

# Meeting Minutes for CEPD Board Meeting (04/17/2025)

## Captiva Erosion Prevention District Special Meeting

### Quick recap

The Captiva Erosion Prevention District held its monthly meeting, discussing administrative matters, project updates, and financial challenges. The board reviewed progress on beach renourishment and dune augmentation projects, including plans for equipment mobilization and sand sourcing. Budget negotiations for hurricane recovery funding were addressed, with the board emphasizing the need for stronger advocacy efforts among Florida's beach districts.

### 1. Call to Order & Attendance

- Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair (physically present), with Chair John Wade joining via Zoom.
- Commissioners present: Linda Laird, Tim Bob Walter, Tim McGowan, René Melville, plus Coastal Engineer Nicole and the media representative from Wink News.
- Motion passed to include remote participants as voting commissioners.

### 2. Agenda Adjustment

- By unanimous vote, the order was shifted to first address the beach renourishment delay for the benefit of Wink News coverage.

### 3. Beach Renourishment Delay Update (Nicole, Coastal Engineer)

- **Dredge Contractor:** Great Lakes' new hopper dredge *Galveston Island*.
- **Previous Project Delays:** Mechanical failures in New Jersey required dry-docking; parts sourced from Europe caused multi-week delays.
- **Current Status:** Repairs complete, no delays for five consecutive weeks; additional U.S. spare parts ordered proactively.
- **Mobilization & Pumping:**
  - Shore pipe and equipment arriving in early mid July.
  - Sand placement on Captiva beaches scheduled to begin **August 14**.
- **Community Info:** Awaiting a detailed map of dredge locations/timing; video links to prior renourishment will be provided for news outlets.

### 4. Original vs. Revised Timeline

- **Original Contract Window:** May 1 – October 28.
- **First Mobilization Estimate:** June (mobilization) and July (pumping).
- **Revised Mobilization:** Now expected in July with pumping in mid-August—approximately one month behind the initial target.

## 5. Emergency Dune Plan Discussion

- **Two Permitting Paths:**
  1. **Emergency Final Order (EFO):** Zero-day permitting, but prohibits any “take” (i.e., relocation) of sea turtle nests.
  2. **Existing Local & Corps Permits:** 60–90 day review, allows turtle-nest relocation under biological opinion.
- **Sea Turtle Concerns:** Peak nesting season (150–200 nests); any nest within the work area under EFO would force project halt.
- **Board Consensus:** EFO path is effectively a non-starter due to high nesting density; further exploration of options to mitigate vulnerable shoreline deferred for staff follow-up.

## 6. Sea Turtle Monitoring (Kelly, SCCF)

- **Nesting Trends:** ~200 nests last year on Captiva (up from ~20 in 1986); neighboring Sanibel sees even larger increases.
- **Relocation & Permitting:** Permits exist to relocate nests to Sanibel under Corps permit; EFO prohibits relocation—would require protective buffers around nests, potentially halting work.

## 7. Organizational Restructuring & Hiring

- **General Manager Hire:**
  - Brighton Heard selected after vetting; employment begins **May 5**.
  - Positions of Executive Director and Deputy Director dissolved, consolidating responsibilities under new GM.
- **Bookkeeper/Office Assistant:**
  - Part-time (≈20–24 hrs/week) at ~~\$25/hr~~ (\$32 000/yr).
  - Anticipated savings: \$85 000–\$100 000 /yr by reducing CPA/bookkeeping costs.
  - A three-person search committee (Tim, René, plus an independent accounting expert) was appointed to review candidates and report back at the **May 12** meeting.
- **Severance & Contractual Matters:** Mutual separation agreement drafted for outgoing Deputy Director; commissioners to review and provide feedback to legal counsel.

## 8. Banking & Financial Controls

- **Bank Conversion:** Transition from Fifth Third to Regions Bank is in due diligence; final documentation expected for Board approval on **May 12**, with closing soon after.

- **QuickBooks Online Integration:** Regions will provide seamless linking for real-time financial visibility.
- **Grant Audit:** Auditor requests documentation for ~\$2 million in 2024 grant activity; staff directed to compile reimbursement requests and invoices.

## **9. Public & Commissioner Comments**

- No public raised additional questions beyond chat.
- Commissioners agreed to streamline communications via the new GM, while preserving Sunshine Law compliance and officers' statutory duties.

## **10. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn approved unanimously, meeting closed.