

**FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2019**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in Conference Room C of the Parsons Government Complex. Vice Chairman Bach called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Thom Bach, Vice Chairman
Meghan Sloan
John Casey

Also Present

Chris Saley, PW Director
Steve Johnson, Asst. PW Director
John McGrane

Excused: Michael Zabinski, Andrew Bevilacqua

II. Public Participation

David DeLuke - 27 Point Beach Drive – stated he is here again this month to ask the Board to move the Point Beach project along. He stated the drainage in front of his house as well as others continues to be a big problem and impacts their personal life. Mr. DeLuke stated during a recent flooding incident his family had to park four (4) cars throughout the city and hire someone to pick them up because of the predicted flooding on the street. He stated this is not the first time it has happened since moving there. He also pointed out he was aware of the possibility of flooding in this area, but that it would be the water side of their property, not the front of their home (street side).

Edward McGann - 25 Point Beach Drive – stated he lived there since 1958. He stated the drain that continues to malfunction is located directly across from his property. He stated he cannot even do any plantings in this area because of the drainage and constant flooding. Mr. McGann stated the residents on Point Beach Drive have all been patient, but are trying to understand why it has taken this long to correct the problem. He stated his house was destroyed in both Irene and Sandy and that he has elevated his house since, but yet he can't protect his home from the constant flooding from the street. He stated because Point Beach Drive always floods; you don't even need the alarms in that area. He implored the Board to please help out the residents.

Carol Klinger - 160 Broadway – She stated she is the President of the Wildemere Beach Association as well as a homeowner in that area. She stated the resident of Wildemere Beach heard a proposal almost two years ago and to date nothing has been done. She stated she understands there are problems with DEEP, but expressed her hope this Board could brainstorm and somehow move forward to get this project moving. She also spoke of the flooding issues at Milford Point Beach as well.

III. Correspondence

None.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting

Passed on acceptance of the minutes until the November meeting.

Vice Chairman Bach suggested re-ordering the agenda and having Mr. JohnMcGrane do his presentation. The Board agreed.

Mr. Johnson explained for background it is not just DEEP, but also Army Corp. He stated there have been approvals for Bayview Beach and Point Beach also Morningside Reventment, Milford Point Road and a planning project for Welches Point and Gulf Street. He added they have made progress despite many frustrations. He stated at the last meeting we thought it would be good to get a background (Crescent Beach and Walnut/Wildemere Beaches) and have John provide an update. He deferred to Mr. McGrane.

Mr. McGrane explained the goal of each of the projects is to get some type of relief. (Marine plants, wave analysis, during a 10 year storm, wave would have a severe impact, including sand being swept out to sea. Beach nourishment, creation of a structure, core not acceptable (could become exposed).

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. McGrane to explain the paths to permitting for each of the projects.

Mr. Bach asked about the living shoreline with plants, sand, living plants. He asked why this is not acceptable to DEEP.

Mr. McGrane stated there are other particulars such as outfalls, timber pills, exposed pipe, etc. He stated DEEP objects to the dune core being rock. A brief discussion ensued. (Armored rock core or biodegradable). Discussion resumed.

Mr. McGrane also commented agencies such as the Federal EPA, US Marine Fisheries, DEEP, Army Corp are some of the agencies not on board, or going back and forth with. Discussion continued.

Mr. Casey asked about rock core at Wildemere Beach, asked if this Board applied for a structure what the anticipated outcome would be.

Mr. McGrane stated it was something they would not likely accept due to the potential of the hardened structure. He commented it is hard to withstand a 100 year storm. He also stated there is also concern regarding exposure of the rock. Discussion resumed.

Ms. Sloan asked if consideration would be given if assessments and/or modeling could be proven. This Board is trying to understand the denials without rationale behind it.

Director Saley interjected and stated in a smaller scope a living shore test model could make sense, if proven. He also stated you would need a true study. He questioned why CT does not allow armor coating, adding it does not make sense.

Mr. McGrane commented on certificate of permission which is usually given for an existing replacement. Discussion resumed.

Mr. Casey asked about doing some type of a test case.

Director Saley stated when he spoke with agencies they sounded excited about it and that there was some potential of moving forward. He suggested Mr. Johnson and Mr. McGrane have a conversation with Mr. Gaucher.

Vice Chairman Bach asked the next steps concerning Wildemere Beach and if there was some possibility of legal interpretation as to ownership of the property. He stated if the project were approved, this could give some direction. Discussion resumed.

Mr. Johnson suggested a conference call with himself, Mr. McGrane and DEEP and see what their official response would be. Mr. McGrane suggested there are a number of topics that could be taken up during that conference call. Discussion resumed.

V. Unfinished Business

A) Update: Drainage Projects and CDBG Projects:

Bayview Beach – Mr. Johnson working with purchasing to get it noticed and re-bid.

Point Beach – Mr. Johnson met with DEEP on an informal basis. He spoke of the 30-40 year old backflow preventers they are hoping to replace. He stated the Engineering Department has surveyed each of the structures to verify the heights. He stated they are also coordinating with the Point Beach Association; and they are also looking at seawall repairs.

Calf Pen/Beachland Avenue – Mr. Johnson reported - 95% complete. Marsh and invasive fragmites to deal with.

Milford Point Road - Mr. Johnson getting ready to go out to bid late fall/early winter.

Morningside Revetment – Mr. Johnson reported this project is the same as the Milford Point Road project.

Gulf Beach/Welches Point Road – Mr. Johnson reported they received permit approval from DEEP so that can move forward.

Vice Chairman Bach asked about moving that project forward and finding the monies to complete the project.

Mr. Johnson stated they are looking at various funding areas.

Wildemere/Walnut Beach – previously discussed.

Crescent Beach – nothing to report.

Pelham Street – Mr. Johnson reported 30% design on that project. Also, a good understanding of what DEEP would allow in terms of repairing the stairs.

Gulf Beach Breakwater - Mr. Johnson reported discussions with the Department of Housing. He stated they may be able to extend the project 6-7 months that will allow us additional planning for living structures. He reminded the Board they do not want a groin.

B) Update: Resiliency Plan –Mr. Johnson stated he had no report. He also reported Joe Griffith, DPLU Director asked to be rescheduled to next month. Mr. Johnson stated the months of October and November are challenging for the department. He reported there were 22 tide events above the 7 foot elevation, with the wind direction always being a factor. He stated the fire department provides warnings whenever possible.

C) Update: Program for Public Information (PPI) – no report.

VII. New Business

None.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Casey and Ms. Sloan made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary