

APTA MINUTES
October 9, 2004

The APTA Meeting was called to order by President Ken Osborne at 9:00AM Saturday October 9, 2004.

Ken asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the September meeting. Don Munroe made a motion to accept the Minutes. Ben Houston 2nd the Motion. The Board voted to approve the Minutes.

Treasurer Bill Kimbrough gave the Treasures report. Alan Feifer made a Motion to accept the Treasures report. Don Munroe second the Motion. The Board voted to approve the Treasures Report.

Osborne discussed the need to move forward with the annual membership drive. A motion was made and approved to fund the membership mail-out. Allan Feifer offered to assist Joann Deibel with the mail-out. Don Munroe made a Motion to authorize funds for the mail-out. Allan Feifer 2nd the Motion. The Board voted to approve funding.

Big Bend Missile Test Range

Allan Feifer read a paper to explain the “Big Bend Missile Test Range” project proposed for Taylor County. A radar tracking site is proposed for Alligator Point near the old Point Lounge. The residents of Taylor County will be able to participate in a straw-count referendum in the November 2 election to express their desire to support or not to support the location of a missile test range in their county. As part of the process for determining whether or not Taylor County will be home to the missile test range, the military will conduct a feasibility study and the public would be able to attend public hearings. No hearings been scheduled currently.

Ken Osborne stated that APTA would continue to track the information, but at this point little else is known.

The Business portion of the meeting was expedited to afford sufficient time for two presentations.

Aquatic Preserve Presentation

Kim Wren, Aquatic Preserve Manager, gave a presentation on the preserves she manages (Apalachicola Bay, Alligator Harbor and St. Joe Bay) with emphasis on the Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

Information presented in Kim’s presentation can be found on APTA’s web site re: Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve: Contacts List and Web Pages, posted October 14.

Kim also provided information regarding questions members have about the current swimming health advisories that have been posted by the County.

The Franklin County Health Department collects water samples in the Gulf at a site near the area of the Welcome Garden. If an advisory is posted, a sign is displayed at the sample collection site. Information is also posted on the Florida Healthy Beaches web

site. Kim reiterated what has been published on our web site, in the newspaper and from other media sources.

Kim stated that Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve will receive increased interest due to the increase in development in our area. She wants to re-institute the water monitoring program for Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve and to expand on the areas that are monitored and will seek volunteers to assist her with that effort.

Kim Wren can be contacted at 850.670.4783 extension 106; kim.wren@dep.state.fl.us

Beach Renourishment Update

Prior to introducing Alan Pierce (with Prebble-Rish as of this meeting) and Mike Dumbrowski (MRD Associates) to provide the update, Ken Osborne expressed a need for the Beach Erosion Committee to have members to represent various areas of the Alligator Point Community. Joe Blackmon is joining the Beach Erosion Committee. Ken asked for someone from Bald Point to volunteer to join the committee.

Speakers...

Alan Pierce Franklin County is waiting for FEMA's declaration for Franklin County. This should occur in the next couple of weeks. Cheryl Sanders, as Chairman of the Board of County Commissions, is trying to arrange a meeting with DEP Secretary, Colleen Castille to see how the Beach Renourishment process can move forward and to convey to Secretary Castille the critical nature of the road and to ask DEP's assistance in the permitting that must be approved.

Mike Dumbrowski, MRD Associates, (m.dumbrowski@mrd-associates.com). Reviewed the feasibility study (published several years ago) that listed 8 options and the discussed the preferred option selected by the County to construct permeable t-groins and to fill the area between the groins with sand from the Apalachicola River. He further described the possible process for transporting the sand to the beach renourishment area, the location of the project, how the design solution works, costs and funding.

Dumbrowski stated that nature tries to straighten shorelines and that is the process taking place at Alligator Point. There is no sand in front of the revetment. Nature is trying to compensate for this lack of sand by transporting sand from other parts of the beach. It is not so much that nature is trying to create a channel to the bay. The renourishment project would not stop that process, but would hopefully reduce the erosion.

Alan Pierce and Mike Dumbrowski took questions and statements from the audience. It was expressed that other Alligator Point shorelines experiencing erosion as well. The current project is specific to the area in front of the old KOA and does not address other problem areas.

An audience member questioned the potential for t-groins to cause erosion. Dumbrowski stated that the design should address that issue by allowing sand to naturally bi-pass the ends of the groins. He also stated that with or without the current revetment in place, erosion would continue.

Sand would be moved in first prior to any t-groins being constructed. Once the beach is stabilized, the t-groins, if funding is available, could then be constructed.

Audience members expressed concern for whether or not a construction would ever begin, and that property owners are highly concerned about access to their property and the effects on property values. People are also concerned about the to timeline for the project. The Water Resources District is concerned about the water line. Any disruption of the water line affects all customers.

Pierce stated the County may consider design options and since Alligator drive is a County road, it is the Commissioners ultimate decision what does or does not get done.

In closing, Ken Osborne asked everyone to carefully consider what we are going to do. Ken stated that we would not agree to anything that would not allow access to the 400 people who own property on the east side of the Point. For many this is not a second home, it is their only home.

Meeting Adjourned

Ken Osborne asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan Feifer made the Motion followed by Dick Water's 2nd. The Board voted to approve the Motion.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Maruszak substituting for Jim Cummins, Secretary