

## Captiva Community Panel

# MINUTES

Oct. 8, 2024

**Attending:** Jay Brown, David Mintz, Bruce McDonald, Ann Brady, John Jensen, Linda Laird

**SUMMARY:** The meeting discussed the imminent threat of a Category 4 hurricane, with potential storm surge of 6-10 feet. Mandatory evacuations for zones A and B in Lee County were confirmed. Chief Jeff Pawul (CFD) highlighted the importance of evacuating, noting the island's vulnerability to surge. Sgt. Rich Zeltman (LCSO) emphasized the sheriff's office's readiness and the challenges of post-storm access. Diana Wilson (IWA) advised shutting off irrigation systems and turning off water services. John Wade (CEPD) detailed CEPD's efforts to fortify roads and the need for a reassessment of beach conditions. Jay Brown concluded the meeting, urging residents to follow evacuation plans and stay informed.

**Transcript:** [https://otter.ai/u/2F\\_J43m-10GRd5XRCWUVXT6j3eg?view=transcript](https://otter.ai/u/2F_J43m-10GRd5XRCWUVXT6j3eg?view=transcript)

### Action Items

- Residents to shut off their irrigation systems and individual water services before evacuating.
- CEPD to continue monitoring the situation and coordinate with authorities on post-storm sand and debris cleanup.
- CEPD to work with their engineering team to reassess the beach conditions and update the upcoming beach renourishment plan.

## MINUTES

Meeting convenes at 9:05 am. Brown calls for a roll call and confirms the presence of panel members sufficient for a quorum. McDonald/Jensen move to approve Sept. 10, 2024, minutes, unanimous approval.

### Weather Update and Evacuation Information

- Chief Pawul provides a detailed weather update, explaining the current storm conditions and expected impacts.
- The storm is currently a Category 4, with a larger wind field and expected to weaken slightly before landfall, which is expected late Wednesday to early Thursday.
- Pawul emphasizes the importance of evacuating due to the potential for major storm surge and flooding. He described the district's evacuation and re-entry plans and timing, as well as road vulnerabilities and the need to return via boat first.
- Pawul describes the district's plans to keep residents informed via emails and the CFD website, along with the websites for utilities (LCEC and IWA) as a source of recovery information.
- Pawul and Sgt. Zeltman discuss the mandatory evacuation orders for zones A and B in Lee County, including the timeline and procedures for evacuation and re-entry including accessing the Sanibel Causeway and coordinating with the City of Sanibel.

### Post-Storm Preparations and Communication

- Pawul outlines the post-storm activities, including search and rescue operations and the importance of contacting the fire department with evacuation plans.
- Pawul mentions the use of Starlink for communication and the importance of checking the Captiva Fire website for updates.

- Mintz asks about the process for re-entry and communication regarding road access, and Pawul explains the coordination with public safety and local authorities.
- Pawul emphasizes the need for residents to be prepared and to follow evacuation orders to ensure safety.

#### **Sheriff's Office and Road Access Concerns**

- Zeltman reiterates the importance of evacuating and the readiness of the sheriff's office to protect the island.
- Zeltman discusses the challenges of road access and the potential for Blind Pass to be impassable after the storm.
- Mintz and Zeltman discuss the availability of heavy equipment for clearing roads and the importance of coordination with local authorities including Lee DOT.
- Zeltman provides the website for the Lee County Sheriff's Office and emphasizes the importance of listening to news updates and following social media for information.

#### **Water Service and Conservation**

- Diana Wilson from IWA provides updates on water service, emphasizing the need for residents to shut off irrigation systems and turn off water services before evacuating.
- Wilson explains the limited loss service situation and the precautionary boil water advisory that will be in effect.
- Brown and Wilson discuss the importance of conserving water to ensure continued service after the storm.
- Wilson provides the website for IWA and mentions the collaboration with the City of Sanibel's PIO for media updates.

#### **CEPD Beach Renourishment and Storm Preparations**

- John Wade from CEPD provides an update on the beach renourishment efforts and the short-term and long-term plans for storm preparation.
- Wade explains the recent work done to add a berm at the S curve and the importance of directing water over the road to prevent washouts.
- Wade discusses the challenges of obtaining resources and the importance of coordination with local authorities for sand cleanup and repurposing.
- Wade mentions the need for a reassessment of the beach conditions and the potential for an amended beach renourishment contract.

#### **Closing Remarks and Final Questions**

- Brown thanks Wade for the update and emphasizes the importance of the short-term and long-term plans for beach renourishment.
- McDonald asks about the timeline for the beach renourishment, and Wade confirms the current schedule for May or June 2025.
- Brown opens the floor for any final questions or comments, but no additional topics are raised.
- Meeting adjourns at 10:05 a.m. Meeting video at [https://youtu.be/diqd\\_vA8N-M](https://youtu.be/diqd_vA8N-M).