TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Meeting Date: May 19, 2008

Meeting Location: LCRA Natural Science Conference Center, Matagorda, Texas

- Meeting called to order by Jerry Mohn at approximately 12:35.
- Messer’s Haskell Simon and County Commissioner George Deshotels provided welcoming remarks
- Meeting minutes from February 4, 2008 meeting were approved
- Voting for the Board of Directors of the Texas Chapter was conducted. The following individuals were elected:

  Counties: 12 Coastal Counties (Lower to Upper)
  Cameron – Darla Lapeyre, South Padre EDC
  Willacy – Mike Wilson, Port Director, Willacy County Navigation District
  Kenedy – (remains open)
  Kleberg – Dick Messbarger, Executive Director of Greater Kingsville EDC
  Nueces – Dan Heilman – HDR/Shiner Moseley
  Aransas – Tom Blazek, Rockport City Manager
  Calhoun – (remains open)
  Matagorda – Haskell Simon, County Facilitator
  Brazoria – Dude Payne, County Commissioner
  Galveston – John Lee, Mitigation Coordinator, Galveston County
  Chamber – Lamont Meaux, President Seabreeze Corp
  Jefferson – Andy Elms, V.P. Apollo Environmental Strategies

  At Large: (Alphabetical)
  Marie Garrett – Galveston, President Beach Restoration
  Stephen Gilbreath – Houston, LAN Engineering
  Michael Kovacs – Port Aransas, City Manager
  Jerry Mohn – Galveston – President WGIPOA
  Cameron Perry – Corpus Christi, HDR Shiner Moseley
  Peter Ravella – Austin, President PAR Consulting
  Dr. Bill Setz – Galveston, Associate V.P. TAMUG

  6 Inland Coastal Counties
  Harris – Larry Wise, Moffat & Nichol Engineering
  (Orange, Jackson, Victoria, Refugio, and San Patricio remain open)

- The newly-elected board elected the following officers:

  President: Jerry Mohn
  Vice President(s): John Lee (upper coast)
  Michael Kovacs (mid coast)
• Report of the Treasurer

غاز (Sorry, I must have missed this…)

• Report of the Education/Communication Committee (Tom Linton)

غاز New Web page is in prep (Marissa Webber is POC); draft will be posted for comments. Will use the PBS&J server.

غاز Next quarterly newsletter is in prep (newsletter will continue quarterly). Submit articles to Rob Kite.

• Report of the Beach Maintenance Committee (Tom Linton)

غاز Tom discussed the Texas Clean Beach initiative; looking for information on the dollars per county spent on cleaning their beaches; the GLO’s “Captain Crab” program in South Padre is a good model. Fred McCutchon is preparing draft resolution for cities and counties to adopt and to have a unified front in going after funds in Austin.

• Report of the Legislative Committee (John Lee and Sidney McClendon)

غاز John Lee is soliciting statistics on the locations of residence for coastal property owners. These statistics will be helpful showing that inland delegates have a stake in the coast. This will be compiled into a data base and sorted out by congressional district so the legislators can be contacted to show the stake their constituents have in the coastal community.

غاز The Texas Chapter needs to have the coastal counties and cities collectively together go to Austin and Washington to fight for the appropriations we need.

غاز Federal appropriations are expected to be minimal until after upcoming presidential election.

غاز The “Coastal Protection and Improvement Bill” passed but lacks funding mechanics. It would dedicate a minimum of $5,000,000 for shoreline restoration. The State has excess funds now and we need to earmark a portion to the Bill.

غاز Sidney McClendon would like the Texas Chapter to achieve by January a true spirit of cooperation along the coast in going after funds in Austin under CMP, CEPRA, and CIAP.

• Report of the Membership Committee (Cameron Perry)

غاز Seeking renewal of corporate sponsorships (Dannenbaum Engineering is newest corporate sponsor). The Chapter now has 11 sponsors.
Cameron is looking for help with the membership committee.

- Report of the Technical Committee (Charles Hermansen)

- Discussed the increasing costs for coastal construction and beach nourishment, which is now material driven.

- Charles plans for the Technical Committee to contribute to the Chapter’s newsletter in what is going on around the State coastal area.

- San Bernard: Pat Webb and Roy Edwards with Friends of the River Sand Bernard gave a presentation on the Mouth of the San Bernard River and their grass-roots success in helping to get the river mouth re-opened by the Corps of Engineers (see www.sanbernardriver.com). Problems started in 1929 when Freeport requested a deep water port and the mouth of the Brazos River was moved from 13 miles to 3.8 miles from the San Bernard. Eventually, the San Bernard was narrowed from 1000 feet wide and 8.5 feet deep to 200 feet wide and 6 feet deep and today the mouth is closed and no longer feeds into the Gulf. The US Army Corp plans to dredge approximately 700,000 cubic yards to open the river and to use the dredge material as a sand source for Sargeant Beach and Matagorda beaches.

- Windstorm Insurance: Otie Zapp with the new coastal organization, Coastal Windstorm Insurance Coalition (CWIC), gave a presentation on their lobbying against revisions of Texas insurance laws that could significantly increase the cost of windstorm insurance. HB 2960 almost passed in the last legislative session, which would have increased current coverage over 157%, and he is certain it will be brought back again in the upcoming session. School districts could really be affected along the cost with high windstorm insurance costs. We need to raise awareness in the coastal counties so the policy holders know about the effort to increase rates. The CWIC is hopeful in raising $300,000 for lobbying efforts to save millions.

- Sargeant Beach: Haskell Simon (Matagorda County facilitator) gave presentation on the revetment at Sargeant Beach. This area has one of the highest erosion rates in the State and the intercoastal waterway was in threat of being breeched. It was built in 2.5 years using 14,500 truckloads of granite blocks at a cost of $60 million.

- Mouth of Colorado: Haskell Simon talked about how the land bridge formed from the mainland to the peninsula. It began in the 1920’s when sediment and logs from the Colorado River flowed into Matagorda Bay and built the land mass.

- Jerry Mohn provided a quick review of the Sargassum Symposium recently held in Corpus Christi, which was a success.

- GLO Report (Thomas Durnin)

- CEPRA Cycle 5 $17.2 million projects completed or underway include:
Hurricane Rita repairs in Galveston County
- West Galveston Island beach nourishment (expected to require funding carry-over to 2011)
- Sylvan Beach (La Porte) nourishment
- Rollover Pass beneficial use of dredged material (beach nourishment)
- Surfside revetment
- South Padre Island (truck-haul beach nourishment, BUDM, and offshore sand search)
- Studies at Sargent Beach and San Bernard River

✉ CIAP
- CLAB meeting held last week (recommended projects to governor’s office)
- Draft state plan was submitted in January to MMS; however, MMS sent back with 56 pages of comments. Many comments disputed proposed uses of the funding.
- MMS will review revised plan
- Did not like ecotourism as a reason for funds.
- For 2007 funds, cash may be available in early 2009 for actual projects
- For 2008 funds: 3 public meetings to be held in mid June or July to discuss submittal of project applications
- John Gillan of the GLO is the Director of the CIAP program.

✉ HB 2819
Angela Sunley from the GLO gave a summary of the contents of the Bill, which appeared in the Texas Register May 16, and includes the following:
- Line of vegetation – GLO determination is final in accordance with the Open Beaches Act.
- More time to review permits – was 10 days; now it is 30 days.
- Erosion response plans: work with CMP to develop plans.
- Geohazard maps – prepare maps for various coastal areas, similar to the one developed for Galveston.
- Set back lines – recommendation is 60 times the annual erosion rate, as measured from the line of vegetation, or 25 feet landward of the landward toe of the foreridge dune, whichever is greater. When there is no foreridge dune, then 300 feet from the mean high water.
- Dune Protection Line (DPL) – the building set back line may not be located further landward than the DPL.