

APPENDIX C

CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH RECOMMENDATION

Memorandum



To: Beach Stewardship Committee

From: Steven J. Hallock, Public Services Director *SJH*

Date: November 12, 2009

Re: Upham Beach Recommendation

Copy: Mike Bonfield, City Manager
William Davis, Pinellas County
Andrew Squires, Pinellas County

Over the years the City has been closely monitoring the Upham Beach Stabilization project and reviewing all related documentation as it became available. With all of this information and a final decision regarding the permanent structures needed we are now prepared to make a recommendation to the Beach Stewardship Committee based on the latest study's findings and we are proposing "Alternative 2 – Modified T-Head Design". The reasons for this are as follows:

- It will provide the storm protection needed for resident homes. The modifications to T-heads 1 and 2 should protect the northern beach even better than it is now.
- It maintains the minimum 40 foot wide white sandy beach and provides more beach front for visitors. It is important to note that the beach will be much wider than this the vast majority of the time and the minimum may never be reached.
- It provides permanent structural stabilization to hold the sand in place and addresses the problem of what some people think is the fastest eroding beach in the State of Florida.
- It does not cause down drift erosion of sand so the beaches to the south are protected.
- Not only does it save the tax payer \$1.0M to \$1.5M in initial construction costs; it also reduces the frequency and volume of beach renourishment and thus saves the tax payer an estimated \$31.0M over the next 25 years.
- It reduces the number of T-groins from 5 to 4 so that the public beach is not divided by a T-groin, and because T-groins come with inherent safety concerns it reduces the risk for all beach visitors.
- The Blind Pass Inlet is the sole source of sand and the channel is dredged on a routine schedule to ensure navigation which is a primary goal of the Blind Pass Inlet Management Plan (IMP).
- Since the design is so similar to the existing one it should not slow down the permitting process because the design has been tested and proven.
- It maintains an area for the surfing stakeholders thus creating a win-win situation for all.

In order to verify "Alternative 2 – Modified T-Head Design" meets all of the project goals we are also recommending that during the renourishment in the spring of 2010 that this design be installed utilizing the temporary structures. This way the final design can be tested and evaluated over the next 2 to 3 years before the permanent structures are installed. If the design performs as expected than the permanent structures can be installed with a very high level of confidence. If the design does not perform as expected than the final and permanent design can be adjusted based on the additional data collected in the next few years.