

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Community Services – Natural Resources

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Sarasota County Commission

THROUGH: Randall H. Reid, County Administrator
Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator

FROM: Amy H. Meese, General Manager, Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Item 3E: Update on Beach Management/Renourishment Projects

DATE: October 1, 2012

SUMMARY:

Sarasota County staff will present an update on regional coordination of beach and inlet projects.

BACKGROUND:

During the last joint meeting between the Sarasota County and Town of Longboat Key Commissions (November 7, 2011), there was discussion about the need for regional coordination of major coastal projects. This could result in cost savings for each jurisdiction and alleviate competition for scarce sand resources. The Boards encouraged staff to explore means by which this increased coordination could be accomplished.

Progress has been made in this effort. Town of Longboat Key staff distributed a coastal project tracking spreadsheet to the coastal administrators of neighboring counties and municipalities. Recognizing the challenges inherent in attempting to convene large regional meetings (travel costs, scheduling conflicts, time management, etc.), this was seen as an excellent interim tool to quickly and easily enable better coordination. In fact, there is already one success story to report. Collier County contacted Longboat Key staff and indicated that their beach renourishment project may coincide with the Town's, in terms of construction timing. This could provide the opportunity to jointly bid the construction contract and share mobilization costs – thereby reducing the project costs for both jurisdictions.

Currently, the County, the Town and the City of Sarasota are in various stages of the design/permitting of their respective beach renourishment projects, so it will be critical to maintain increased communication and coordination as we move towards project construction, in order to realize possible cost savings. We will continue to seek opportunities to foster regional coordination, but also maintain a special focus on enhancing the project coordination between the County, the Town of Longboat Key and the City of Sarasota.