

CAPTIVA EROSION PREVENTION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 2021-04

AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR POSITION OF “SEA LEVEL RISE CAPTAIN”

A RESOLUTION OF THE CAPTIVA EROSION PREVENTION DISTRICT AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR POSITION OF “SEA LEVEL RISE CAPTAIN” AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the CEPD Board has published on a duly noticed agenda, reviewed, discussed, and taken public comment on the attached proposal for a position of “SEA LEVEL RISE CAPTAIN”; and

WHEREAS, the CEPD Board desires to approve or approve with conditions the following attachments and course of action

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the CAPTIVA EROSION PREVENTION DISTRICT:

Section 1. The CEPD Board resolves and approves **FUNDING FOR POSITION OF “SEA LEVEL RISE CAPTAIN” (Up to \$75,000 in year one and up to \$75,000 in year two)** as proposed and set forth in the documents attached to this Resolution, Exhibit A.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ENACTED by the CEPD Board of Commissioners of the CAPTIVA EROSION PREVENTION DISTRICT, on Captiva Island, in Lee County, Florida on February 19th, 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Rene Miville
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CEPD Chair Rene Miville

ATTEST: DocuSigned by:
Jennifer Nelson
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CEPD Administrator Jennifer Nelson

Approved as to legal sufficiency:
Ralf G. Brookes

CEPD Attorney, Ralf Brookes Attorney

Proposal for the Creation of a Captiva-Sanibel Sea Level Rise Captain

The islands of Captiva and Sanibel are both highly susceptible to the effects of sea level rise and increased storminess. Yet, there is a lack of a cohesion in the various activities around coastal resilience. Groups like the Captiva Community Panel, CEPD, and the City of Sanibel are all engaged in on-going conversations and projects dealing with coastal resilience with input from outside entities like Florida Gulf Coast University, SCCF, and environmental consultants. The principal issue with this approach is that our islands lack a central voice to help guide the various efforts.

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation has a 53-year history of conservation on our islands and in our region. Our only agenda is to protect our communities (natural and human) from environmental degradation, and to ensure the long-term viability of these island communities. I propose that we continue this tradition and expand it to advocacy and research on sea level rise and coastal resiliency specific to our geography.

In order to create an effective model, sea level requires a central department/entity/person(s) that can span both islands, because achieving coastal resilience will require a cohesive plan spanning our shared geography. SCCF seeks to create a robust research and outreach program on sea level rise adaptation for our islands. Because of the various efforts, no one group is necessarily driving common solutions. SCCF has played this central role of convener and engine on a variety of topics but has yet to use this model vis-à-vis sea level rise.

We are proposing a partnership with the Captiva Erosion Prevention District. SCCF seeks to hire a senior position in order to fulfill both CEPD's and SCCF's sea level rise visioning, outreach, and science. This new hire should become a central voice of authority for coastal resilience on our islands. While the new SLR specialist will be an employee of SCCF, s/he will fulfill our common mission of creating a resilient, enduring place for islanders to live for many years to come.

This new position will be filled by a climate professional; s/he must have evidence of academic publication on climate topics; an ability to connect meaningfully with the public; at least a master's degree in a relevant field (climatology, coastal engineering, etc.); and s/he must show considerable evidence of creative, solution-oriented thinking. We are beyond the stage of exploration, it is now time to produce feasible solutions.

SCCF seeks \$75,000 from CEPD to cover a portion of salary, benefits, and startup costs associated with onboarding a new employee. The remainder of the salary and benefits will come from donors and/or SCCF's general fund. We are intentionally not asking for CEPD to fully fund the position as we expect our sea level rise expert to spend some of his/her time on topics relevant to Sanibel; however, we fully expect this position to be a Captiva-centric one. In order to create stability, we ask at least a two-year commitment from CEPD.