

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Jan. 13, 2009

Attending: Rick Hayduk, Gordon Hullar, Rene Miville, Ron Gibson, Dave Jensen, Nathalie Pyle, Mile Kelly, Harry Silverglide, Sandy Stilwell

Audience: 20

Meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. Panel members were introduced and the Dec. 9 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Kelly (Gibson second).

Water quality: Dr. Loren Coen and Mark Thompson with the SCCF Marine Lab were present and began with an overview of the water quality monitoring study. Concerns were quality of life, quality of water, impact on tourism, fisheries and food supply. Study objectives were to identify water quality issues and efforts, evaluate existing data, identify pollutants and potential sources. First they developed a monitoring program for nearshore waters, to coordinate monitoring design with Blind Pass opening. Planned to track and ID problem sources of pollutants. Focus of effort is North Captiva to Blind Pass area. plan to adjust for variations in population and rainfall. Test for fecal indicator bacteria, nutrients, salinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and pH; turbidity, colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM); parameters to ID other sources.

Regular monitoring is set at eight sentinel sites (three dry season/three wet season samples). Stormwater runoff monitoring at 22 sites (three dry/three wet samples). Focused beach FIB study at four sites. FIB highest concentrations at ebb spring tide; highest concentration June-November; FIBs could be water or sand. Since October, they've collected pertinent regional water quality data into a database; analyzed database to guide design efforts; mapped potential sources; developed sampling plan, methods, protocols; obtained permits and permissions; began monitoring efforts.

Mike Mullins asked if the focus of study was to identify pollution sources, and whether someone will be able to draw conclusions (and what kind) at the end of the study. Coen said they needed to establish a baseline for water quality, compiling records back to the 1960s. Not much sampling on the beaches, so we need to advance that, to get all of the parameters at the same time. Mullins asked if there was too much data collection for the first year. Coen said the larger scope allows for broader view to come to some conclusions, leads to appropriate sites and appropriate sampling for scientific results. Hullar asked if the sampling to ID fecal sources distinguished between human vs. bird? Stilwell noted that one popular dog beach was often the one that was closed.

Mike Calinski said that molecular typing of sources was extremely important. What would it take to do that? Coen said that was very expensive, have to ID

budget sources to make that possible. He noted that people were working to develop optical brightener sensors to ID laundry detergent sources. They hoped to include some extra sampling for before and after Blind Pass opening. Tie study in with RECON river sampling. Hullar said that a sewer analysis a driving force for this study. Gooderham said that the funding request was for water quality purposes, which fit within the scope of the TDC mission for this funding; the data can also be used later for pollution identification. Mullins asked if they could get the data with this frequency and timeframe? Thompson said they will be able to come to a semi-conclusion with this data collection. Mullins noted this was a long term effort of the panel, and that he was not optimistic about continued funding. Thompson said they would adjust sampling based on data. Hullar offered an explanation of the bed tax and TDC funding process.

CEPD/Blind Pass: Kathy Rooker of the CEPD was on hand to address this item. She provided a Q&A handout on the Blind Pass project, and encouraged those interested in more information to come by and visit the CEPD office. She went through an explanation of the Q&A issues. Little impact on mangroves, they were very immature. Little impact on shorebirds and turtles, most were nesting south of the project area. Will have effect on visitors and residents – noise, smell, traffic. Pyle asked why the pass would stay open with this project. Rooker said the design and modeling showed there will be enough hydraulic pressure to keep water flow moving and pass open with maintenance.

Calinski hoped the contractor was picking up the pace to take advantage of the natural processes, cold fronts push material southward. He felt the dredges were too small, not going far enough south. Sanibel needs to put in a jetty. Dredges should run 24 hours a day while cold fronts are coming down. Mullins noted that the CEPD put up the money, but the county is managing project. No impact on direction of project. Citizens need to communicate issues to the county, more expression of concern will have an impact. Miville said they could run questions by Coastal Planning & Engineer and give results to county engineers. An audience member asked about the impact of Sanibel's noise ordinance on operations. Mullins said the ordinance had been lifted by the city for this project.

Hurricane response: DorisHolzheimer offered a description of the committee's formation and mission, that the group was meeting monthly during hurricane season. She also offered a description of the Structural Safety Inspectors process, that they always need volunteers. New damage assessment software and a computer was planned, volunteers would come back to a central location and input data for county use. The next training was planned in late April, all SSI members need to go through training again. Captiva will need to reapply for another Storm Ready designation in 2011, it keeps us ready and prepared. On March 6 at 1 p.m., hurricane preparation educational sessions are planned at the Community Center. Keep checking Web site monthly, mycaptiva.info. You can sign up for specific storm information there. A draft homeowners authorization letter was handed out, your information will need to be updated if it has changed.

Send information to the fire department. Residents will still need a hurricane pass. The committee was planning to contract for satellite phones again this year. Meeting center ID'ed in Fort Myers, the Best Western hotel near the airport. Will add a volunteer signup place on the Web site.

Web site: Discussion was deferred until next month.

Finances: Stilwell noted that the panel needed to hold a fund-raiser soon. Otherwise, normal expenditures were reflected in the financial statement. Jensen asked about plans for a fundraiser. Hullar said South Seas had volunteered to provide space. Hayduk said he would also will bring three proposals to the panel for fund-raising. Miville offered a Fling description, noted that people had donated homes for a vacation auction. He had asked Byron Blount for vacation donations and possible ideas. Mullins asked what was the benefit of those donations? The panel has done work on roads, trees, water quality...has anyone put together a simple presentation to summarize donations and benefits? Silverglide said a summary had been done last year, we can certainly update it. Jensen asked about the status of county funding. Gooderham noted the pending funding for LDC work, which Kelly would discuss shortly. Silverglide asked if the South Seas proposal would include dates? Hayduk said it will have to focus on that.

Water quality: Jensen said that issue had been discussed heavily already. He noted that there was a "no-motor zone" tied to Blind Pass meeting tonight at Ding Darling, and he had heard some opposition might attend. He urged people to send in their comments.

Land Development Code: Kelly said he'd begin next week to look at code issues with the CCA. Some issues included that are out of date, some other new information involved. There was a brief discussion of the LDC undertaking, which has stretched over at least a year and a half. Mangroves, height restrictions still hot topics for discussion. Mullins asked if language on housing bulk had been considered. Hullar hoped to get code language to support the existing Captiva Plan policies. Gooderham noted that the county funding was for LDC work only, and urged the panel to keep second phase separate and go back to the county for additional funds.

Nominating committee report: Mullins noted there was an open seat on the panel that needed to be filled. The committee has submitted two resumes – Jim Boyle and Dave Bornhorst; committee will discuss and come back to the panel with a recommendation next month. Two others have expressed interest as well, but no resumes yet. Mullins also wanted to send a message to community...there are seats available, but not many applicants.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

-- Ken Gooderham, administrator