

## SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 – WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Workshop on September 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Walton County Courthouse Annex in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner W. N. (Bill) Chapman, Chairman; Commissioner Cindy Meadows, Vice Chairman; Commissioner Sara Comander; Commissioner Bill Imfeld; and Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen. Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator; and Attorney Mark Davis, County Attorney; were also present.

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order. He briefly discussed the rules of order for the meeting and stated that each person wishing to speak would be allowed five minutes to present their concerns.

Mr. Brad Pickel, Seahaven Consulting, submitted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Walton County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project (Federal Beach Nourishment Project). He addressed the eight main issues that have been modified and changed: 1. Perpetual easement; 2. Easement assignable to anyone; 3. Notice of de-authorization and easement cancellation; 4. Modified easement activities listings; 5. Public use language; 6. Providing Congressional language to define the project; 7. Damages to properties; and 8. Impact on existing erosion devices. Mr. Pickel stated that there are still concerns being raised and discussed the solutions for those concerns. (1. The easement is still perpetual; 2. The public will have the right to use my beach; 3. I will not own my property; 4. My property value will go down; 5. I will have to rebuild my walkover; 6. The county will allow commercial vending in front of my beach; 7. The County/State is taking my property through the Erosion Control Line (ECL); 8. They are going to destroy my vegetation; and 9. The sand quality will be inferior.)

Commissioner Imfeld questioned if the sand to be used would comply with the White Sand Ordinance. Mr. Pickel stated that initially that it would not, but that it would lighten up with time.

Chairman Chapman asked if county rights would be relinquished. Mr. Pickel introduced the representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE): Mr. Russell Blount, Real Estate Specialist; Mr. Joe Givhan, Attorney; and Mr. David Newell, Project Manager.

Chairman Chapman opened the meeting to public comment.

Many citizens came forward to express their concerns and posed questions regarding the project. Many felt that their property rights would be taken away and that their property values would decrease. They also expressed concern regarding the financial burdens that would be placed on the property owners to rebuild walkovers and replant vegetation. Others were concerned with the quality of the sand which would be used and felt that adding extra sand would not protect the existing homes. Several of the citizens stated that they would not participate in the project and would not sign an easement.

Mr. David Newell, ACOE Project Manager; Mr. Jim Bagby, TDC Executive Director; and Mr. Pickel addressed many of the concerns of the citizens. Mr. Newell stated that for the project to continue the necessary easements must be procured. Chairman Chapman asked if the project would still continue if only a few easements were obtained. Mr. Newell stated that an assessment would be made of the easements to determine if there was a justifiable project. Chairman Chapman stated that participation in the project was the choice of the property owner. Mr. Bagby stated that in 2007 less than 20 easements were signed for the Western Walton County Project. Mr. Pickel stated that this is not a one-time project and is designed to go for a minimum of 50 years.

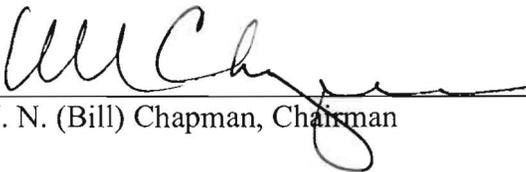
Commissioner Comander asked Mr. Pickel to explain why the county has a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Mr. Pickel said that he was unable to supply an answer and stated that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service are active players in the HCP development and reviewing permits.

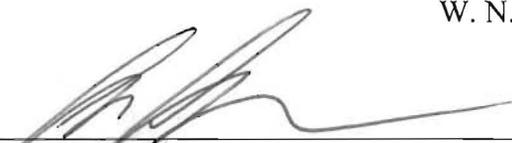
Mr. Pickel stated that the local funding costs would be approximately \$35 million and would come from TDC Bed Tax monies.

Mr. Bagby stated that there were two public comment speakers who have public beaches in front of their properties because they participated in the Western Walton County Project. The beach will continue to be maintained exactly as it is today. He reported that the ACOE researched to determine who had the right to give an easement for the project. Me. Bagby stated that ACOE will mail the easement, by certified letter, to the 978 property owners for approval/signature.

Chairman Chapman stated that this would be a future agenda item. This easement will not be a requirement of the property owners and would be an individual choice whether or not to participate.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Approved:   
W. N. (Bill) Chapman, Chairman

Attest:   
Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller