

# Town Talks Groins, Dredging, Contracts

**Jeff Berlinicke**  
Staff Writer

Tom Campbell, of Coastal Planning and Engineering, updated the Longboat Key Town Commission on plans for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge portions of the WCIWW next year as well as the Longboat Pass channel during Thursday's meeting of the Town Commission.

The army corps will dredge portions of the beach and will be placing the sand on Anna Maria Island. The cost will be at local expense to increase the sand available for beach placement.

The plans to dredge the land for the beach in the Northshore Road area, as well as a West Coast Inland Navigational study were the main topics of discussion. The discussion also revolved around a West Coast Inland Navigational District study being performed by Hummiston Moore that included an analysis of the inlet channel and ebb and flood shoals to access geomorphic relationships between various inlet features on Longboat Key.

After a meeting in June, the Town of Longboat Key and the county have an agreement to share sand dredged from Longboat Pass, and there is a chance state funding could be available to help with the costs. Campbell went to the meeting hoping for further direction from the board to proceed with plans.



Actions to obtain state funding are early in the process, but Campbell said he would need direction from the board before being able to continue.

The Town will be coordinating with the Department of Environmental Protection and the WCIND on an ongoing study, and will also be working with Manatee County.

The commission also discussed potential alternatives and passed the decision on to Town Manager Bruce St. Denis.

### Groin Time

Also, the Commission asked staff to work with two engineers to develop a proposal and design of a Makepeace

groin in the vicinity of The Islander. Commissioner George Spoll said the time for haggling is over.

"We are looking to expedite this (issue involving groins in Longboat Key). After the preliminary hearing, I'd like to have some work done."

As the majority of sand washes onto Longboat Pass, the impacts were concluded to be negligible. There are two options, according to Campbell in a report delivered to the Commission on Wednesday.

A third groin of similar length that would stabilize the beach from the end of the Key to the groin just north of the 360 North Condominium, or a long terminal groin which would stabilize the entire beach from the end of the Key through North Shore Drive. The two proposed groins would be eliminated as an alternative.

Commissioners have been tied to an agreement with Hummiston Moore to do the job, and were told by the town attorney that there was no competitive bidding; that Hummiston Moore made the best offer and were entitled to do the job, but commissioners said they wanted to open up the bidding.

"I think we need to speak to other companies," Commissioner Lee Rotherberg said. "Hummiston Moore is too involved. It would be a good thing to open up the door (to competitive bidding)."

## Here Come Our Crabby Friends

**Karen O'Dowd**  
Contributing Writer

From one end of Longboat Key to the other there's Snow Crab on them there menus. Local crabbers are bringing in their catch and are happy to say the harvest is off to a good start.

At Moore's Stone

Crab Restaurant the claws are delivered by local crabbers by boat right to their dock.

Occasionally a representative of the Florida Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission will be on the dock to check out the catch, and have a chat about "how the crabs are crawlin'."

The claws are quickly sized, graded and weighed, then boiled for 12 minutes in big, steaming pots and quickly chilled in ice-water slurry before being served to eager diners who have been

waiting six months for this very moment. Stone Crab is offered cold or hot, but is boiled, chilled, then re-heated to serve hot. Between mid-October and mid-May is Snow Crab season. Moore's serves theirs with a horseradish mustard sauce, or the traditional clarified butter.

Prices range from \$24.99 for five claws for lunch, \$32.99 for seven to eight claws for the "House" serving; \$48.99 for the mixed dinner of seven claws;

\$69.99 for the seven claw large dinner; and six of the jumbo size claws' dinner for \$82.99 the large paper bib is highly recommended. Cracking crab claws is not for sissies. Enjoy the season — time flies.

For information, call Moore's at 383-1478. They are open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.



The docks are busy near Moore's Stone Crab Restaurant as harvesters haul in the afternoon's catch of fresh stone crabs.



### Mission Accomplished



Coldwell Banker Previews Realtor Lynne Koy recently rafted down the Snake River Canyon. You go girl!

## Longboat's Last Crawl of Summer

It is now safe to turn the lights on beachside in the Manatee County section of the Key.

**Karen O'Dowd**  
Contributing Writer

Over 50 interested onlookers gathered on the beach at sunset on Saturday, Oct. 14, across the street from Cannons Marina, to welcome the single surviving hatchling of the final turtle nest excavated this season on the Manatee County section of Longboat Key.

The group cheered as the lone hatchling scrambled toward the Gulf after being trapped in the nest when his fellow hatchlings dug their way out a few days earlier.

The rescue was conducted by members of the Longboat Key Turtle Watch, led by volunteer Freda Perotta who care-

fully excavated the post-hole shaped nest by scooping handful after handful of sand out of the hole.

The little turtle was discovered buried in the sand near the top of the nest and was placed in a bucket of damp sand to rest while the balance of the nest was explored.

Earlier in the season, this nest had been partially dug out by a dog on the beach, and some of the eggs had been eaten. To help preserve the nest, a wire mesh had been placed over the top of it, and this prevented further damage to the eggs. The dog and its owner had not been located, but dogs are not allowed on the beaches of Longboat Key.

The volunteers counted the hatched eggshells, and examined the unhatched eggs. The depth and width of the nest was carefully measured and recorded and a sample of sand in the nest was taken to send to Mote for analysis also.

It was estimated that about 88 of the 100 eggs in the nest finally hatched.

Since this was the last excavation of the season, it is now safe to turn the lights on beachside on the Manatee County section of Longboat Key.

Longboat Key Turtle Watch Volunteer Freda Perotta holds the lone hatchling of the last turtle next of the season.

Photo by Karen O'Dowd

