

Emergency Meeting of the Captiva Erosion Prevention District
11513 Andy Rosse Lane, Celebration Center
Captiva, Florida 33924
September 30, 2009 @ 9:00AM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07AM

II. Roll Call

Chairman Mullins conducted the roll call, the results of which are as follows:

Commissioners in attendance: Michael Mullins (Chairman), Doris Holzheimer (Vice Chairman - via telephone), Dave Jensen (Treasurer), Harry Kaiser (Secretary - via telephone)

Consultants in attendance: Kathleen Rooker (Senior Administrative Consultant), Brian Calciano (IT Consultant)

III. Public to Be Heard

Chairman Mullins invited comments from the public at this time: none were given.

IV. Oil Drilling in Florida Coastal Waters Discussion

a) Lessons Learned at the FSBPA Conference

Kathleen Rooker, Mike Mullins, Doris Holzheimer, and Bob Gray (Consultant), attended the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association's annual Beach Conference at Amelia Plantation on Amelia Island, Florida from September 16-18, 2009 on behalf of the CEPD. Consultant Bob Gray created a list summary of talking points at the FSBPA conference. Oil & gas exploration was the prevailing topic. Although CEPD is already aware of the high risk of oil spills and other related events, Kathleen Rooker noted that there are indirect effects of oil and gas drilling that would hinder the district's mission to protect our beaches. The most significant of these is the effect on sand borrow areas, a critical resource for beach renourishment projects that are already in short supply. Rooker added that many districts on the East Coast are already fighting for these increasingly scarce sand sources.

The environmental risks of oil and gas facilities in the Gulf are very high. Consultant Rooker cited the recent West Atlas oil rig failure off the coast of Australia. This rig, installed in 2007, began leaking nearly four hundred barrels per day on August 15th and has yet to cease despite the twenty-two separate failsafe mechanisms present on this state-of-the art "jack-up" rig. Rooker noted that these failsafe mechanisms often do not account for human error. Those attending were provided with a visual overlay of how such a spill, with over 5,800 sq. miles of coverage, would affect the coast of Florida.

Consultant Rooker continued, stating that large areas of the Gulf currently used for military testing and research will be staunchly defended against the oil lobby by congressmen such as Sen. Bill Nelson. This could mean a more concentrated effort by on behalf of the oil lobby to seek legislation enabling oil and gas exploration within three to ten miles off the coast of Florida.

b) Next Steps to Protect Florida Beaches

Chairman Mullins stated that the CEPD must confront a "perfect storm" of three critical issues. They are as follows:

- 1) The supreme court case challenging Florida's Beach Management Program
- 2) The reduced funds available for beaches and beach renourishment
- 3) The threat of oil and gas drilling

In order to react to these issues (particularly oil and gas drilling), it is imperative that CEPD collaborates with other organizations that have relevant interests such as Lee County Commissioners, the Lee VCB, and area businesses, to name a few.

Vice Chairman Holzheimer emphasized that oil lobbyists are pushing hard to pass legislation enabling oil and gas exploration before the public increases their awareness of the matter. CEPD and similarly-minded organizations need to collaborate on a consistent message that can be transmitted to the public, touting letter-writing and other campaigns as a means of encouraging Florida's senators and representative to take a hard stance on this issue. The Vice Chairman added that there is a fourth issue facing the CEPD: apathy. Improved public awareness and call to action is a necessity to prevent this impending legislation. Since organizations such as the CEPD cannot outspend the oil lobby, a concentrated grassroots campaign should be pursued.

Consultant Calciano commented that such a campaign would benefit from public relations activities utilizing the internet and social networks in addition to conventional media. These methods have shown success in raising public awareness and response to oil and gas controversy in the past, and should be embraced as a tool that can mobilize the public on this issue.

V. Request for Public Records

Chairman Mullins noted that a recently filed, extensive public records request will occupy CEPD resources. Due to the multiple pressing issues facing the CEPD at this time, it is critical to plan the organization's resources in order to comply with this request for public records without sacrificing efforts in other areas.

It was added that the extensive public records request could be a strategy by another individual or organization to damage CEPD's limited capacity. The request could also be a fishing expedition to find information that could result in bad press for the CEPD. It was suggested that the CEPD publicly release this letter of request for public records while getting the word out about CEPD's accomplishments, which, in the opinion of those in attendance, have gone largely unnoticed by the local press and the public.

Vice Chairman Holzheimer raised the following question: if parties are interested in the CEPD's workings, why are they not attending meetings and asking questions? This indicates that the person(s) filing this request may be more interested in disrupting CEPD operations than the good of the community.

CEPD is currently sending a letter of acknowledgement plus expenses for complying with the request.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:11AM