

Meeting Minutes - Special Board Meeting September 18, 2025

- **Swearing In of Commissioner Bernie:** Brighton, and David coordinated the official swearing in of Bernie as a commissioner, ensuring all procedural requirements were met before proceeding with the meeting.
 - **Oath of Office Procedure:** Bernie was guided through the oath of office by Brighton and David, reading the required affirmation aloud and confirming his qualification and commitment to the duties of the Captiva Erosion Prevention District.
 - **Confirmation of Membership:** After Bernie completed the oath, David and Brighton confirmed his official status as a board member, allowing him to participate in the meeting's discussions and votes.
- **Final Beach Renourishment Volume Decision:** Nicole presented updated options for the beach renourishment project to John, Bernie, Tim, Bob, and Rene, leading to a detailed discussion and a board vote to approve 1,000,000 cubic yards of sand for the project.
 - **Presentation of Volume Options:** Nicole explained three options for the beach renourishment: the full template of 1.2 million cubic yards (8-year design life), a reduced template of 1,000,000 cubic yards (6.5-year design life), and a further reduced template of 800,000 cubic yards (5.2-year design life), including the impact on shoreline width and storm protection.
 - **Technical Discussion on Dune and Beach Design:** Nicole answered questions from Rene, Tim, and John regarding the relationship between the dune, erosion control line, and beach width, clarifying that the dune remains unchanged in all scenarios and that reductions are applied proportionally based on original design ratios.
 - **Cost and Mobilization Considerations:** Rene and other board members discussed the financial implications of each option, emphasizing the high mobilization costs already incurred and the inefficiency of reducing the sand volume, as it would not proportionally reduce overall project costs.
 - **Board Member Positions and Rationale:** Board members expressed differing views: Rene advocated for the full template due to cost efficiency and long-term protection, while John and Bernie favored a more conservative approach to reduce taxpayer burden, citing recent storm impacts and financial prudence.
 - **Vote and Outcome:** A motion was made and seconded to approve 1,000,000 cubic yards under the current contract, with the board voting 3 in favor (John, Rene, Bob) and 2 against (Tim, Bernie), thus passing the motion.
- **Discussion and Approval of Rauschenberg Property Due Diligence Resolution:** John, Rene, and other board members debated and ultimately approved a resolution authorizing due diligence for the potential acquisition of 22 acres on Captiva Island from the Rauschenberg Foundation, with the vote passing 3 to 2.
 - **Resolution Purpose and Scope:** John clarified that the resolution was to authorize fact-finding and due diligence, not to commit to purchase, and Brighton read the resolution aloud, outlining steps such as appraisals, environmental assessments, and legal review.

- **Debate on Board Authority and Financial Commitment:** Bob questioned whether the district had the statutory authority to purchase the property and expressed concerns about expending funds, while David provided clarification from the district's charter confirming the board's power to purchase property for its mission.
- **Amendments and Clarifications:** Tim proposed an amendment to ensure no funds would be expended without further board approval, which John accepted, and the board discussed the semantics of 'feasibility study' versus 'due diligence.'
- **Conflict of Interest and Voting Procedure:** Potential conflicts of interest were discussed regarding board members' affiliations, with David noting that any direct financial interest would require further review if the process advanced.
- **Vote and Result:** The board voted on the resolution, with three in favor (John, Renee, Tim) and two against (Bob, Bernie), thus authorizing the due diligence process for the potential acquisition.