



## **Town of Surfside**

**9293 Harding Avenue, Surfside FL 33154**

### **Sand Project Community Monitoring Committee Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 1, 2014 – 7:00 pm  
Town Hall – Commission Chambers**

## **MINUTES**

### **Committee Members**

Joe Benton  
Juan Borges  
Lee Gottlieb  
Marianne Meischeid  
Jeffrey Platt  
David Raymond  
Scott Stripling

#### **1. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting called to order by the Town Manager at 7:03pm.

Also in attendance: Linda Miller, Town Attorney, Dr. Steven Leatherman, Florida International University, Dr. Chris Teaf, HSWMR, Inc. Alex Front, ARS Environmental.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes: June 25, 2014 Organizational Meeting**

Marianne Meischeid made a motion to approve the minutes; Lee Gottlieb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were approved.

#### **3. Presentation on Sunshine Law and Public Records**

Linda Miller presented information to the Committee regarding the Sunshine Law.

4. Introduction of Dr. Stephen Leatherman and discussion with Committee on possible assistance or services to be provided

Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman is Professor and Director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University.

Dr. Leatherman, in his career, has done extensive studies on beach sand quality.

Dr. Leatherman will be using a sieve and will conduct sieve analysis among other methods to determine the quality of the sand.

There are 50 criteria's used to rate the beaches.

Dr. Leatherman advised of several options the Town could have pursued such as :

- Placing the sand in the emerging dunes. The plants would have grown through the sand.
- A sand dune could have been created serving as a surge barrier or energy dissipater.

Native sand can be found under the original dune.

Monica Grandeze was disappointed about the selection procedure of the committee and suggested that there may have been some favoritism in the process and there was no transparency. She never received a call or an email.

Larissa Alonzo inquired about the standard definition of sand.

Dr. Leatherman advised that sand is not defined by color, but actually by size.

Sand naturally has arsenic due to sea shells and clams.

Deborah Cimadevilla would like to see testing done that would compare the previous sand and current sand.

Ms. Cimadevilla's main concern is not necessarily the color. She could eventually live with the color but the toxicity is the major issue.

The Board would like to see Dr. Leatherman report back with the following:

- Sieve testing
- Color test
- Determine compatibility per state definition
- To determine range of what's in the area (off shores sources)
- To determine range of compatibility and how it relates to what the Town prefers
- To determine list of places that have the best legislative practices locally and state wide for the movement of sand

#### 5. Sand Testing Results

- Presentation by Dr. Christopher Teaf, HSWMR (Town toxicologist) on initial chemical testing of sand and arsenic conclusions.

Dr. Teaf is board-certified by the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and is Director of Toxicology and President for Hazardous Substance & Waste Management Research, Inc. (HSWMR).

Dr. Teaf was hired by the Town to test the levels of arsenic in the sand sample.

Dr. Teaf spoke on the many testing protocols that can be done.

David Raymond suggested having analysis of the sand underneath where it has been placed to help determine if the arsenic level is the same as below.

Mr. Raymond inquired as to how many samples are needed in order to have conclusive results.

Mr. Raymond also inquired as to what other things should be tested that may be a concern other than arsenic.

Mr. Raymond would like to see a list of things that should be tested as well as the protocol.

- Presentation by Alex Front of ARS Environmental regarding testing results presented at the June 10 Town Commission meeting relating to lead

Mr. Front summarized his background as a self-taught environmental consultant with ARS Environmental, Inc.; education GED. Mr. Front was hired by private citizens to conduct May collection/analysis. Mr. Front took “representative” subsamples on/near the “hard pack” trails. Even though the Iron (Pb) “presence was very low”, he felt samples needed to be tested for leachability (TCLP). No “total metals data” in sand were collected from which the objective decision was made to go to TCLP. He concluded that “There was no lead present in the sand” in mg/kg (“total Pb analysis”).

In 2014, Mr. Front sampled 3 areas: hard pack west, hard pack middle, low tideline. Only sand sample was from tideline. No sand sample had any leachable lead. Locations were sampled late at night (9 PM to midnight). He took samples from 8-12 inch depth and composited them from 2-3 feet horizontally near the hardpack to make one hardpack sample.

Dr. Leatherman noted that leached materials would concentrate near the water table. Mr. Front agreed with conclusion that Pb may be present in leaching tests from some hardpack samples present, but the levels are so low as to be completely insignificant, and that it should be at the tideline if it was significant. Pb wasn’t found at tideline. “A” samples are “hardpack west”, closest to Collins Ave; “B” samples were middle hardpack “trail” in dunes; and “C” samples were at low tideline.

The Pb detections were “very low, minute, insignificant almost”, later described as “minimal, nominal, nothing”. Mr. Front raised an issue during Ms. Cimadevilla’s comments, describing what he called “3R’s of toxicology”, defined as “reduce, refine, replace”, associating that with environmental issues.

Mr. Front expressed an interest in getting on Surf Club site to sample soil. A number of Committee members questioned that logic.

- Direction from Committee on process/action to resolve sand testing/chemical issue  
The Board wants Dr. Teaf to determine and create testing protocol for sand and Dr. Leatherman to proceed with the recommended testing.
6. Confirm future meeting date(s)/time(s) and identify specific agenda items  
The next meeting date is July 21, 2014.
  7. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair  
[Note: Due to a new member attending, this item is placed toward the end of the agenda]

Marianne Meischeid nominates Jeffrey Platt as Chair for the Committee.  
Scott Strippling nominates David Raymond as Chair for the Committee.

David Raymond respectfully declines the nomination due to personal conflicts.

Jeffrey Platt has been elected as the Chair.

Lee Gottlieb nominates himself as Vice-Chair for the Committee.

8. Public comment
9. Other items/updates
10. Adjournment  
Jeffrey Platt made a motion to adjourn; Juan Borges seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 10:20pm.