

**VOLUSIA COUNTY BEACH POLICY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting minutes for May 12, 2009**  
**VCBP HQ**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of May 12, 2009 was called to order by Chairman Lamotte at 5:32 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman David Lamotte  
Vice-Chairman Glenn Storch  
Mr. Worley Pruett  
Dr. P.T. Bud Fleuchaus  
Mr. Nick Conte  
Mr. Jason McGuirk  
Mr. Steven Strawn  
Mr. David Rigsby  
Ms. Judith Craig

**STAFF PRESENT**

Tony Sopotnick, Staff Liaison  
Judith Hallock, Administrative Support

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Dr. Fleuchaus moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2009. Mr. Conte seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**BEACH TOLLS**

Staff Liaison Tony Sopotnick advised the Board that the Volusia County Legal Department has arranged a conference call with an FWC representative on May 14, 2009. Volusia County Environmental Management staff members will also be in attendance. Included in the phone conference will be an invitation for a workshop session with an FWC representative and Beach Advisory Board members for the purpose of discussing amendments to the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Dr. Fleuchaus inquired as to the costs associated with providing the 65 Beach Patrol officers within the Beach Safety Division. Tony Sopotnick will confirm the figures as requested with Beach Safety.

Jason McGuirk requested staff provide toll revenue figures for the pre-hurricane years of 2004. Tony Sopotnick will acquire the data and provide these numbers also.

Nick Conte inquired if Shirley Reynolds was part of the initial lawsuit filed on behalf of endangered sea turtles which resulted in the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan. Volusia County Natural Resources Director Ginger Adair responded to this question in the affirmative.

**B. ARTIFICIAL REEF**

Tony Sopotnick provided a staff report along with various information and opinions collected on the multi-purpose artificial reef to the Board members.

Mr. Pruett stated he thought the Board had already recommended going forward with a feasibility study.

Jason McGuirk stated he would like to review all information before making a recommendation to Council.

Worley Pruett again stated he thought the Board voted and recommended to Council to perform a feasibility study. He stated it would need to be voted on again if there was a change.

Glenn Storch agreed the board did vote to suggest Council look at a feasibility study, but stated this should not stop the Board from looking at it further and obtaining more information.

Nick Conte stated he felt there were too many unanswered questions.

Chairman Lamotte asked for a motion to postpone the recommendation to Council. Glenn Storch made the motion, seconded by Dave Rigsby. Motion passed with Worley Pruett dissenting.

Marissa Moore, Planner and Grant Writer with the City of New Smyrna Beach was in attendance and presented to the board information the City found while researching costs associated with artificial reefs for submission of their grant application. Original estimates of the reef project were reported to be \$5 million, but when researched the overall costs were closer to \$15 million.

Dave Rigsby asked her why the New Smyrna Beach City Commission would not recommend going forward with the project and Ms. Moore responded there were some reservations due to a lack of information and overall costs associated with the project.

Glenn Storch asked if there were any benefits or detriments to the environment from these artificial reefs. Ms. Moore stated that putting sand on the beach was detrimental.

David Lamotte asked if anyone from New Smyrna Beach had contacted the County regarding this issue since ultimately, it will be the County's decision what happens on the beach. He was told John Herrin had spoken with County officials regarding this idea.

Nick Conte states he feels in this economy funding is going to be a big issue.

Marissa Moore stated there was probably going to be NOAA funding.

Dave Rigsby stated he agreed with Glenn Storch and the board needed to gather as much information regarding this project as they could, further study it as a group and make an informed decision.

Jason McGuirk stated he felt that the Board needed to work together with the cities to get at least one (1) mile set up. He thinks if the artificial reef does what is promised it would solve a lot of problems we have with beaches.

Judy Craig stated the Board needed to be aware of what other Cities in the County are doing regarding artificial reefs.

Steven Strawn stated active intervention is sometimes good for the environment.

The City of New Smyrna had a marine biologist speak on artificial reefs and he had no concerns with it.

Dr. Fleuchaus stated the beaches are the County's responsibility. He feels this has to be a unified effort with the Cities and an organized approach to beach nourishment.

Dave Rigsby suggests city and county environmental departments should pool their knowledge.

Ginger Adair, stated that Volusia County Environmental Management currently has no position. Her concern is the impact on environment and long term consequences. Engineering concerns would not be within the scope of an environmental overview.

Dave Rigsby made a motion to send a letter to Council asking permission for County environmental staff to prepare an overview of the environmental impact of an artificial reef. Judith Craig seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Jason McGuirk feels if there are environmental issues they need to be addressed before any funds are spent on a feasibility study.

Dave Rigsby indicated all coastal mayors should be invited to meetings when information regarding artificial reefs is being presented.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Annual Work Plan
1. Tolls
  2. Alcohol on Beach
  3. Dogs on beach

Tony Sopotnick indicated he has had numerous calls from the public inquiring as to the future dates of meetings involving discussion on the issues of alcohol and dogs on the beach.

Dave Rigsby suggests special meetings be held for the purpose of discussing these topics.

Chairman Lamotte proposed setting the following schedule:

- June 9, 2009 – the Board will convene for a special meeting for the purpose of discussing alcohol on the beach;
- July 14, 2009 – will be a regularly scheduled meeting
- August 11, 2009 – the Board will convene for a special meeting for the purpose of discussing dogs on the beach.
- September 14, 2009 - will be a regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board agreed on the time table with Judith Craig adding she is concerned, with the set-up of additional meetings, about the ruling for attendance which requires members miss no more than two meetings per year. Glenn Storch stated this attendance ruling would only apply to regularly scheduled meetings.

Glenn Storch requests a representative from the Health Department be in attendance at the meeting when the topic of discussion is dogs on the beach.

Jason McGuirk asked Tony Sopotnick to poll surrounding counties that have successfully or unsuccessfully had dogs and/or alcohol on the beach. Tony will make inquiries and report back to the Board.

## **B. ELECTIONS**

Worley Pruett nominated David Lamotte to remain chairman. Dr. Fleuchaus nominated Glenn Storch to remain vice chairman. Motions passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Lamotte, seconded by Dave Rigsby. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

## **MINUTES RECORDED BY:**

Judith Hallock, Beach Safety

## **MINUTES EDITED BY:**

Nanci Nolin, Beach Safety