**FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**December 8, 2020**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, via Zoom teleconference. Chairman Zabinski Zabinski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**I. Roll Call:**

Board Members Present Also Present

Michael Zabinski, Chairman i Mr. Johnson, Asst. PW Director

Andy Bevilacqua MaryRose Palumbo,

Megan Sloan IW Compliance Officer

Thom Bach

John Casey

Vice Chairman Bach and Mr. Bevilacqua made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring for item V C) Update – Program for Public Information (PPI) after public participation. Motion carried unanimously.

**II. Public Participation:**

David DeLuke – 27 Point Beach Drive – thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He stated he normally joins the meeting to talk about the inconveniences of living in the Point Beach area, unfortunately two weeks ago during one of the windstorms, there was an emergency, and the fire department was not able to come down Virginia Street. He explained they had to back down Atwater Street to access his home. He stated this is no longer an inconvenience but a direr need to get the project going. He also pointed out none of the flood sirens went off that night. He also stated because his car was backed into their driveway the wheels were completely covered. He implored the board to please move this project forward. Please give the point Beach area priority moving forward. Mr. DeLuke extended Happy Holidays to all.

Chairman Zabinski asked if he had photographs.

Mr. DeLuke stated he did.

Chairman Zabinski suggested to Mr. DeLuke that he forward those photographs to the Mayor’s Office.

Chairman Zabinski - due to the emergency nature of that call, he felt it was important the Mayor was aware of the situation.

Vice Chairman Bach commented he was thankful no lives were lost, but that this incident exacerbated the area cannot wait much longer can we wait.

V-C) - Update: Program for Public Information (PPI) - MaryRose Palumbo, Inland Wetlands Compliance Officer reported she had two documents for the Board’s review and consideration; the PPI annual report and the Hazard Mitigation Tracker. She shared the report on the screen and continued with an explanation of the components of the report. She explained why a lot of public communications was not done due to COVID-19 that prevented public meetings. She continued with the Hazard Mitigation Action Tracker (shared on the screen) that is done for the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. She explained updates are handed in during the month of May. Mrs. Palumbo explained those items that have been updated and the status/description. She reported the micro grid is nearing completion. Resiliency Plan - in the process of applying for grants for pump stations. A brief discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Bach suggested the Board send their responses by the end of the week to the Chairman.

Chairman Zabinski stated he would like to receive all responses by noon on Monday.

**III. Correspondence**

None.

**IV. Consideration of Minutes.**

Ms. Sloan and Mr. Bach made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 as presented. Motion carried (Bach, Sloan, Bevilacqua) and two abstentions (Casey, Zabinski).

**V. Unfinished Business.**

A) Update: Drainage Projects and CDBG Projects:

Mr. Johnson reported some challenges during these times with the COVID. He stated he was exposed to COVID so he had to quarantine, followed by computer issues.

Bayview Beach – Mr. Johnson reported this project essentially is complete. He noted there were some complications, however, it has performed well and good lessons will be applied to other areas. One of the backflow valves was too large and created a little bubble so it was not making a correct seal but did not impact the performance. He stated they would like to do some additional resilience plantings for the area, so he would be speaking with the neighbors.

Point Beach - reported the Marie Street Reventment has gone out to bid and awarded. He stated they have DEEP approval, and the contractor is the same that did the Point Beach project. The Public Works Director has meet with the contractor. Mr. Johnson continued with report regarding the proposal for the back-flow preventer. (Lunar high tides.). Discussion ensued. He also reported Racz will be doing some seawall improvements.

Calf Pen/Beachland – Mr. Johnson reported there is still some vegetation that will be restored along the roadway. He stated the next fragmites treatment will be in the spring.

Milford Point Road -no report.

Morningside Road – no report.

Gulf Street/Welches Point Road/Bluff area - no updates. There have been some applications for funding sources.

Wildemere/Walnut Beach – Mr. Johnson reported following the last meeting in November he developed a draft email that was going to the legislative contacts. He stated he also spoke with Senator Maroney.

Chairman Zabinski asked Mr. Johnson what Senator Maroney’s response was.

Mr. Johnson stated Senator Maroney would work to establish a meeting.

Crescent Beach – Mr. Johnson reported there are ongoing discussions with Army Corp regarding the type of material. He explained that is a condition of the permitting. He will get clarification so that discussions can continue to move forward.

Mr. Casey asked about the plans that were submitted with the license.

Mr. Johnson stated he did not believe they had Army Corp license yet.

Mr. Casey asked if the project would move forward as currently licensed and will this Board be asking for the funding.

Mr. Bevilacqua noted the project has been substantially reduced. Discussion ensued regarding the materials, placement, etc.

Pelham Street - no changes

Gulf Beach Breakwater - no changes.

Vice Chairman Bach expressed his frustration with the lack of movement of the Wildemere/Walnut project. He stated it is absolutely frustrating to him and the residents who reside there. He stated month after month there is no progress. He stated this Board needs to push back and to stop just waiting, waiting and that reiterated nothing is moving forward. He stated this Board needs to take more of a leadership role.

Chairman Zabinski questioned the approach Mr. Johnson was taking. He commented nothing will happen unless there is a face-to-face meeting with the three (3) agencies, Army Corp, Fisheries and DEEP. He stated they need to be invited to these meetings, along with the engineers. He asked Mr. Johnson to take all the comments of the public and this Board into account and try to get a meeting for January. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Bach asked Mr. Johnson to reach out to the mayor as well.

Mr. Johnson stated he did reach out to the mayor’s chief of staff, Justin Rosen. Discussion resumed.

Gulf Beach Breakwater – No update.

B) Update: Resiliency Plan – no report

**VI. New Business**

A) Approval of the 2021 meeting schedule

Mr. Bach and Mr. Casey made and seconded a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bach and Ms. Sloan made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Kathleen A. Kennedy Recording Secretary