

CEPD considers administrative continuity, plans for the future

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The Captiva Erosion Prevention District (CEPD) held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday following a series of emergency meetings that were held over the past two weeks.

The emergency meetings were called in order to assure administrative continuity for the future of the CEPD. The monthly meeting was spent reviewing minutes from the emergency meetings, delegating specific responsibilities and reviewing an extensive plan to ensure "administrative continuity."

According to CEPD commissioner Mike Mullins, most of the district's administrative processes have been meticulously documented through over 50 hours of interviewing with former administrator Alison Hagerup, who passed away on June 1.

The CEPD board, along with assistant administrator Kelsey Angstadt, called the meetings in order to ensure that board members could successfully continue the work Hagerup — who had been severely ill in recent months — had done so well.

The CEPD is forging ahead thanks to Angstadt's knowledge and skills, dedicated board members and the integral assistance of outside consultant Bob Gray's list of administrative duties, which he compiled based on several interviews he conducted with Hagerup.

"We don't want to be reactive, we want to be proactive," CEPD Chairman Rene Miville said during one of the meetings.

At the meeting on May 29, Sims motioned to hire Lisa Armbruster, a sand expert who received her Master's degree in Coastal Engineering from the University of Florida WHO has had a hand in projects all over Florida's coastline. Armbruster has had extensive experience in beach nourishment, having overseen an 18-mile beach restoration in Panama City, Fla.

The motion passed unanimously, and Armbruster and Gray met with CEPD members on May 31 to discuss future courses of action and resolve the completion of short-term tasks.

According to Miville, within the first 20 minutes of the meeting, an astounding \$775,000 grant set to expire in June was discovered by Armbruster.

"This lady really knows her stuff!" he added.

With Armbruster's help and Gray's extensive plan, the CEPD is heading in the right direction for keeping the organization on track.

"We have produced a very detailed continuity plan," explained Mullins, who was officially nominated by the board as chair for the Administrative Continuity Sub-Committee.

To further assist with what the CEPD now officially calls "administrative continuity," Mullins has set up a new phone number and e-mail address for CEPD office business. The new number is 877-OUR-CEPD (877-687-2373) and the new e-mail address is mycepd@aol.com. To directly reach Angstadt and specific commissioners, depending upon which seat they hold, individual e-mail addresses have also been set up.

In addition, the CEPD has taken steps to completely reorganize office files electronically, allowing board members to access information easily and efficiently. The public Web site will also be given an overhaul in weeks to come.

"We're confident that we're on top of the business of the district," Mullins said.

Though Hagerup's passing was sad news for islanders, the CEPD received good news on June 6 about the upcoming Blind Pass project. The Department of Environmental Protection has officially approved a permit necessary for the reopening of Blind Pass, a step that has long been awaited by the CEPD.