

MOTIONS PASSED AT THE COMBINED BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Approved Consent Agenda
Mr. Walsingham/Ms. Pease

Approve Action Item A
Mr. Griffiths/Mr. Chester

Approve Action Item B
Mr. Phillips/Mr. Griffiths

Approve Action Item C
Ms. Pease / Mr. Griffiths

Approve Action Item D
Mr. Griffiths/Ms. Pease

COMBINED BOARD MEETING
Bay County Tourist Development Council
Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
Panama City Beach

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Council Room, PCB City Hall

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Seven Members Present, Two Absent

Absent Members:

Casto, Paul

Wilkes, Buddy

A. Invocation

Mr. Chester gave the Invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Pease led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes)

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Rowe read the Consent Agenda into the record.

A. Approve 2022 Sea Turtle Monitoring Contract

B. Approve 2022 Leave No Trace Enforcement Monitoring Contract

C. Acknowledge Receipt of the February 2022 Tourist Development Tax Collection Report

Mr. Walsingham moved; seconded by Ms. Pease to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and consider for approval a recommendation to Bay County to execute Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Agreement 22BA1 for the Mexico Beach Restoration Project, Ms. Lisa Armbruster

Ms. Armbruster stated that this will be used to restore Mexico Beach as well as to secure other grant funds for the project. Mr. Griffiths asked if trucking in sand would be an option to reduce costs to which Ms. Armbruster replied that it could be. But with the amount of volume, probably not a viable option. She said they already have a borrow source that is permitted.

**Mr. Griffiths moved; seconded by Mr. Chester.
Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Discuss and consider for approval a recommendation to Bay County to execute the Combined Task Order and Notice to Proceed, No. 003, with MRD for Permit-Required Beach Surveying Post-Construction, Ms. Lisa Armbruster

Ms. Armbruster stated the need for a change in the request. She was told the day before this meeting that the Army Corp of Engineers will be doing this survey after she was told they would not. In order to be sure that they will be doing all of it, in it's entirety, she asked the board to approve the survey task order in full, and she will modify it based on what the Corp does and send the modification to the BOCC. The maximum will be \$145,440, but will likely be less. That is for permit required full surveying of the whole beach after construction.

Ms. Pease and Mr. Griffiths asked about the delay in the federal permits. Ms. Armbruster stated that the state permits were secured but the federal is taking a long time because they are waiting to hear from the Marine Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife agencies. Mr. Rowe stated that he has addressed the delay with state officials as well as NOAA and the Marine Fisheries leaders.

**Mr. Phillips moved; seconded by Mr. Griffiths.
Motion passed unanimously.**

C. Discuss and consider for approval a recommendation to Bay County to execute the Combined Task Order and Notice to Proceed, No. 002, with Coastal Protection Engineering LLC for Permit-Required Beach Monitoring Analysis and Lighting Evaluations Post-Construction, Ms. Lisa Armbruster

Ms. Armbruster stated that this is a permit required monitoring evaluation and will also allow evaluations annually post construction.

**Ms. Pease moved; seconded by Mr. Griffiths.
Motion passed unanimously.**

D. Discuss and consider for approval a recommendation to Bay County to execute the Combined Task Order and Notice to Proceed, No. 003, with Coastal Protection Engineering LLC for Desktop Study and Analyses for Sand Search Development for Future Panama City Beaches Renourishment Projects, Ms. Lisa Armbruster

Addresses the borrow points for sand for future projects.

**Mr. Griffiths moved; seconded by Mr. Pease.
Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

NONE

VII. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Rowe stated that the sponsorship evaluations for the indoor sports center is ongoing and should be concluded and posted online in the next few weeks.

He then stated that the county had finished the annual audit and the cash carry forward from excess collections and unspent funds is approximately 16.5M. Of that, 1.3M is available at the board's direction for use towards public safety. He said by law, they can use up to 10% of four of the five pennies of the Tourist Development Tax for reimbursement. The Sheriff's office currently has about 40,000 dollars of overtime. Mr. Rowe discussed the possible development of a local co-op program with tourism related businesses in which their security cameras would be accessible by the Sheriff's integrated camera program. Also, the funds could be used for buying more cameras that read license plates. Mr. Rowe went on to say that the co-op program would share the cost by them invoicing the CVB for reimbursement of costs related. He said this would enhance the ability of law enforcement to handle emergency situations as well as the participating businesses with onsite issues.

Mr. Rowe stated that out of the additional 1.3M available for public safety, the co-op program would be approximately 200k annually.

Ms. Pease asked if there were any projects that have be earmarked for these funds. Mr. Rowe stated that there are no other projects that he is aware of, but he has made the public safety officials aware of these funds. If they have projects that meet the criteria for use of these funds, they can submit those to the CVB. He said that we have purchased cameras that are specifically directed to look into the gulf to aid in the rescue efforts of someone who needs help in the water. He said we have also invested in the FLIR tech for one of the Sheriffs helicopters which can identify distressed swimmers more quickly. As their needs are identified, these funds can assist in the enhancement of our public safety and law enforcement for our visitors and residents.

Ms. Pease asked if the public safety agencies can ask for funds for additional staff, vehicles, and equipment. Mr. Rowe said that justifying using the funds for additional staff would be more difficult, but the other things would be more justifiable. Ms. Pease asked if Mr. Rowe could look into using the funds for additional public safety staff. Mr. Griffiths stated that would most likely not be a viable option as the need is filled by the agencies using other county agency staff during the busy season. Mr. Rowe suggested asking CVB council as well as the county and city council to look into the legality of using the funds in this manner.

Mr. Phillips stated that the CVB should add funding towards beach safety because it's a continuing problem and increased safety could be used to increase visitation. Mr. Rowe said that the CVB currently funds 100 percent of what they are legally allowed to use of the TDT. He also stated that the public safety agencies are having problems filling vacant position and the CVB cannot hire for them. Mr. Phillips said he thinks there is more we can do such as safety boxes on the beach with floatation devices or emergency call buttons. Mr. Rowe replied that he will reach out to city and county managers and express Mr. Phillips desire because they are the ones who develops their programs and communicates that with the CVB.

Mr. Sale, referring to Mr. Griffiths statement regarding adding public safety staff, said that there is a legal requirement that these funds cannot be used in lieu of normal operating expenses. He also said overtime fits well within the legal parameters as well as bringing in and paying for additional staff from outside the county during the busy season.

Ms. Pease asked if there were any funding opportunities from the CVB to the area technical schools that could help the over 400 employees who were unemployed due to the closing to the paper mill.

Mr. Rowe said that the scholarship program that had been discussed previously will be brought back to the board in the future.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Bailey thanked the public safety agencies for their work during spring break. He also thanked Lisa Armbruster for her work.

Mr. Rowe also stated that due to the weather and timing, UNwineD dates for next year will be changed and he will bring that to the board in the future.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
NONE

X. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Cook, Recording Secretary