



**MEETING DATE:** November 17, 2020  
**NAME/DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:** Alan Pierce / Special Projects Coordinator  
**TOTAL ATTACHMENTS:**

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**Special Projects Coordinator Report**

**Action Items:**

1- Board action to ratify a Resolution signed by the Chairman on Friday, Nov. 13, supporting the county's application for design funds from the FDEP Beach Management Program. I had advised the Board on September 15 that Mike Dombrowski would be drafting a resolution and would be getting it to Michael Moron. It has taken longer than I expected.

I also would like to remind the Board that this FDEP application is only for the design portion, which is \$200K. If FDEP approves funds for design then the county would apply in the 2022 Legislature for construction funds. If FDEP does not approve the design then the funding of a beach to protect 1.1 mile of Alligator Drive will not happen through the FDEP program. Board action to ratify the Resolution, and then I will describe the other path the county is seeking to protect the road.

**Information Items:**

2- I understand from Ms. Debbie Belcher that she is completing an application for CDBG-DR funds for a beach project to protect Alligator Drive in the same location and manner as the FDEP Beach Management application. The difference in the applications is not the funds as both projects propose a construction cost of \$10M, and it is not a difference in dimensions as both projects propose to protect the same 1.1 mile of road that is most vulnerable to storm damage. The difference in applications is in the county's obligation. Under the FDEP program, the state would provide 50% of the construction costs and the county would have to provide 50% of the construction costs. So, the state would put up \$5M funded from the Legislature and the county would put up \$5M from its RESTORE funds. Under the CDBG program, the county would not have to put up any money; the CDBG program would provide all the funds. I have spoken to Ms. Belcher and I believe she was going to ask for \$11M in the event there are some cost over-runs.

The question I have for the Board is how the Board wants to proceed on maintaining the beach if we receive CDBG funds. The Board has said previously that if FDEP funds the project the Board would create an assessment to help maintain the beach. Does the Board have the same opinion if CDBG funds the project?

And if the Board does have the same opinion, and if the county gets funded then the first step in determining an assessment is determining how large an area can be included in the assessment. The size of the area to be included in the assessment has a direct bearing on how much an individual would pay. In general, the question has been whether all property owners on the Point, which could be as many as 1000, could legally be included in an assessment, or whether just those property owners who need the road, which is less than 500, would be the assessment area. I give this advice now because if we get funded for the beach the county needs to get a legal opinion on the extent of the assessment area.

3- Inform the Board that the state has issued a time extension for 8 county Hurricane Michael projects till October, 2022, and one of them is PW 1152, Alligator Drive. I had sent a letter to FDEM yesterday asking for a time extension until Sept. 30, 2021, and then received a phone call from FDEM saying that this much longer time extension had already been granted. I do not expect the project to take that long, but the current deadline for permanent work to be completed is April 11, 2021, and no matter what happens with the bid process the project will not be completed by then.

The other county projects that have received a time extension until Oct. 1, 2022 are: C30A; St. George Island Fishing Pier; Island View Park; Ochlockonee Bridge fishing pier; Eastpoint Fishing Pier; Alligator Point Dune Walkovers; St. George Island Fishing Pier Road.

Ms. Brownell's office had made the request back on Feb. 21, 2020, but the FDEM contractor who called me said there was no indication the state sent her the letters notifying her of the extensions. I have received a set and have provided them for the Board file.

4- Status of Alligator Point Road repairs- as the Board is aware, we received a letter from Anderson Columbia saying they could not honor their original bid to repair Alligator Drive, but for \$130K increase in price they would still do the job. Based upon my desire not to have to re-bid I did recommend the Board accept this increased bid. At the last meeting I told the Board that I had sent a draft contract to FEMA for review and have not heard back. I have since been advised that Ms. Brownell has arranged for a FEMA procurement webinar on Thursday, Nov. 19. I am going to participate in this webinar because I am concerned with two items. Can the Board accept an increased bid from one vendor without allowing other vendors the same opportunity? And, I have a question about the required notification of minority businesses. There is a registry of minority business, and I can not find where I sent the bid notice back in 2019 to the registry. To further compound the issue, the bid documents that Dewberry use requires a qualified applicant to be FDOT pre-qualified and I need to verify with FEMA whether such additional requirement is consistent with their procurement. The summary is that I might have to reverse my recommendation on re-bidding. I have discussed this situation with Clay Kennedy and Mr. Shuler. I certainly defer to the Board, but at this time I believe I should participate in the FEMA webinar on Thursday and then make a recommendation to the Board at the Dec. 1 BCC meeting.