

**Captiva Community Panel**  
**MINUTES**  
**Sept. 15, 2009**

**Attending:** Jim Boyle, Ron Gibson, Rick Hayduk, Gordon Hullar, Dave Jensen, Nathalie Pyle, Harry Silverglide, Sandy Stilwell

**Audience:** 10

The meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. Minutes from the Aug. 11, 2009, meeting were approved as published by unanimous consent.

**CEPD:** Chair Mike Mullins urged the audience to look at Captiva Current article in the last issue, outlines concerns we're facing about beach renourishment. They include media coverage, lack of economic return, the pending Supreme Court case, limited funding options, federal funding dropoff, state funding shortfalls, Tourist Development Council reduction of beach funding. These can all have a major impact on the next Captiva project and end up costing islanders more out of their own pockets.

**Hurricane prep:** Chair Doris Holzheimer noted that materials from the spring hurricane seminar were provided to the audience. She said there were no other updates on Safety Structural Inspection volunteers, and that Ken Suarez will be the new SSI coordinator. She thanked Silverglide for taking that on for the past few years. The committee will be working on renewing the island's Storm Ready status. There will be no report at the October panel meeting.

**Water quality:** Erick Lindblad with SCCF opened by thanking the panel for persevering after Year 2 funding. He said the second and final county commission public hearing on the FY2009-2010 on Sept. 17 was the last vote for approval. He felt that Commissioner Hall was more open to Captiva issues thanks to the letters and outreach on behalf of this funding.

Mark Thompson with the Marine Lab then presented a brief update on project. The project's goals were: Establish a baseline WQ assessment, identify possible sources and areas of pollution, track specific sources. This would be accomplished by collection of data, identifying sources and developing a monitoring plan. In the last year, the Bayous WWTP closed and Blind Pass opened. Originally they had anticipated 3,000 analyses in the first year, 82% had been done so far.

When measuring enterococci bacteria (an indicator of human waste), five tests exceed "poor" quality, 100+ exceeded "moderate" levels. Testing for chlorophyll (a sign of nutrient overloading due to fertilizer and runoff), 19 exceeded nutrient level. Thompson then reviewed the recent Dept. of Health data analysis which had shown a spike as the rain runoff rose...which was consistent with the SCCF

finding taken from more numerous and scattered sites than the limited DOH tests. Looking at results by season, it was clear WQ was tied to rainfall events, which create a higher concentration of bacteria in the water. Chlorophyll was much higher in wet season. Areas with periodic problems were tied to rainfall events.

Elevated bacteria in sand was not found to be a persistent problem. Stormwater runoff can elevate pollution levels. There were "no oxygen" (anoxic) conditions in some areas in the morning, could be natural and be avoided. Overall clarity and nutrient concentrations were good so far. Discharges from S79 (Franklin Lock) have more impact on water quality. May be change in water quality with opening of Blind Pass and closing of Bayous WWTP...saw improvement in clarity right away. What's next in the year ahead? Enter Year 1 data, analyze it more intensively. Report results and integrate with other data. Establish plan for Year 2 – source tracking, areas of concern. Year 2: ID if local human sources for bacteria, areas that are sources. Regional vs. local pollution sources, what are local WQ problems, which may be due to human activity, and what are the sources of pollution?

Sherrill Sims asked how long it took to get results from lab. Thompson said officially 21 days, but it was usually a month as the lab is overworked and understaffed. Boyle asked if there had been any typing to determine pollution sources. Thompson said not yet, protocol would need to be set up to do that. That will start in the second year, tied to rainfall events and concentrations. Lindblad gave a brief RECON system update, that they had been through a lot of equipment renovation and re-engineering. He felt the monitoring made a major difference in lake releases down the river, as they could monitor the impact of a major algae bloom being released into salt water. This year, Corps has made changes in policy based on RECON data we had from the year before. Knowing someone is watching has an impact, and data showing bad behavior even more valuable. Looking at the larger system is important to what happens locally.

**WQ funding:** Gooderham gave a brief update, noting it was clear at the Sept. 11 TDC meeting that Year 2 would be funded based on decisions made at the county commission budget hearing Sept. 3, money would continue to go through the TDC, but the county Division of Natural Resources had been asked to review and had been pleased with the project. Gooderham urged the panel to begin thinking about what the next steps would be, since pursuing funding for those took time, was helped by matching funds and would be driven by what was planned as a way to access or close off possible funding sources. Lindblad noted that SCCF was looking at possible grant sources as well. Silverglide mentioned a couple of possible avenue, including fishing license revenues and other enterprises tied to water quality in Pine Island Sound. Pyle said the panel would need to tackle overall strategic planning in the year ahead, that it could be a good idea to keep a planner engaged to aid in advising on issues and developing response to the WQ findings to come.

**Finance:** Stilwell offered an update based on the monthly report.

**Water quality:** Jensen noted he had been following up on the fishing aspect as a funding source, but could not find information on how many dollars were spent locally and who benefitted from that revenue. He planned to keep looking and welcomed any ideas.

**Land use:** Gooderham mentioned that Max Forget had been brought on by Morris-Depew to address Captiva code language, and that a more extensive update was still planned for the Oct. 13 panel meeting. He would also work to finalize and submit a grant request to the county for community planning funds out of the FY 2009-2010 budget, as \$150,000 had apparently been approved in the budget pending the final hearing.

**Fund-raising:** Hayduk said a scheduling conflict had forced him to look for another date for the second annual Captiva Food and Travel Festival, and asked whether Thursday, April 8, worked for the fund-raising event. He said it would be post Easter but still had a high occupancy. April 16 was also possible April 16 and might still have good occupancy, but that the 8th was probably better. Stilwell noted that local residents really supported it last time, and every week that goes by after Easter we lose people. The consensus was to set the date for April 8 and begin publicizing it online and in the media.

**Other business:** Gooderham noted that the Captiva golf cart ordinance approved by the county commission June 23 had been cleared by the state and would now take effect. A handout detailing its impact was available at the meeting, and would be posted online and sent to the media. The question of enforcement would be up to the Lee County Sheriff's Office, and he hoped to get a better sense of how soon they would begin to act on the rules shortly. The expectation was that there would be a grace period to allow residents and rental outlets to get up to speed on the changes. Silverglide hoped that extending the cart zone to Tween Waters would be considered sometime in the future.

There was brief discussion of when the panel thought it might be a good time to hold a celebration of the Blind Pass opening. Additional work on the project meant the contractor needed to keep equipment at Turner Beach, which meant the planned Sept. 25 event had to be delayed. CEPD was looking for island input, and people were urged to share ideas with the district. Silverglide noted there was some shoaling on the bay side since the pass had been opened.

Gooderham reminded the panel he would not be able to attend the Oct. 13 meeting, and someone would need to arrange to tape it or take minutes.

The meeting adjourned 10:20 a.m. — ***Ken Gooderham***