

Joe Nolin, Ponce Inlet Port Authority Manager, spoke to The Beach Advisory Committee on January 10, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. in the Votran Building. Please find a transcript of remarks below. My comments are in italics. As an aside, the sand has begun hitting the beach this week. It is estimated this project will take three to four months. Please note this is a temporary sand berm only, not a long-term restoration project.

Nolin said regarding the long-term plan, seven year maintenance routine is what most projects are designed for. If we have mild storm conditions and Mother Nature gives us a break, perhaps that sand would persist for ten years or longer. In 2003 the project was estimated to cost between twenty and forty million dollars.

Board Member: Is there any plan for the north beaches?

Nolin: That plan would come as soon as council has a plan to move forward with a plan that would include all Volusia beaches. *The Feds want everything done at the same time.*

Brevard is a good example. Bear in mind, Brevard's approach was very similar to ours. They would move forward in partnership with the state and move forward with federal involvement. *Staffers are needed to handle making applications for money and carrying out project paperwork..*

Seventy-five percent Fed involvement with State, and County splitting twenty-five percent. Brevard County was able to ... significantly ... reduce the local share. It was started with state and county funds and then the final construction phase is federal. We're ahead of the federal government. It is common for local governments to outpace the local government in these... projects. *Humility!*

Funding is contingent on annual appropriations. Every year you do not know if you will have federal funding until Congress approves it. Additional steps will have to be taken. Staffers needed!.

At this point we have an indication that the federal government anticipates...

They conducted at the county's request, a 2003-2004 reconnaissance effort of all of Volusia county's beaches and determined shore protection for Volusia County beaches.

The next step is a feasibility study to be undertaken by the Federal government. *Which County Council has to authorize. To take three years and 4.5 million non federal share. We don't have three years. .*

50/50 state would support splitting our nonfed share. *We're behind the eight ball. Brevard got it right; sooner rather than later. Had we a plan in place during the 2004 hurricanes the storms would not have cut so deeply into our shoreline and federal funds would have been available for repairs/replenishment..*

\$1.5 million from Fed; \$150,000 from County; and \$150,000 from State to determine what the federal government believes is the solution to long-range erosion control on all of Volusia County's beaches.

Question: Has this been authorized? Is it going forward?

Nolin: An authorized project is difference from appropriated or recon. The recon is complete and indicated there is an opportunity to participate with the federal government. Feasibility study will go forward under conditions of consideration and execution by county council to permit funding of county share. *We are supposed to* get state support.

Board Member: Phil Flood (Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection) when he came and talked to us last month said we are the only county who has done nothing. We're way behind the eight ball. They have a lot of funds available. He was real concerned about our beaches and wants to give us the money.

Nolin: Volusia County has never done a beach restoration project. We turned a federal effort down in 1991 in Daytona Beach Shores. But let me make it clear, when Mr. Flood offers money, for example for this project, it is with the understanding that we do a local share. This is a forty million dollar project. The county is on the hook for thirteen million dollars and the state is on board for \$7 million. It is a lot of money. There is concern about where those funds will come from. A regional agency says why aren't you taking the state money; it is because there is a cost share involved.

Board Member: The whole state, everybody but us. . . it's pretty obvious that we missed the boat. Are we feeling the ramifications? It looks like every other municipality around the state realized they need to do this.

Nolin: Miami Beach has been doing beach restoration for three decades.

Board Member: Are we at the point that we need to prioritize? *A resounding Yes!* With recent recent storm events, Floyd and 1999 followed by a few good years, and the hurricanes of last fall have pointed out what could be an erosion problem. If we pursue federal involvement, it could still be three years before we get federal funds.

Nolin: There is a chance we can expedite federal involvement. All of the studies we have done in partnership with the state, we can ask they use that to speed up the feasibility involvement and shave off the time.

We are looking at literally a five-year time period before the project can start if we have federal involvement (for the south beach project, unless something is done in the interim? No that will include the north beach area. The feds will only consider *all of it*.

Glen Storch, Beach Advisory Board Chairman: It think it's clear the county has to make this a priority. If we proceed without federal participation, *sooner rather than later*, can we be assured of state participation?

Nolin: We can never be assured of either state or fed participation because we are in competition of \$30 million dollars in funds, annually granted by the State Legislature by Florida Statute which makes beaches a priority.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT: *Because beach erosion is a serious menace to the economy and general welfare of the People of this state and has advanced to emergency proportions, it is hereby declared to be a necessary governmental responsibility to properly manage and protect Florida beaches fronting on the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Straits of Florida from erosion and that the Legislature make provision for beach restoration and nourishment projects (Florida Statute 161.088).*

Prior to deposit of any moneys into the General Revenue Fund, \$30 million shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund in fiscal year 2000-2001 and each fiscal year thereafter, to be used for the preservation and repair of the state's beaches as provided in ss. 161.091-161.212 (Florida Statutes 201.15(11)

The Legislature finds and declares that the beaches in this state and the coastal barrier dunes adjacent to such beaches, by their nature, are subject to frequent and severe fluctuations and represent one of the most valuable natural resources of Florida and that it is in the public interest to preserve and protect them. . ." (Florida Statutes 161.053)

There are numerous other communities competing for those funds. There are no guarantees, we have always asked, but we have not always been ready to move.

Storch: In the past, they have been throwing money at us and we haven't been taking it, Times change. If the budget changes, and they don't have that money, things may change. This is important to move this forward. *Leadership!*

Jack Hayman

County Councilman for District 3 Volusia County. Southeast part of the County impacted severely. The folks from Southeast Volusia and the State Dept. of Environmental. Protection indicated concern of lack of response. What didn't come out of that conversation was why? Here today to answer question why.

Joe said it very clearly, just reiterate, policy decision that we would divide the beach in half for propensity for nourishment and renourishment, have decided south beach is a priority. North Beach is accreting with exception of Ormond. Look at 47 miles of beach, most prudent to focus on Ponce Inlet south. That was decision by policy makers of Volusia County government, and decided after great deal of information was provided to County Council. *According to Joe Nolin, the federal government will only fund if the entire area of eroded beach is considered.*

To County Council Cost-benefit issue comes up. My predecessors and me have had to look at cost-benefit relationships. How much is available and what are our sources. The feds are the way to go because they are at 75% *The only way to get fed funds is to do the whole project.*

They do have the money, but they have a problem, the governor makes a sweep of state funds especially after budget allocation process. Any moneys not used he can redistribute and reallocate. *However the money being unused is highly unlikely with 175 miles of restored beach competing for the state allocated funds annually (30 million dollars).* .

Dept of Environmental protection has offered seven million over the years, each time we've been able to survive, county council is going to come forth, we keep saying next year. There is a great deal of political pressure there. The administration that I've been part of, we've been very concerned about where the money is coming from. Most prudent to involve federal and state money. Brevard County using most cost-efficient method. We're trying to leverage 75% 25% feds/and 25% shared by county and state. A lot of incremental steps have to take place before that happens. To the lay person and citizens, it is incomprehensible. They don't understand why it will take three years...and I agree but that's the bureaucracy, and we have to deal with it. *Won't Flagler County then also be part of the funding?*

Still Hayman: I suggest funds from the general revenue string, Port Authority dollars, a special taxing district. Problem with equity there. Ask yourself where special port district begins and ends. It doesn't begin at the St. John's River. It begins at US1. We're asking a segment of the population to bear the burden of something the entire community enjoys.

As former mayor of Edgewater, I was aware of the tourist development Tax: The bed tax should be used for advertising and towards the experience, the beautification, safety and restoration of the beach. To create a special district, you'd have to create the whole county. *According to a 2004 Volusia County study, fifty-five to sixty percent of the beachgoers are from Volusia county.*

The process is what we're going to go through. A political, PR process, one in which the Volusia County government must explain benefits and costs to community. The community must decide the importance of the beach to the economy of the community. The further away from the beach, the less support you get for a forty million dollar project. *The truth. But that doesn't mean everyone shouldn't pay a port tax. Justify the economic value of the beaches, reinvest some of the tax dollars back into them. Treat our beaches like the parks that they are and the mighty engine that fuels our local economies. Just look at the list of endangered birds at Volusia County's Beach Management Plan. Restore their habitat. Do not create an environmental disaster. Forty million dollars is a very small price to pay when one considers our lifestyle, our livelihoods, our responsibility. Take Leadership.*

An excellent analysis of the importance of beaches to our economy and the State of Florida came from Mr. Roe and Mr. DeSoto. We're going to have the community make the decision. The County Council is not going to make this decision in a vacuum. We're going to give this board guidelines.

If all goes well, we will have 12.5% of total cost of \$40 million dollar beach project. What is the cost benefit? What does the beach contribute to the economy? When this is over, all of us will understand the importance of that beach.

Community Outreach, town hall meetings, mayors, cities, chambers of commerce, board of Realtors, businesses and social organizations, we cannot leave anybody out. Each time I hope we define it, have a better feeling and grasp what the issues are and what the beach does for Volusia County. .

Storch: Councilman Hayman probably knows as much about beach erosion as anyone. One of the reasons why this wasn't looked at as seriously, is because our beaches were huge. It's only after the last storms, we've had this problem. This is going to be a long-term process. Can there be a special assessment, the properties on the beach paying the most and the ones further away paying less. What you're looking at is the benefit cost ratio, *for* those closer to realizing the benefit, the greater the burden.

How much does the Port Authority collect each year?

Hayman: This will be one of the topics in our strategic planning sessions. This is going to be one of the most important because of the cost. I must say the contribution the beach makes to our economy is perhaps more important. If you do that, you will agree this whole state has enjoyed the tremendous economic impact of tourist enjoyment of the beach. We don't have a state income tax because our beaches help to draw other forms of money to the economy. Spending in beach and recreation...we are an outdoor community.

Unknown: Most counties have a paid staff to go after this money.

Hayman: I would suggest that is not a bad way to go, perhaps the county can consider we go in that direction. Joe's doing a good job, Joe's counterpart in Brevard county, said if you're going to do something along eight to nine miles of beach, you need more than one person doing it full-time. It's going to require that. We had placed information regarding the whole beach renourishment project on the Port Authority's website. A hotlink from the county's home page will be on the county's home page. Volusia .org. Beaches, Beach Report Status.

Unknown: The beach erosion that has taken place has huge impacts. I don't think we've ever seen so much of the parking and access taken away from us. The only way to access the beach is the parks. Why are we spending \$20 to \$40 million dollars if we're going to support parking for that beach? National Parks drop the gate once the spaces are filled. We'll have to do something like that in the future if we cannot do something about parking. *This means we will turn people away. Where's the Beach?*

Kelly Desoto. Spoke briefly at last month's meeting. Appreciate the report Joe Nolin and County Council Hayman had to say. I'd like to reiterate and stress additional points in moving forward, I think everything presented tonight was good, and a lot of information I keep hearing at similar workshops I've been attending. We are here representing one of the last counties in the state of Florida. Miami's beach restoration program is three decades old. We know it's a process. We as a county have not acted on this.

We are running out of time. Prior to the 04 storms, they (*the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection*) were already declaring our beaches were in a critically eroded state. I

didn't really feel it until after the '04 storms. If you look at the cliff line, you had a 8-ft. drop off now you have a 14-ft. drop off, now you're saying maybe our beaches really were critically eroded.

Seventy-five percent of the contribution is going to pick up a big chunk of that. We need the champions of this committee to push ahead and take a leadership role to pursue action by County Council and show foresight.

Restoration project Port District supplied to state form of measuring public access to beaches. From June 2004 conducted an analysis of public access to beaches in Southeast Volusia. How much the state will contribute 69.5% state will share.

At the end it makes recommendations what we can do locally at county level to increase participation. Joe (*Nolin*) has passed this on to other departments, leisure services is one, Joe has done a fabulous job. From what has been presented here tonight, we know a sand source site will be established by spring of '07. We really need to see that the county begins to take action on these workshops.

I see two issues: funding: and commitment from our County Council. These time frames are critical. We've got the dune restoration projection, temporary, Port district is managing that. Will this take away from the long term project?

Creating fund sources and finding funds. The funding is still open ended and there hasn't been much, if anything done on that. I ask we move forward in development of those workshops.

Ad valorem property taxes, in an article printed last week, property values generated 44 billion in revenue up 23%. A good chunk of that money is generated by our coastal communities. You said we are going to have get up and get support in the community. We've created a website. www.saveourbeach.info. It's under construction. We're going to use this as a resource in cooperation with county, Mr. Hayman. The county website maybe lacks a little bit of the detail, but is heading in the right direction. On the website, people in our community will have the opportunity to input and address particular issues.

Bill Roe -- Joe Nolin, Phil Flood, we're basically talking about the same things we talked about 5-6 years ago. Joe needs help. He's understaffed, is doing a good job, needs help, we need to hire somebody right away. We have gone into the neighborhoods and communities, we've been doing this. I'm really getting a little tired about getting calls every day. We should have a beeper phone.

We are involved with all of the major groups in NSB. I would like you all to support this aggressively.

Board Member: How can we get the small businesses involved in this? I don't know if we need to direct staff here to set up a workshop educational outreach. We do need to do something. We have not have workshop with County Council since we've been on this board. My advice is it sounds like Mr.. Hayman we have a very strong presence there. Concern is we need the input. If the public is not going to be able to participate in this workshop, then we need to participate.

It takes two or three months. The workshop is to decide policy procedures to get public involvement. How we need to put together the package to get the public involvement, outreach projects. We need funding and commitment from the County Council

(Please excuse grammar & incomplete sentences; I am making every attempt to type what they said verbatim.)

I was allowed to speak and said briefly that I try to relay to the community of concerned citizens what is happening by writing down what is said in these meetings.

BENEFITS OF BEACHES: *Beach related tourism has a \$41.6 billion annual impact on our state's economy. Beaches contribute to expanding federal, state and local tax bases; increase sales, income and employment opportunities from resident and visitor spending; and enhance property values. Cantanese Center at Florida Atlantic University (www.catanese.fau.edu)*

At a regular monthly meeting of the Volusia County Beach Advisory Board on January 10, 2006, Volusia County Councilman for District 3 Jack Hayman said County Council has to make a cost analysis study of value of our beaches and identify sources of funds before they will authorize a full-scale beach restoration plan. There is no time-line and no meeting, as yet, scheduled for this.

County Council Chairman Frank Bruno, in his State of the County address this week, according to the *Daytona News Journal*, failed to mention beach renourishment in his list of priorities for 2006. Although since 1999, County Council has been offered over seven million in state dollars since to study our erosion problems greatly exacerbated by the 2004 hurricane season, and each year the money goes back to the state, unused.

County Council continues to put this issue on the back burner while our beach continues to erode and now we must resort to more expensive, less effective, short-term means to maintain access to our beaches and assure our oceanfront properties are not in jeopardy. It is our government's civic responsibility according to State Statutes to preserve and maintain our beaches. It's about time Volusia County Council took this matter seriously.

Respectfully Submitted,
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