

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

Board of Directors Meeting

The West Galveston Island POA Board meeting was held at the Galveston Country Club on April 20, 2013. Jerry Mohn, President called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum of Directors was present with attendance of Jerry Mohn, Clay Lewis – Sportsman Road, and Tom Boothe- West Beach Grant, Tom Gillespie – Sea Isle, Chris Kasper – Spanish Grant Bay, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Bet Jennings – Laffites Cove, Jeff Southard – Dunes of West Beach, Al Galli – Jamaica Beach, Ron Coker – Bermuda Beach and Bruce Reinhart – Beachside Village. Susan Gonzales (President of CKM Prop. Mgt.) – Secretary was also in attendance.

Jerry Mohn introduced officials who attended. Galveston County Judge Mark Henry, Marie Robb District 6 Galveston City Council, Vic Pierson – Mayor of Jamaica Beach, Galveston County Commissioner Kevin O’Brien, Judge Jim Schweitzer , and Republican Precinct Chair Linda Burton. Also introduced was Teri Goodman, Chief of Staff for State Senator Larry Taylor.

The minutes and Treasurers report were reviewed. Upon motion by Tom Boothe and seconded by Peggy Zahler, Board approved by unanimous vote the minutes and Treasures report.

Jerry Mohn introduced the Corporate Sponsors who were present: Coastal Solutions - Marie Robb, Operation Integrity – Clay Lewis, Johnson Space Center Federal Credit Union- Peggy Zahler, and Vic Pierson, Moody National Bank.

Community Policing: Officer Meyers (cell 409-795-1997), non-emergency number 409-765-3702) and Lt. David Torres (409 – 795-1997) West End Community Policing. Crime is reduced from last year in all categories. Policing of the beach will occur for glass, drinking, driving on the beach, etc. Important that you store items inside and not outside. Call when the crime happens.

District 6 Happenings: City Council Member Marie Robb – (409-256-4518 and marierobb@cityofgalveston.org.) Council meeting is moving to open items. The Terramar waste water is to be brought up to capacity. The City may ask Jamaica Beach to use their capacity to help. The Project work sheet from FEMA is progressing – to do beach re-nourishment. HB 459 went through Committee which killed HB 325 trying to change constitution to cause Severance case did not occur. SB1560 creating a static dune easement. Coming to Committee this or next week. We are moving forward with the Ike Dyke.

Windstorm Insurance: – Otie Zapp. No major Bill has come out of Committee. Two Bills to support are being worked on, these bills will start with CS SB or CS HB. You will be kept informed through WGIPOA.

WGIPOA Newsletter: – Peggy Zahler (www.westender.com). Next publication in a couple of months. Need volunteers to help with the newsletter. Peggy gave thanks to the support volunteers.

Ike Dike: – Dr. Bill Merrell. Prior President of Hines Institute. Past president of Texas A & M.

Dr. Merrell emphasized the Ike Dike is a coastal barrier protecting the Houston/Galveston Region from Hurricane storm surge. Nationally-important population and economic center, considerable infrastructure near sea level with storm surges channeled up the Bay, and supports the largest petrochemical complex in the US and besides the Port of Houston alone generates over \$178 Billion in economic activity annually. Galveston Bay provides valuable ecosystem services and is affected by a major storm about every 15 years. Large-scale evacuations are increasingly difficult, especially for Hurricanes that quickly increase in intensity and/or change direction.

Hurricane Rita killed 3 people, the three day mass evacuation leading up to Rita's landfall killed 108.

(12) Major hurricanes

(2) Cat 5 Rita 2005, Carla 1961, Edith 1971 – didn't hit Texas directly.

(6) Cat 4 Audrey (1957), Unnamed (1949), (1945), (1932), (1915),, (1900 – Galveston Hurricane).

(4) Cat 3 Alicia (1983), Unnamed (1942), (1909), (1886).

As bad as Ike was we dodged a bullet, if it had been further west many more lives would have been lost and much more damage would have occurred.

Base the Ike Dike on the Netherlands (Holland) experience – the Dutch Delta Commission considered several options. Continue building and strengthening internal dikes/barriers. Shorten the surge defense needed with a coastal spine.

The Ike Dike would protect Galveston and inland from the surge, for the west and east end not protected by the seawall a solid dune covered by sand dune.

Shorten coast, keep surge out of internal waters, surge gates to accomplish the above.

Ike Dike Additional Characteristics: System can be leaky – unlike New Orleans, Holland, can use Galveston bay as retention pond, only needs to hold maximum surge for a few hours, doesn't harm neighboring communities, and doesn't lead to a race for more and higher dikes.

Stops the surge at the coast where it's the smallest, protects strategic assets of national importance, protects bays natural resources, occupies the minimum foot print for comprehensive protection, protects every community rich or poor, and the entire region recovers quickly.

A coastal SPINE suppresses surge and is technically feasible, economically sound, environmentally friendly and socially just. It should be the cornerstone of our Surge suppression strategy.

The Ike Dike strategy is to keep the ocean surge out of the Galveston Bay by using a gated coastal barrier. The first component of the Ike Kike already exists – the Galveston Seawall. The second component – Land Extensions of the protection afforded by the Seawall. Revetments can be hidden to

look natural. The third component – Flood Gates.

The Dutch Delta works and the Ike Dike will result in:

Shorten the coast as much as possible, Keep the surge out of internal waters, use surge gates to accomplish the above and to allow for ship traffic, and to preserve marine ecosystem function.

Ike Dike Research approach/sequence: Economic study with special emphasis on petrochemical industry, Modeling to inform the economic study and barrier design, And to understand better Galveston bays roles, Test Barrier conceptual designs, Including land and Integration, Generate better cost estimates, Costs/Benefits, and Technically feasible, economically sound and environmentally friendly. www.tamug.edu/ikedike

Discussion was held by the Board concerning donating toward the cost of the study for the Ike Dike. Motion by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Tom Boothe, the WGIPOA donated \$1000 to the Texas A & M for the Dike Study.

Therefore, Be it Resolved the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association acting through its representative members calls upon federal legislators, local and state leaders and private industry to provide the necessary effort and support to implement a surge suppression /Ike Dike/coastal spine to protect the Houston-Galveston area from inundation. On this the **20th** day of **April, 2013**, the **West Galveston Island Property Owners Association**, consisting of 38 property owner associations on West Galveston Island, convened in a regularly scheduled meeting. Upon Motion by Ms. Peggy Zahler and second by Mr. Tom Boothe, and receiving unanimous vote of the Members present this Resolution was **Approved**.

Others:

Signage – trying to develop signage for the beachfront area. Do to the question of ownership we need to protect those owners. Signage needs to protect against liability. Expect signs to be ready by summer.

Land Development Regulations (LDR) – furthering of the erosion response plan. Twelve pages of correction have been submitted. John Dreiss who is on the LDR committee has been helping our cause.

Severance – new bills filed plus HB325 – Patterson stated it was a constitutional taking, but he did support Craig Eiland's Bills with the 3-year build moratorium.

Turtle Resolution - we want an incubation location for the Kemp's Ridley turtle. The upper coast was recommended as well as the Galveston Island State Park. Motion Bruce Reinhart and seconded by Kasper, the board approved by unanimous vote.

Therefore Be it Resolved that the **West Galveston Island Property Owners Association** enthusiastically approves the request to the **United States Fish and Wildlife Service** to utilize the resources available from governmental and university experts and experienced and trained sea turtle patrollers and volunteers to cease the risk of harm that exists by transferring **Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle**

eggs to the **Padre Island National Seashore** and protect nesting activity on the **Upper Texas Coast** by either protecting nests in place or transferring eggs the shortest possible distance to a protected corral for incubation followed by release of hatchlings with viewing made available to residents of **Galveston, Texas** and to its tourists. **Be it Further Resolved** that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the **United States Fish and Wildlife Service**, USFWS/TAMUCC, Unit 5837 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5837.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Susan Gonzales, recording Secretary