua that this was a CIAP project and the GLO is working on PCA's for approved projects.

Lisa Bailey asked if perhaps Dianna Kile with US Rep. Ron Paul's office could help in getting USFW to the site of the Emergency Surfside Projects. Dodie Armstrong with US Rep. Ron Paul's office said she would pass on the request to Dianna.

Commissioner Payne duly moved, seconded by Lisa Bailey, that the minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting be approved. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Richard Hurd, Director of the Parks Department, gave an update on the CIAP projects:

- An additional \$120,000 is being moved to the Sand Sediment Management Project. This is for the boat ramp area of San Luis Pass Park. Placement of dredged material has not been determined. Unable to use on the Surfside Project to permitting constraints.
- The Quintana Park Educational Center has been approved.
- Lisa Bailey asked about plans for the Surfside Jetty Park, and Richard said that they would be building restrooms, deck, play ground, covered picnic spaces and a walkover to the beach. He also mentioned that they were approved a CMP grant for a walkover on the large cut from the Channel. Richard added that they have an additional \$33,000 that he wants to use to repair the erosion with armoring, and perhaps an observation deck.
- Lisa McMichael said that Jimmy Salinas with Bryan Mound Strategic Oil Company has grant monies for environmental projects. Commissioner Payne said that he would call him.
- Tonya Barker with Town of Quintana asked about the status of the land acquisition projects. Richard said that they have a plan to work around property they can't acquire, and are working on a public access road from the park to the jetty area.

Discussion took place regarding the updating of the web site. It was suggested that Dunes Day be included, Adopt-the Beach, and project descriptions with before/after photos. It was also discussed the possibility of Task Force members talking to schools. Tonya talked about a group of students that comes to Quintana to monitor erosion for a week. It was suggest that a Task Force member be on site each day of the visit to interact w/the students.

Richard explained the Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI) which is a yearly grant for basically education and outreach. Richard said that last year they gave out \$415,000 to six (6) projects out of forty (40) project applications. This is a nationwide competitive grant and the more local match the higher the project scores. It was decided that this may be something the Task Force can look at next year, as the deadline is too close for this year.

Discussion was raised about going to Austin twice a year to visit with GLO. Commissioner Payne said that we would need an agenda. Kelly suggested making the CCC quarterly meetings to network with GLO and other coastal agencies/entities.

Lisa McMichael suggested that the TCEQ Conference in Austin in May is a good place to network, and perhaps visit with GLO at the same time.

Commissioner Payne brought up the sand that is being stockpiled in Matagorda County. It is 75,000 cubic yards and could be as much as 500,000 cubic yards. This is a USACE project on the mouth of the Colorado River. He said no one has the money to move the sand to where it would be beneficial.

Discussion was open regarding what has been heard about GLO's legislative strategy for the next legislative session. It was determined that we are going to have to lobby for our individual projects, with GLO's support due to the 5% budget cut backs within State agencies.

The next meeting will be held May 12, 2010 at 10:00 am at County Commissioner Precinct 1 Office located at 1432 Highland Drive, Clute, TX. (979-265-3953 contact Kelli Smith)

Commissioner Payne duly moved, seconded by Richard Hurd, to adjourn the meeting. The ayes were unanimous.

Kelly Hamby, Secretary