

November 10, 2014

Meeting commenced at 2:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen we are fifteen minutes behind time, I think that is adequate, so I will give another two minutes for the stenographers to get settled after which we will proceed with this evening's meeting. Thank you.

Good afternoon again, ladies and gentlemen..

PARTICIPANT: Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN: Friends and well-wishers, my name is Verlie James and I will be the person moderating this evening's activity. As per usual, for those of us who are religious we always begin our meetings by invoking the presence of the Divine amongst us and as such we will move right into that aspect as I ask Mr. Kavanaugh Campbell to say prayers for us. Mr. Campbell, please.

(Prayers led by Mr. Campbell)

Thank you very much, Mr. Campbell. Now that we have invoked the presence of the Divine amongst us and the pace is set, we are going to go into this afternoon's meeting.

Before I do the introductions, for some of us who may be assembling here for the first time there are those amongst us who had assembled here in July of this year to discuss the issue on hand. At that meeting there were still some uncertainty/some concerns on all parties present then and as such, the National Works Agency, the Agency who is leading this kind of project solicited your presence again to share with you, and to get your views on this proposed project. Of course, no man is an island, it takes all of us to arrive at consensus; and consensus is essential for us to move forward.

I am therefore grateful that you are able to present yourselves so that you can be

brought up to speed as to what are some of the latest developments/concerns/decisions/proposals, that we may arrive at.

So I am very grateful to you all and I am also very grateful to the persons from National Works Agency, and at a later point in the evening, we will say a better thanks to these people.

This evening we have some persons sitting at what I call the "Head Table", and I just want to introduce them to you.

On the far end of the table, that's my left, the farthest point to my left, we have Jordan Poole and he is a Civil Engineer. Beside him we have Moira Williamson and she is also a Civil Engineer. Beside her we have Krystal Lyn. Krystal Lyn is an Environmental Officer, and next to her is Roger Smith who is the Director of Technical Services at the National Works Agency.

Some of these persons whose names I have

called, among others, will be making presentations here this afternoon, and I implore you to make notes of issues that are of grave concern to you, issues that you may think you want greater clarity on, make a note of that, and at the appropriate time we will take your concerns.

In the audience we have quite a representation from the community of Negril; the business community as well as well-wishers who may just be passing through Negril, but are concerned. We thank you for coming and we look forward to your involvement. I see a hand going up, I will allow the hand now to speak.

MRS. ROOMEL: Good afternoon, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. Use the mike please; thank you. Could you just identify who you are so we can be on familiar terms.

MRS. ROOMEL: Good afternoon, my name is Sophie Grizzle-Roomel. We have already had a

presentation as you said. I would presume most people here heard the original presentation. I am asking you to let us know how long each presentation is going to be because we don't want to be here for another four hours, and I am also requesting that only the new sections of the presentation be done because we have already seen the presentation that was done before. I would also like to know where the Coastal Engineer is as well, please, sir. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, point taken. Yes, we do not propose to be in this room for a very long period. I would hazard a guess and say no longer than an hour-and-a-half to two hours. We are already fifteen minutes late.

MRS. ROOMEL: That is too long, sir.

CHAIRMAN: We hope – I said I hazard a guess. We hope we will get through before then. The presenters have heard your comments, and I am sure they will take it into consideration that we don't want to reinvent the wheel and

to go over the whole script. We have already, most of us have already heard most of the project components and are therefore very much interested in what has been the new developments. So we will bear that in mind as we go forward.

Making presentations here this afternoon, we will have – I am sure most of you may have an agenda, so we will follow accordingly. The NEPA statement/presentation will be done by Patriece Gilpin, and that will be followed by Roger Smith, who is the Director of Technical Services, who will speak on the NWA's statement. Krystal Lyn will address the design changes that is important, and those will be more or less the persons who will make presentations after which we will accommodate your questions and your concerns.

Before we move further is there any concern? Yes, a hand went up and I hope these questions are questions to set the

pace, not to delve into the content of the presentation. Yes?

MRS. VEIRA:

Good afternoon. My name is Mary Veira. I am a resident of Negril. I have a concern. We were told that we were coming here to hear about two material changes to the plan. According to the handout that we were given, the changes are that they will not be dredging the South Negril River, and that construction site at the end of the project will be pulled down. If that is what we are here to hear about you could have send us in a letter, an e-mail or something, because to have people come here give up their time – It is coming on to our busy season, people have come from Kingston. Sorry, our concerns went way more than just dredging the river and pulling down a construction site and, you know, it is really sad if this is what NWA and NEPA have decided to come bring us here to tell us.

CHAIRMAN:

Point taken. I myself is not privy to what you just said in terms of the handouts, but I

am sure the presenters will be able to clear up that.

We are going to move right into it, and trust that your concerns will be borne in mind. The first presenter is Miss Patriece Gilpin and Miss Gilpin is going to share with us the NEPA's statement on the project; Miss Gilpin.

MISS GILPIN:

Good afternoon. Good afternoon stakeholders.

On July 29, 2014, the first Public Presentation in regards to the application for the construction and maintenance of two (2) breakwaters approximately 1.5km off the coast of Long Bay at Long Bay, Negril by the National Works Agency was held.

Please be reminded that the Beach Licence application (Application No. 2013-10017-BL00003) for the proposed project was received on 25 January, 2013 by the National Environment. Upon reviewing the information presented in support of the

application, conducting the environmental screening and site inspection, the Agency determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment or (EIA) was required for this Project. The EIA Report was submitted to the Agency on 29 April, 2014 and was circulated to various entities for review. It was also made available online for public review and comments.

Subsequent to the first Public Presentation the Agency, having reviewed all the comments, concerns and grounds of objections, provided these to the proponent on 12 September 2014 to facilitate the required response. The proponent has provided this response and in letter dated 1 October, 2014, indicated that the scope of the project would be changed. The Agency determined that the nature of the changes necessitated that the stakeholders be informed of these changes by way of this Public Meeting. This public meeting is guided by specific terms and conditions and the team from the Agency, National

Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), is here to ensure compliance. The Agency and Authority views this public consultation as integral to the review process and any issues raised by you the stakeholders will be treated as material consideration.

The Agency is however in attendance at this meeting *ONLY* to observe the proceedings and to record the issues raised. Consequently, subsequent to this statement, the Agency will not be engaged or answer questions as in this meeting, this is the sole responsibility of the applicant and consulting team.

Please be reminded that the Authority has made **NO DECISION** on the application at this time.

The process with respect to this public presentation is as follows:

1. A copy of the Verbatim Minutes from this Presentation is to be submitted to the Agency by the applicant within four (4) days.

2. The public has the opportunity to provide written comments to the Agency within four (4) days of the date of this presentation.

3. The issues raised along with the responses provided by the applicant will be incorporated in the submission with a recommendation to the Authority. The technical merits of the project will be deliberated by the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) which is the body with the sole responsibility for making the final decision.

This public meeting is extremely important in the decision making process and your comments are important! Comments may be sent in writing to the Agency at 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5 or via electronic mail to applications@nepa.gov.jm.

Here is a reminder. The EIA and associated documents are available for access by members of the public at the following locations:

NEPA's Documentation Centre

National Environment and Planning Agency's (NEPA's) Website:

<http://www.nepa.gov.jm>

[http://www.nepa.gov.jm/eias/Westmoreland/Negril/Negril Breakwaters EIA Report.pdf](http://www.nepa.gov.jm/eias/Westmoreland/Negril/Negril_Breakwaters_EIA_Report.pdf)

http://www.nepa.gov.jm/eias/Pages/curr_eia.asp

National Works Agency's (NWA's) Website:

<http://www.nwa.gov.jm/content/publications.aspx>

CL Environment Co. Ltd's Website:

<http://www.clenvironmental.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06>

[Negril-Breakwaters-EIA-Report.pdf](#)

Negril Branch Library, West End Road, Negril, Westmoreland

Negril Green Island Area Local Planning Authority, Negril, Westmoreland.

Thank you for participating in the process. Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much, Miss

Gilpin. Yes?

MISS McCAULEY: I am Diane McCauley. I am from the Jamaica Environment Trust and I need to ask the NEPA's Rep why their public comment here has been shortened from thirty (30) days to four (4) days. Four (4) days is completely inadequate and it breaches their own guidelines. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN: That is a valid question, because I had that written down as well.

From Miss Gilpin's presentation I understand her to be saying that there has been a change of scope an EIA was finalized on the 29th of the fourth month this year. That is April, and there has been a change of scope and I also overheard her saying that no decision has been taken at this time. Yes, and I share the concern about the four (4) days of this presentation for feedback, but again I am going to ask you to hold the questions, when we get to the question and answer time – I am sure Miss Gilpin won't be

leaving us. Is she – no? She will be here, so let's hold the questions because we don't want to keep you here for Mrs. Grizzle expressed the concern, and I am trying to work with her in that regard. But I don't want you to forget your question so if you could just write it down and we will take it at the question and answer time whilst we allow the other persons, because your answer may come out in the presentation of the others. So let us hear the others and see what happen.

The next speaker is going to be Mr. Roger Smith, who is from the National Works Agency and he is going to be telling us of the National Works Agency statement. You just heard the NEPA statement, so let us hear what the NWA statement is. A hand is up, yes?

MR. VEIRA:

I am Harry Veira, a resident here in Negril. I thought I heard NEPA say they wouldn't take any question. Did they say that?

CHAIRMAN: That was said, but we may be able to veto that to some extent.

NWA STATEMENT
ROGER SMITH
DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES, NWA

MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. This was to be less of a NWA statement but more of an introduction to these presentations at hand.

I want to first of all thank you all for attending. It may have been a short notice, we ourselves were given the notice last week to do the further presentation as it relates to this Breakwater Project.

I would love to now just give a short recap from the NWA's perspective as to how we have reached, where we have reached and where we are. It may parallel some of what NEPA has given on their statement but for the record, for our perspective I will give this introduction.

NWA was engaged in 2012 by PIOJ/NEPA to manage the implementation of this project. The project by then was defined as the construction of this Breakwater facility. Funding for same having been secured from the Adaptation Fund of the World Bank.

Our responsibilities under our agreement entailed engaging consultants, and this was done through a competitive process with the view that the consultants once engaged would complete designs for the Breakwater, validate solutions through scale modeling and preparation of EIA for submission to NEPA as part of the licensing process. They have the responsibility also of preparing contract documents and specifications if we reached to that point. To date the consultant has been engaged, the validation of the Breakwater model has been done by scale modeling in the United States, it forms part of the EIA submission and we have submitted as NEPA previously said the EIA for consideration in the licensing process.

Back in July as part of the process a stakeholders meeting was held, I think in this very room. I was not here and going through the transcript I could understand for the first time, obviously, the stakeholders would have been reacting to what they thought was a process which they previously would have had other elements designed and I would have thought that the process would have been going in one of two directions. And so I gather that the meeting was perhaps very forthright and people spoke their minds. As we can see the stenographers are here and similar to that meeting this meeting will have the minutes of the meeting recorded and be submitted to NEPA as part of the overall EIA process. That is my understanding and so I will say for the record NWA recognizes that you, the stakeholders of Negril with all your concerns have had the concerns recorded verbatim and are now before NEPA as part of the process of evaluating the overall project. As I stand here I am no wiser than you whether the process will be approved in its submitted

form or will be subject to rejection or approval with conditions that will obviously take into consideration your concerns. In reviewing the submissions NEPA raised specific questions to the consultant and as I said previously as part of the arrangement for implementing the project NWA was responsible for engaging the consultant and arising from that has been a revisit on the area designated as a staging area and as NEPA indicated earlier in their statement as part of the process the NWA was required, is require and has fulfilled the obligation by coming today to present the modifications that have been agreed with NEPA. I know the other issues -- I can read the shirts, relate fundamentally to the Breakwater and I suspect to the scheduling of the construction given the overall plan. That is something that NEPA is more than well aware of and as part of the process of licensing those considerations will be take into concern. For our part, the NWA, we have been engaged as I said before to manage the process through and we shall follow any and all the details as

laid out in the licensing process. Having said that I think the first lady that spoke Miss Grizzle and perhaps Miss Veira, perhaps there was an expectation that there would have been more to present today. Unfortunately, as NEPA said, prior to the specific change which we have agreed to with respect to the staging area as part of the process we now have to come back to the stakeholders and give an update. I would want to take something positive out of this by saying notwithstanding that it relates now to one specific area and it may be two items and, unfortunately, the coastal engineer is not here as we pointed out we will still engage and still record the ongoing and if there are new concerns, because as I see it this is part of the process and NEPA once I put the transcript before them will take into consideration any and all further concerns that you the stakeholders have. Having said that I will now ask Miss Lyn to give this very short presentation which addresses those two specific areas. Miss Lyn has been introduced as an environmental

officer she is actually a trained environmental engineer and she had been previously in another department director of parish in NWA and on the departure of our Dr. Richards who has left the agency she has assumed the role of carrying the environmental mantle for the agency.

Thank you.

Design Changes – Krystal Lyn

Environmental Officer, NWA

MISS LYN: Good afternoon everyone.

AUDIENCE: Good afternoon.

MISS LYN: This afternoon my presentation will be directly dealing with the changes to the project. My presentation today will follow this outline:

I am going to give just a brief overview,

some benefits; Project Schedule and Activities; the Breakwater Area; Work Execution Plan; the Original - sorry?

MRS. VEIRA: I am very sorry, all of that we have seen. If you could just go to the new plan and changes.

MS. LYN: Okay.

MRS. VEIRA: We have seen all of that already over and over. If you could just go to the new plan and changes we would really appreciate it. We have seen all of that over and over already. We can even read this. Why we are here? Like we are stupid. (Applause)

MISS LYN: So the two material changes will be to the staging area, which is located to the side of

the southern of the plan, which is that, the staging area will be removed after construction. And also - sorry - so the removal of the staging area as well as there will be no dredging to the South Negril River.

VOICE: *(Sotto voce remarks).*

MS. LYN: Let me finish the presentation first, and then I will facilitate all questions.

VOICE: Okay.

MISS LYN: So let me start back to the Work Execution Plan, because you are all here to find out what these changes are, you don't want to hear about the engineering aspect, just the Work Execution Plan, how we are going to go about all our activities.

So the Work Execution Plan within this aspect, the staging area, where we will stockpiling all the boulders to build the Breakwater, it will be to this section (indicating). This is from the Caribbean sea. So, prior to an approval of a beach licence, this area will be dredged on the Caribbean Sea. In the original plan, the original plan stated that we would dredge the South Negril River for fill material for the staging area. However, that will not be done anymore because we would not want to change the hydraulics of the river. Let me go on.

Environmental concerns as it pertains to water quality. There will be turbidity barriers being placed up all around the site, and you

can see from the original plan that we originally wanted to desilt the South Negril River and to desilt the area adjacent, the area to the Caribbean Sea. The area to the Caribbean Sea prior to approval will be desilted.

This slide shows the turbidity barriers. This is a local project, Palisadoes and...

MS. VEIRA: Which is breaking up? My goodness, it mash up already so take that off.

MISS LYN: Okay. So, to just go through the entire two material changes: No desilting of the South Negril River, and the storage area will be removed after the project is completed. A closure plan is to be presented to NEPA and

that will be the done shortly. So, we will facilitate all questions right now.

MR. NELSON: For instance – Howard Nelson, citizen of Negril.

CHAIRMAN: Before we start taking the questions we just have to remind ourselves of a couple of the home rules. Persons who have questions are free to air your questions, please inform as to who is it you want to respond to your questions. Yes, don't just leave it as an open-ended question, direct your question to somebody so that you can get a good response. We will take the questions in order. there is a microphone in the passage way that you can use so that everybody can hear you, and the stenographers will be able to capture all of what is being said.

Remember that if you cough the stenographers capture that as well, so be very mindful of utterances. Mr. Nelson is by the microphone so I will take it that Mr. Nelson has the first question.

MR. NELSON: Sir, is it that I heard that the mouth of the Negril River is not supposed to dredge?

CHAIRMAN: The young lady just said that. The presence of all of these people here today, is to inform the Negril community of two changes to the proposed plan that you were familiar with in July.

MR. NELSON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN: One of the two changes is that they will be removing the area where all the things would

have been stored during construction; that after construction they are going to remove all of that – that's one. And secondly, it was said then, that they would dredge the Negril River, use the silt and whatever is garnered there to help to bolster the area where the stuff would have been stored, they ain't going to do that again. So, they have come to let we all know that these two changes will be taking place. And NWA would also have to resubmit the application to NEPA. I have it that there is no - the submission is yet to be approved or rejected based on what Mr. Smith said. So, those are the two things. So, let's take the questions now that we have cleared that.

MR. SMITH:

Mr. James?

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. SMITH: If I could, just to clarify the case in point so that it doesn't miss anyone. The original plan was to construct (inaudible) on the seaside, on the near shore of the river, and in order to assist in filling out, to get the stage area, it was contemplated to desilt the river as to the...

CHAIRMAN: Hold a moment, I am hearing some utterings, we are missing some things.

MR. SMITH: To de-silt the South Negril River, and in addition...

VOICES: Can't hear.

CHAIRMAN: Speak up.

MR. SMITH: ...to dredge to the seaside of the sheet-piling, in order to arrive at the draft needed for the barges to be loaded with the boulders to be carried out to the Breakwater, what is now contemplated is no longer to de-silt the river, there will still be a nominal dredging on the seaside to get the draft, but the reason we have done that is that, in the contamination of dredging, the build up of material near the South Negril River, consideration had to be given to what effect it would have on the morass and the eco-system as you have referred to it. The concerns would be that in dredging that also, whatever contaminants there are and is recognisable would have flushed out to sea, and what we have done is taken a decision as best as we can as possible, not to impact

the environment. And so, we have decided to forego that, thereby leaving the river in its present state. That's not to say that perhaps in an elevated storm event it won't flush itself out, but then that won't be a manmade occurrence. To makeup that shortfall of fill to the staging area, the contract will now allow for importation of the fill that was required from two...

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, we have somebody at the microphone.

MISS VEIRA: Yes, Mary Veira again, I wanted to ask, I understand NEPA said they are not here to answer questions, however she said that this is a project that is not yet approved. The PIOJ who is the national implementing body entertained an interview with an associated

press journalist, made a statement that has gone all over the Internet, that they expect this project to start next year. So, while NEPA does not wish to answer that question and I have asked it formally in a letter to Mr. Knight, I have not yet received a reply.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I also would want to ask that question. Because you been hearing things, I have been hearing things, the funds have been approved, funds have a life-span, and have to be used up within a given time. How close are we to the expiry of the life-span? If the project is not yet approved, we are still in the dialogue stage, because this evening is a dialogue evening, so we are still in the dialogue stage, when will we get out of the dialogue stage? When will the project be approved by NEPA? When will the

funds be expired? Those are some concerns I have. Anyhow, you are here to express your concern.

MISS VEIRA: My other question would be to Mr. Smith from NWA, he said that the Coastal Engineers are not here this evening. Have you hired new consultants for this job? Because it is my understanding that no one on it is actually a Coastal Engineer.

CHAIRMAN: Can we get a response, Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: I was going to answer the first question if we have...

CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, go ahead.

MR. SMITH: I didn't record the question.

- CHAIRMAN: You had a question about the Coastal Engineer.
- MISS VEIRA: No, I said – he made a comment that the Coastal Engineer Consultants are not here this evening, so I am asking him if there is a new Consultant?
- CHAIRMAN: No, he wants to answer the one before that about the...
- MR. SMITH: No, that's the one.
- CHAIRMAN: That's the one?
- MR. SMITH: No, we haven't hired a new consultant.
- MISS VEIRA: So, there are still no Coastal Engineers on

this project, then?

CHAIRMAN: Well, CEAC is the consulting firm.

MISS VEIRA: Yes, but they are not Coastal Engineers sir,
sorry.

CHAIRMAN: So that's a concern.

MISS VEIRA: Big concern.

MR. SMITH: I would answer by saying, as part of the
lifestyle of permitting, at this stage, certainly
will be irrelevant in the transcript.

MS. ROOMEL: Will you speak up.

MR. SMITH: Sorry, certainly I think that was raised in the
July 2014 meeting, and as I have had

indicated earlier that would be part of the document submission before NEPA, and NEPA is in possession of the Consultant's qualifications et cetera. So, you know the review of that decision would be with NEPA at the permitting office.

MRS. VEIRA: Mr. Smith, NWA approves the contractors and their resumes are online.

MR. SMITH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: What I am reading you to be saying, Mr. Smith, is that, the document from NWA that has been submitted to NEPA outlines the engineers with their resume and is now for NEPA to review that and determine whether the persons named as persons involved, engineers et cetera, meet specification for

that project to be implemented by their saying. That's how I am reading it. So, it is for NEPA to say, okay John Brown is not a Coastal Engineer, you have named John Brown on your project as a Coastal Engineer, he is not one, go back and do your home work and find – am I trying to get to it?

MR. SMITH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. McCAULEY: My name is Diana McCauley, I am from Jamaica Environment Trust. Mr. James, the concerns that you are hearing are because people are concerned that the kind of oversight that NEPA should give, ought to give, is not going to occur, that is the basis of the concern sir, that you are hearing. And

there is good reasons for it, because if in July the issue of Coastal Engineer was raised here, and we are now in November, and the answer is the same - I can actually tell you that I saw CEAC advertising for Coastal Engineers in the last day or so. So it seems to me that really is the answer to the question.

I would like to say to you as Chairman that you asked us to state who we would like to direct our questions, but we have a statement from NEPA saying that they will not answer any questions so I guess the only people here that will answer questions are National Works Agency.

CHAIRMAN: And I would want to...

MISS McCAULEY: But I want to know, is the Planning Institute here? Because my understanding is, they are the leading agency.

CHAIRMAN: I would advise you – using my position now, I would advise you to state your question even though NEPA has said the questions will not be answered. Why I am saying this, it's being recorded.

MISS McCAULEY: Oh, I will put my questions to NEPA then. Is the PIOJ here?

VOICE: No.

MISS McCAULEY: Is the Planning Institute here?

VOICE: No.

CHAIRMAN: The answer is no.

MISS McCAULEY: Planning Institute is not here, and I am repeating that for the record. Okay, my question. So we are being told that yes, there is still going to be the staging area, the fill from it is coming somewhat from dredging close by, if I am understanding you, and also from approved quarries?

CHAIRMAN: From importation.

MISS McCAULEY: And that it will be removed at the end of the project. Would like to refer you to the Palisades Project. You really should not have put up anything about the Palisades Project up there because – a similar situation applied there. The head office of

China Harbour Engineering was placed in actually a very sensitive area off the Palisadoes Strip, there were various plants that had to be moved. They simply leveled the area, and they spread marl. And at the end of the process Mr. Chairman, they did take their buildings, but to this day that marl is still there. So there has been absolutely no renovation, restoration of that site which also is in a protected area.

Furthermore, the question of the silt screens which were on that screen which is supposed to now constrain the dredging, when they are dredging there is likely to be siltation, you don't want the silt to end up on the coral reefs. I had numerous photographs of those silt screens washed up on the coastlines of Palisadoes.

And this is the concern that you hear when

you come to meetings like this; that people have all too frequent knowledge of the failure to meet the policies that are made in these public meetings which is now facing a constraint comment period of four months.

My organisation has been to court twice on this point, and both times we have been successful. Why is it that we have to keep revisiting these established issues about comment periods? It just makes people feel there is no good faith at work . That is what I want to say.

And my last question is about the new dredging in South Negril River. I believe there are concerns about the mouth of that River. So I want a little clarification about – when you say there is going to be dredging south up in the sea, I would like more clarity

about that.

Essentially, all you are saying to us is, you plan to go ahead with the breakwater despite all the objections that have been said, and the small concession you are going to make is that you are going to pick up the staging area that no one wants at the end of it.

MR. SMITH: I know the question, I think was directed to...

MISS McCAULEY: Someone is correcting me. I just want to comment, period, is four days not four months? Just because it's being recorded. Four days is unconscionable. We are supposed to have passed that stage years ago. Everybody at NEPA knows it.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Smith.

(APPLAUSE)

Do we have any more questions or concerns?

Yes, the microphone is there.

MISS VEIRA:

Good evening. My name is Sophie Grizzle-Roomel. Well first of all, the filling in of land that you plan do, that was one of the major, major issues we have had as well, it wasn't just - the dredging of the river was a very major issue, but the filling of our coast line is a tremendous issue. And I mean, you cut off the mountain top, I can't see how you are going to build it up back again. Because once you fill that in, how are you going to replace the sand on the beach? What you are going to do, remove the sand and put it back when you are finished? I mean, it's just inconceivable. How you are going to bring it back to what it was before? It's impossible.

I mean, you are dealing with nature, you cannot replace nature. Once you destroy it, it is irreplaceable.

(APPLAUSE)

That's question one, would you like to answer that one or would you...

MR. SMITH: I am not sure of the question itself.

MISS VEIRA: Well, it's a concern, I mean, what you are going to do to create magic? How are you going to put it back to where it was?

MR. SMITH: I would anticipate that as part of the licensing or the permitting, we will be directed as to how to do that, but if you want to physically know what I contemplate would happen, is that at the end, similar to what we have, excavator dredging; the draft,

we will then come in, and a similar process, remove the material. Will it be exactly down to the level that we have now? I could say yes, because we have a survey of it, little sand is replaced if sand is there, then I expect that to be part of the condition of the permit.

And earlier, I wanted to address just a comment that Miss McCauley made I think, perhaps - I am not with Palisadoes so I am sure of exactly construction. What I would say though is that, as part of this constructing process, as we have contemplated, it is part of the permit – and again I stress, if the project is approved, it certainly will be part of the requirement for the contractor to do. Failing which, there are funds that are retained in every contract, and I am sure with the vigilance of NEPA, the

contractors and the parties to the contract will be obliged as well.

MISS McCAULEY: Mr. Smith, I am very sorry, exactly the same thing happened with Palisadoes, NWA was the contractor, the consultant was checked, it was a condition of the permit, it was never done, it has never been done to this day. If money was retained it was never used, all you hear is the money came up at the end of it. I personally went to a meeting at NEPA, to hear that taxpayers were going to be asked to do environmental remediation that those permits call for. That is what happens.

MR. SMITH: You are speaking as – are you speaking at the job site or...

MISS McCAULEY: Both the job site which was part of the

permit and the other environmental remediation that was necessary. All the promises that you are making here today were made at a similar public meeting and were written into the environmental permit, and simply have not been done. You know, until Government agencies who sit at the front of these public meetings understand how shattered their credibility is we are not really going to get anywhere. Because we all have seen these things promised over and over again, and when it comes down to it they are simply not done. And there is no going back you know Mr. Smith, when the thing is done and it mash up, and there is a pile of silt out there, a pile of marl and everything, and it nuh put back, then what?

MS. ROOMEL: I am sure you have taken into consideration

the national springs that come up there so when you block them I am sure you are going to help BNS rebuild them back right.

But that's not really – I don't think you know about that, you being down here for years checking out the area, that I am sure you are not aware of it.

Moving on, the other major problem that you have not dressed is the blockage of the west-end. Now, some of the most expensive hotels in Negril are actually on the west-end. Now, you have not dealt with that issue, you have not dealt with the road that is going to be the other road that we are going to use which all the school children walk on and those big coaches cannot maneuver around those corners. I would hate to have one of the children in Negril being killed over breakwater. That's another

issue.

But the final thing that I would like to say,
and this is not a question, it is a statement.

I am going to be honest with you. Even if
you built the breakwater out of gold, Negril
does not want a breakwater at all.

VOICE: No. (Applause).

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Miss Grizzle. We need
to remind ourselves that this evening's
meeting is to deal with two issues that is, o
let's remind ourselves. Mr. Caolsingh?

MR. CAOLSINGH: Sir.

CHAIRMAN: You have a question?

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would add further that, I

think I did say earlier that the additional comments recorded which will be submitted to NEPA, is vital to the process because it will certainly emphasize to NEPA what the stakeholders think. We are all sitting here saying it is a *fait accompli*. Where I sit, I am not sure, I will wait to see what NEPA approves or does not approve.

CHAIRMAN: Before Mr. Coalsingh speaks I just – based on what I am hearing, am a little layman, not very intelligent, but based on what I am hearing, it sounds to me like the ultimate answer, the ultimate answer with regard to the implementation or non-implementation of this project rests with NEPA. That's how it sounds to me.

VOICE: And no one else?

CHAIRMAN: Yes. Because NWA submitted their proposals with all the ingredients that go into it, and it's for NEPA to say look, this can't work, that can't work, go change that, we are not going to grant any permit. That's how I am reading it. I maybe quite wrong, but that's how I am reading it. It sounds like the ultimate answer rests at NEPA's doorstep. Yes, Mr. Coalsingh?

MR. COALSINGH: You are correct, sir. Just like to make an observation. You referred to Negril outside closer to where the river enters the ocean that instead that area will be dredged to accommodate the drafts you know, for the barges to transport the material. The thing is this, that once you start the dredging, what is going to happen now, where the silt that is going to result from the turbidity in

the water and the currents both go north and south, what will happen to the beach during that phase of construction and the reefs? Has that been taken into consideration, the effect it will have on the tourist season?

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Can you hear me.

A: Yes.

MR. SMITH: As I am advised, in the South Negril River, there are essentially two deposits, one that is I think just downstream of...

CHAIRMAN: Can we have – sorry, we are having some grumblings, we are missing out on some information, vital information. Please listen

this.

WOMAN: Yes, please.

CHAIRMAN: Sorry, somebody was speaking before you.

WOMAN: Oh, I am sorry.

CHAIRMAN: Afterwards.

MR. SMITH: Just downstream of the bridge, that is, the one that we intend not to disturb for the reasons stated earlier, and on the shore, land, the material that will be required to be removed for the draft, will be removed and the stock pile, and I suspect if we go forward with the project, that that will be a condition at NEPA as elsewhere. Once we get to the point of removing the stage area, then that

stockpile sand will be returned to the area to address the issue that the gentleman raised about the turbidity. In engineering, the science of it, these turbidity barriers work.

MISS McCAULEY: They don't know how to use it. The permit will say things like, "you are not to use in the bad weather" then they go and mash them up in bad weather, they don't know how to use them, that's it.

MR. SMITH: I think you have led me to a point that I would sort of, perhaps not wanting to have dealt with here in terms of as part of the original submission, it is to acknowledge, and I would agree with you, that at some point of this project, one, we are going to pass through a tourist season; two, we are going to pass through hurricane season. God

forbids, if hurricane comes, and further, hits directly Negril, if it happens next year by then the staging area would have been constructed, and the issue of the turbidity would perhaps not be an issue as it would be when we go to construction. I should say 'if' and when we go to construction. For me, the timing is a little unsure now because we are not sure when we will get the permit if we get the permit, but on the best assumption if we go forward in January/February, then we will meet the hurricane season perhaps in June, the staging area would have by then been well constructed and in service, and perhaps the turbidity issue would not be as critical as it were to occur during the construction of same.

CHAIRMAN: Next question.

MRS. BRADLEY: I am Elaine Allen-Bradley, and I would just like to make a couple of points. In the previous meeting I believe Miss McCauley did ask a question, was is it illegal to be dumping out to build? That was one, and that wasn't really answered.

The other thing, I must give NWA some kudos because you did listen at least to one thing about the dredging of the river. The second thing was that we do not have any confidence in NWA overseeing anything.

Because, look at the state of the roads, how are you going to manage in the sea if you can't even manage the roads that we are witnessing? Palisadoes is another thing.

(Applause) So tell me how, we have no

confidence in NWA at all, full stop. And you are going to manage this project? Heaven forbids.

CHAIRMAN: I hear you. Yes, ma'am.

RESIDENT: Yes, sir I am a citizen, I live in Negril, and I am in Negril now for over 30 years, and I could just say one word. I would ask, just to know, in the '80's, was there a NEPA who has ever seen what Negril was like?

CHAIRMAN: But that is more than one word.

RESIDENT: That's right sir, and I would ask this man, because I heard everybody is clapping that we don't want a breakwater system. I was living in Montego Bay, and I remember as a girl in my 16 and so we used to go to Carol

Walk, and that's where the sea used to be, when you sit on the wall and looking in the sea; and look what Montego Bay is like now? You know what I saw this morning? I saw a pile of tyres, cans, all kinds of stuff drag out of the river and put right before the gas station. You know what, if we don't have a system in place now to develop Negril, what are we clapping about? We have mosquitos, we have garbage...

CHAIRMAN: The whole thing about it, I saw the tyres but it didn't just pile up on the roadside, a truck had removed all of them.

RESIDENT: That's right. But even though they move them, if NEPA was doing their work – isn't those things dangerous?

CHAIRMAN: But NEPA never put them there.

RESIDENT: That's right. But look now sir, if we are having a development – look at Negril, a down the beach the other day where they have the grant bar (?) and they didn't have the dengue down here, because the condition is that the place need to be developed, and we come to find out now that instead of we talking and turning down this and that, the place is in a mess. How we are going to start now if NEPA is turning it down? The citizen is clapping and look at the state of place. So we need some information to see what is going forward with this place, sir.

CHAIRMAN: I hear you.

RESIDENT: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: But we also have to remember that big finger can't send little finger go do it.

RESIDENT: It don't matter, we have to work hand in hand. We need to get serious, and we listening all these meetings, and if we don't want the National Work Agency to develop and clean up the thing and get the business going, who we going to need? Who we have? I don't have a...

CHAIRMAN: Maybe there is somebody better off than NWA who can do it.

RESIDENT: Who wi have? Who wi have? We will have to talk to who we see now. We need National Work Agency, we need development, we need the place fi clean up, we need business,

people is suffering. So when we sit down in
bookshop...

CHAIRMAN: Yes, I hear you.

RESIDENT: We need help.

CHAIRMAN: And people like you are necessary.

RESIDENT: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Because we all have to grow in the business.

RESIDENT: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: So we have those who will agree and...

RESIDENT: Yes, sir. And I agree to have the place...

CHAIRMAN: ...developed.

RESIDENT: Developed, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Good, and I hope it will be developed before I go under too, I would like to see Negril.

RESIDENT: Me too, sir. Okay, sir.

CHAIRMAN: All right, thank you. I see you have another, Mr. Grizzle?

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair...?

CHAIRMAN: Before Mr. Grizzle?

MR. SMITH: I would just like to make an observation.

CHAIRMAN: Okay Miss, we heard you, so please listen to

us now.

RESIDENT: Yes, sir.

MR. SMITH: From a personal perspective...

VOICES: Speak up man, we can't hear you.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Smith's mouth nuh big like mine.

MR. SMITH: Sorry, from a personal perspective, and this is why I shared the sentiments of the stakeholders in Negril.

You are confronted with a problem, the solution to which I know has been postulated, there is the issue of beach nourishment, breakwater, and a couple other points raised and from what I understood,

other studies done so far, and clearly the solution of breakwater is coincident in perhaps all the studies. I mean, certainly beach nourishment is one. And I raised the beach nourishment because when Mrs. Grizzle, I think she mentioned if I have been here before. I can recall coming to Negril with my parents as a young boy and I took a picture, and this is about 30 years ago, up at Cosmos, and I took the picture out a couple months ago and looked at it, and I just walked up the beach up by Rondel Village couple years ago and there really is a tremendous challenge of loss of the beach. And certainly if the breakwater forms part of a solution but not all of the solution, then we really need to be, as stakeholders, voicing concerns also to the policy makers et cetera, to implement perhaps the fulsome truth as

we all perhaps agree.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We have another fifteen minutes to be here. Yes, Mr. Grizzle?

MR. GRIZZLE: Yes, I was sitting down there and I was listening, and I have become even more concerned because when the question of the Coastal Engineer came up, it was clear that they haven't yet secured the service of one, yet, and you also said NEPA would ensure that all the skills that's needed would be in place in granting the licence. Now, the licence, or the permit, the application is now in front of NEPA minus an Engineer; now if NEPA was some organisation that was really true to its calling and doing its job it should refuse to accept that application (applause) because it is not complete. And this is a very

dangerous move that we may end up with giving permit to do a job without the skills needed and therefore you cannot expect the people in Negril to have any confidence in Negril, to have any confidence in anything that NEPA will be saying to us now. Because right there they are not even living up to their expectation, they are not even ensuring that all the T's are crossed and the I's are dotted in the application, and an Engineer is not a minor part of that application.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Grizzle. Hold one second. You cannot give a shoemaker contract to build a road.

MR. SMITH: If I may just for the record state that Mr. Grizzle stated that - just for the record

CEAC who are the Consultants are a registered Engineering firm. Mr. Rogers is a registered Engineer, and I would have to go back through, but I am almost sure he has qualification that allows for him to participate in a project like this.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That point is up for discussion, as to whether that Engineer or that company has coastal engineering skills or qualification, but as I said, something that's up for discussion. Yes, ma'am.

MRS. VEIRA: Yes, I would like just to share something very brief with you. We as stakeholders and residents in here, Negril, we are very concerned about the fact that this project is being proposed, it is not something that we knew about in a timely manner, it was just

foisted on us.

We went and did our own research, and we went to Dutch, the Dutch are the number one people in the world protecting their coastline because 26% of their country is under water. And we went to Van Oord, it is a large dredging that does beach nourishment, they are here in the Caribbean. So we then invited NEPA, NWA, PIOJ, everybody to come to that meeting to hear about what can be done, what it would cost et cetera, we even went and did sand probing to ensure that we had that, not one government agency showed up for that meeting, we offered to host them, put them up, whatever it was that was necessary, if they needed transportation people were willing to pay for it, they all declined the

offer. We then went further, we went to the Research Institute, called Deltara, there are over eight hundred employees there, there are Coastal Engineers, there are ecologists, there are scientists who look at the entire project. They have a project that is very forward thinking, they are moving away from building hard structures in the Netherlands to protect their coastlines. They are going with a project called "building of nature". They came here and did a presentation to us and not one of the Government agencies would come to it; the only people on this project that took the time to send their employees was CEAC Environmental, and they were thrilled with what they heard.

It's a pity that the Government could not stop and pay attention and listen to what is

being done elsewhere in the world, and see how it can be used here to make it a win-win for everybody. Instead you tell us that we have to have a breakwater, it's going to be best to do this. We have no confidence, I am very sorry.

Mrs. Bradley touched on the point that NWA cannot even maintain our roads properly. I hope you all drove on the southcoast, and it's not bad now compared to what it has been. How long is that road going to last? We have been hearing for how long that the road from Little London to Negril is going to be fixed, we can't see it fixed. We have Reggae Marathon coming up, the roads filled with potholes everywhere.

Yes, we need development but we also need

the infrastructure in place and a proper research done, not a hand-out grasping at projects here and there, how we can get this money, let's do it there. At that presentation they told us that the beach with the least amount of erosion in Jamaica was at Alligator Pond, Little Ochi. One week they were on the news with all the beach erosion, they are suffering there. I have been there two weeks before and I couldn't believe when they said that, and there was NEPA saying oh, they could do beach nourishment here, we could take the sand from the dunes and put on their beach. Negril doesn't have sand so we can't do that there. The dunes are a very important part of the environment, you don't take sand from the dunes and nourish your beach, right. This is what we get out of NEPA, and then you

expect us to think that we should listen to you, believe in what you are saying? I am very sorry, I have never seen any of you here before to a presentation. So it's just a new set of faces, same old story sorry.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I am sure your voice is being recorded.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if I could. I can't say I was personally sort of aware of that...

MR. ARTHURS: The Van Oord's presentation.

MR. SMITH: The Dutch presentation certainly, I would have come to view that and I am now just thinking on my feet if the Van Oord's presentation is documented, I don't think

it's too late to have it introduced as part of the deliberation.

MRS. VEIRA: If you give me your email address I can send you some links.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. ARTHURS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arthurs?

MR. ARTHURS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We have had a lot of meetings concerning this subject, and what the community is saying is not coming through, it is a stone wall. We are not getting through as to what the community, the stakeholders want. I think the only one thing for us to do is to write to the Prime Minister

and let her know we do not want this. It is as simple as that, we do not want it. That is the only thing we can do, we do not want it. There are too many flaws in this programme, too many. And every time you ask a question they dance around the answer, we never get the answer. And as we talk a little bit of band-aid is put on the matter, but the main subject is left untouched. We have one option open and is to write to the Prime Minister to tell her that the stakeholders of Negril do not want this project, there are too many flaws.

MR. SMITH: Could you just state clearly what your – you said there is just one solution, could you just tell me what that is?

CHAIRMAN: We are writing to the Prime Minister to let

her know that we do not want the project.

MR. SMITH: Sorry, I thought what you meant was, no breakwater but in lieu of breakwater, is there a proposal?

CHAIRMAN: The alternative to the breakwater?

MR. ARTHURS: Yes.

MR. SMITH: Alternatives.

MR. ARTHURS: Yes.

MR. SMITH: That would be the...

MR. ARTHURS: We have made many alternatives but they don't want to hear, they don't want to hear.

MRS. VEIRA: I am going to answer that question for you. Deltara, who has been monitoring the sand engine, I don't know if any of you up there know what that is. It started in 2011, they are looking to use that knowledge and what they have learned from that project at 12 locations in the world research, they came to Negril at the expense of these stakeholders here, and they would like to use Negril, and they are in the process of going through different reports and studies to give us their proposal, they are not selling us, doing work or constructing anything, they are going to tell us what we can do to preserve our beach in the most environmentally friendly way, and at the same time it will be very sustainable and cost us less money, and it will not protect one and a half miles of beach as these proposed breakwaters are proposed

to do. It will do the entire length of Long Bay.

CHAIRMAN: Can I ask you a question before you leave?

That kind of proposal that you spoke about just now, has that ever been forwarded to NWA?

MRS. VEIRA: They have not given us the proposal as yet. They came here, they did some study...

CHAIRMAN: Oh, it's not complete?

MRS. VEIRA: They are in the process of doing it.

CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MRS. VEIRA: Okay. And as I said, with forward thinking, it

does not just take in the coastal protection, and furthermore, what they are proposing will actually take into consideration sea level rise which a breakwater does not. So what the money, the Adaptation Fund is all about...

CHAIRMAN: Would it be okay therefore to ask the Government, NEPA and the NWA, to put a hold on the implementation of this Breakwater Project to allow your consultation to be completed so that there can be a comparison? (Applause)

MRS. VEIRA: I believe the cut-off date will be next year June.

CHAIRMAN: We know how to make funds available. No, that would be my suggestion, you know.

With all that is going on - yes, the money has a life span, but we know how to get - nothing is cast in stone. We will ask them to hold the project, we are in the middle of conducting a research on this thing, it's not yet completed, allow us to complete our research so that you have something to compare with your proposal and we see which one is the best.

(Applause)

Yes, Miss McCauley.

MISS McCAULEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say something to address the concerns of my sister over there about the state of Negril.

I am from Kingston, but I have been coming here since I was a child like many of you,

and I too am appalled by the state of Negril.

But I think you and I differ as to why the

state it is in, and I want to say, we are

standing here on the grounds of the major

Environmental and Planning Agency in Negril,

this is their office, and I would ask you all to

look around at the state of this piece of land,

the garbage. (Applause) The problem in

Negril is the way it has been allowed to

develop. It has been allowed to develop

without the kind of order and the control that

ought to be exercised by these very same

planning agencies who are now assuring us

they are suddenly going to be different. I

want to say that if we do not – I have been

hearing about the reasons for the beach

erosions, and the various other problems in

Negril including poor water quality,

over-fishing, removal of mangroves, poor

sewage treatment and there is a long list of them since the mid '90s.

The problems are extremely well-known, described, studied, agreed. But what we have not been able to do is address those problems, we keep standing up in this kind of meeting and coming up with these band-aid solutions instead of looking at the planning that has not been done in Negril, taking some decisions about setbacks for example, restoring of Coastal legislation you know, and we refuse to do those things. And my sister, until we do those things, you are going to see things in Negril deteriorate, not improve. So it is our job as citizens – the reason we are here at a public meeting, it is our job as citizens to hold the Government agencies accountable for these failings. And it is not

enough, with all due respect to my NEPA friends, and they have heard this from me many times, for them to sit in the back of the room and refused to take questions at a public meeting. You are correct, it is going to be them who make the decision whether or not this goes ahead but how can it be appropriate for them to sit in the back of the room? So unless Negril decides it wants a different picture just as you said, you will continue to live in a dirty, disorganized, just...

MR. ARTHURS: Flawless.

MISS. McCAULEY: I don't know what else to say, I run out of words, which is not very usual. But it's a mess, it is a mess, and unless you decide to take hold of it here today...

CHAIRMAN: Hear you, so stop talking and do more. One last question. Yes, Mister...

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Williams hand went up, I will allow both of you, after that no more. Mr. Williams is just coming with this whole heap of things, so stand behind Mr. Hill.

MR. WILLIAMS: Eh?

CHAIRMAN: Stand behind Mr. Hill.

MR. HILL: He is to go before me?

CHAIRMAN: No, he is to stand behind you. Go ahead, Mr. Hill.

MR. HILL: Yes Mr. Chairman, my concern is really – I came in a little bit late by my concern is west-end. What does NWA have up their sleeve for us?

CHAIRMAN: In terms of?

MR. HILL: In terms of the project being implemented.

CHAIRMAN: Oh you mean your survival in respect of the project being done?

MR. HILL: Because let's put it this way. These Government agencies will go ahead and do some things that we don't want, and all we will be able to do is just sit back and make noise and they still slip in the project, they will slip it in somehow. And unless we go out there and start to demonstrate like all other

hooligans in Jamaica who demonstrate nothing will be done.

CHAIRMAN: A nuh only hooligans demonstrate you know, good people demonstrate.

MR. HILL: No. But what I am talking about is, the implementation of this project down here, what is really being planned out here?

CHAIRMAN: You miss it.

MR. HILL: I missed it? But I want to know from the gentleman there where are the barges and what have you, where will they be?

CHAIRMAN: You miss it. Ask Mrs. Bradley to tell you.

MR. HILL: Believe me, I am so nervous now that I can't

even come...

CHAIRMAN: Yeah man, the others and everybody else, Miss McCauley and everybody else.

MR. HILL: Believe me, might as well we close up and just start eat breadfruit.

CHAIRMAN: I made my suggestion. Yes, Mr. Williams?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Mr. James. I was saying that it is, it's very, very important – this is Lenbert Williams, the Director of Project for the Negril Coral Reefs Preservation Society.

VOICE: They still have an office?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, we do. Like every organization in Jamaica we have our ups and downs. But let

me say this - Mr. Chairman, tell these people not to interrupt me.

CHAIRMAN: Who is interrupting you?

MR. WILLIAMS: I hear a lot of noise.

CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt Mr. Williams, he represents the Coral Reefs Preservation Society.

MR. WILLIAMS: Let me say this, that seven years ago when the hoteliers in Negril were panicking, the Member of Parliament set up a Beach Restoration Committee, and the Beach Restoration Committee in conjunction with Wykham McNiel and the NCRPS got some funding from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, we got close to US\$90,000.00

to do a study because the Member of Parliament and the Committee chaired by Daniel Grizzle recognised that any solution to the erosion in Negril, it must be systematic.

CHAIRMAN: Was the study done?

MR. WILLIAMS: I have here in my hand, the study that was done by Smith Warner International at the cost of US\$90,000.00.

CHAIRMAN: And what happened to it?

MR. WILLIAMS: The study says, and it won't take five minutes....

CHAIRMAN: The study was intended for whose attention?

MR. WILLIAMS: The study was – listen to me nuh. It was a

study that was properly done.

CHAIRMAN: Intended for whose attention?

MR. WILLIAMS: For the Beach Restoration Committee's attention. The Beach Restoration Committee never had any legitimacy and so, the NCRPS who had a long track record of dealing with the environment, not perfect, the Committee was called the NCRPS Beach Restoration Committee and this man Lenbert Williams was...

MR. GRIZZLE: Correction, the Negril Restoration Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Get to the point.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair? For legal reason, for legal reason,

the Committee was called the Negril Coral Reefs Beach...

CHAIRMAN: Point taken, yes go ahead.

MR. WILLIAMS: And this is the Beach Restoration Bible in my hand.

CHAIRMAN: That is not helping us right now.

MR. WILLIAMS: No, no, no, hold on. The United Nations decided that they want to help to mitigate climate change, and so they decided they wanted to fund a project. And so, they are accountable to their board and everybody is accountable to somebody else so what everyone does it must be systematic in their approach, and they took up this (indicating). And I was the one, Lenbert Williams who was

held accountable for the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica money that was spent for this study, meaning, the Environmental Foundation had to get value for their money, the process had to be transparent, fair and it had to be above board.

CHAIRMAN: And you have said all of that to say what?

MR. WILLIAMS: I have said – let me say this, that is the conclusion of the study. Let me read two little paragraphs here.

CHAIRMAN: You have three minutes.

MR. WILLIAMS: *“The primary cause of erosion along the beach in Negril is the incoming swell waves that beat along the coastline. Although*

these events are infrequent occurring two to eight times per year, they have the potential to cause severe erosion. An effective solution to the erosion problem therefore is to reduce the wave energy that reaches the shoreline, and provides protection to the beach".

CHAIRMAN: How?

MR. WILLIAMS: Hold on, it deh yah suh. Hold on.

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. WILLIAMS: They looked at multiple solutions. Here is this now.

"Beach nourishment simply involves replacement of sand on the beach and offering protection by using the wave energy near shore and creating sacrificial beach to be eroded during a storm. It is the most non-intrusive technique used to resist coastal erosion and is the only method into reducing large piles of sand into the system.

Once the sand is placed on the beach the ... redistributing sand in both"....

CHAIRMAN: All right, next one.

MR. WILLIAMS: That's what it said, 'sacrificial'.

CHAIRMAN: That's one recommendation, what's the other one?

MR. WILLIAMS: Sacrificial meaning, if you put it down...

CHAIRMAN: Recommendation.

MR. WILLIAMS: It is not a recommendation.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nelson, and I could write that, you know.

MR. WILLIAMS: No, no.

"Near shore breakwater reduces wave energy that reaches the coast and protects the beach in their lead. Breakwater construction as opposed to slow nourishment to the beach and doesn't cause

erosion.

The option includes constructing breakwater, reducing the wave energy reaching the shore line in conjunction with the beach nourishment to ensure adequate beach width for Negril.

The erosion break at Long Bay is much more severe than that observed in Bloody Bay with the erosion in Long Bay approximately twice that at Bloody Bay while erosion in Long Bay seems to be getting worse".

CHAIRMAN: All right, we don't have the time to hear all the recommendations. We appreciate what you have brought to the fore.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. James, you shutting me down, this is important.

CHAIRMAN: No, I am not shutting you down, but we have a time frame we are working with.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. HILL: Thank you, talk...

CHAIRMAN: Allow me Chairman privilege, please.

MR. WILLIAMS: One more minute sir, please.

CHAIRMAN: Allow me Chairman privilege.

MR. WILLIAMS: One more minute, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Please allow me the privilege of Chairman, sir.

MR. WILLIAMS: One more minute, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Williams?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: We recognise your presence, and we appreciate what you have brought to the fore.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: However, at the very outset persons

present here when you were not yet present, expressed the concern that they are business people, and have limited time within which to sit for meetings of this nature. We have gone over an hour, going to the other side of hour-and-a-half, and we really need get out of here now.

MR. WILLIAMS: I am begging you 60 seconds more, sir.

CHAIRMAN: The people who came to have presentation have clearly stated at the very outset that there were two points that they want to bring to the community. That they have done, and the various feedback and reaction have been recorded. We are very happy to have our nice looking stenographers here, so please bear in mind that you are being recorded verbatim.

MR. WILLIAMS: Sixty seconds, sir.

CHAIRMAN: So you have 30 seconds to conclude your point.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

"One important factor that has not been fully accounted for in the analysis of the maintenance costs for the abovementioned solution:

While beach nourishment provides optimum solution considered in this option, it may have been solutions provided most valuable which included maintenance cost in the criteria/criterion.

From a coastal engineering perspective the nature of beach nourishment alone, is that it does not actually target the cause of erosion. Therefore one big storm event will completely wipe out the sand and wave action along the beach”.

CHAIRMAN: Was the date of that Report?

MR. WILLIAMS: It is 2007, sir. This was what I had brought to the Beach Restoration Committee to get the rest of the money to pay the officer. So when some people are saying that the study never recommended breakwater, they never read this.

CHAIRMAN: My research online shows me that they

complement each other.

MISS VEIRA: Yes.

MR. GRIZZLE: As Chairman let us just clarify what...

CHAIRMAN: That's based on what Mr. Williams just said?

MR. GRIZZLE: Yes. First to comment sir, Mr. Williams only came about much later after the person that was there, Mr. Harrison migrated to Canada. The Beach Restoration Committee which was made up of several stakeholders, I was the Chairman, we secured that money with the help of the MP. When the proposal was presented to us, we made it quite clear that we were not interested in the hard solution. We would pursue the beach nourishment which would have a minimum effect on the

environment. And it's important to note as well, that CEAC, what's the name of consulting company?

MISS VEIRA: CEAC.

MR. GRIZZLE: When we were seeking someone to do the study, CEAC was one of the companies that applied for the job. We rejected them because all they were pushing was hard solution, and it was quite clear that the community did not want a hard solution. So you have to take what Mr. Williams said with a bit or pinch of salt, because he only came in at the very end when the project was finished and he picked up – the proposal, of course it puts several options.

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. GRIZZLE: What he was saying, what was the option that the community decided they would pursue, and it certainly wasn't breakwater. So we must be careful when he comes to make a big thing about nothing.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Smith.

MR. SMITH: I just want to get the correct name. You said it was Negril Restoration Committee?

MS. ROOMEL: Negril Restoration Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Negril?

MRS. ROOMEL: ...Beach Restoration Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Before you speak, Mr. Grizzle, what year was that Committee formed?

MR. GRIZZLE: It was about 2005 we started.

CHAIRMAN: 2005 it was born...

MR. WILLIAMS: And it died.

CHAIRMAN: And it died when?

MR. GRIZZLE: It has not really died, but the fact is, we reached a stage...

CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would want to say I think that has become part of the...

CHAIRMAN: It was consulted?

MR. SMITH: ...project documentation.

MR. GRIZZLE: The Committee hasn't died because we are the ones who first wrote to – there was a British organisation that assisted in funding projects like these. They said they no longer fund project individually, but their fund would go to PIOJ. They directed us to PIOJ, we wrote to PIOJ and that's is how the thing started and certainly nothing to do with Williams.

CHAIRMAN: Point taken, thank you. Yes, ma'am?

MS. ROOMEL: Mr. Smith, about the Smith Warner Report, first of all, they are qualified Coastal

Engineers. It is a preliminary report that was done in 2007, they presented something further in 2009. I spoke with David Smith myself at length about that Report, and he said it is misunderstanding of what he wrote in his Report. Yes, there are breakwaters in there, they are blocking the location that these breakwaters are in, they are not of the size, and there is – everything else has been left out.

And he said that beach nourishment was our first option, and the only reason he put breakwaters in was because we are a SID, and we do not have the money, as a small island developing state now, the money is to maintain beach nourishment as they do in the United States, and therefore every five years after a nourishment programme, we

might put in some breakwaters to keep the sand in place.

CHAIRMAN: Point taken. Thank you, last point, the last point, very last.

MS. ROOMEL: There is new technology, and I am asking the Government, NEPA, PIOJ to let's move forward. Why are we doing something that was done 300 years ago? The first breakwater was actually built couple centuries ago. Why are we using old technology? There is new technology out there, let's work it. Vidiere Beach welcomes couple million visitors a year, they do beach nourishment, and they make a lot of money. But there is one thing I would like to ask, in this NWA brochure you gave out, it says here that:

*"The shore line will grow by
thirteen metres per annum."*

Could you tell me where that sand is coming from? Because you see, the breakwater is going to protect one and a half miles, so is the sand coming only from the other three-and-a-half miles that will not have a break water? Because this is misinformation, it's a lie. Because even in the EIA, it says that it will not break sand, it's only going to protect the shore.

So this is why we don't trust our Government, they tell us lies, they think we are so stupid, we don't believe everything they tell us. I am honestly very, very disappointed that you would think so little of our intelligence.

CHAIRMAN: I would want to put it a milder way, and said it's not a hard lie, maybe it was not proof read. (Laughter)

MRS. ROOMEL: You are very diplomatic sir, very diplomatic.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Smith would like to say something.

MR. SMITH: I would wish to apologise.

CHAIRMAN: You see what I mean? I wasn't too far off.

MR. SMITH: I will have to have it verified, disseminated and corrected.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, it wasn't vetted.

MR. SMITH: I am sorry about that.

CHAIRMAN: Apologies accepted. Next time we will proofread documents before we circulate them.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's now for me to say thanks, I have had you here for quite some time, the chairs are not that comfortable.

I just want to say on behalf of the National Works Agency, to thank you all for having shown up for this discussion.

I don't know want to hit NWA too hard, at least they saw the need to bring you together to share the two things they were correcting. At least they saw that need and Mrs. Bradley alluded to that, and I want to

appreciate that.(Applause)

Yes, it goes to show that our communication is not all that bad, room for improvement but not that all that bad, but they didn't see the need to communicate with the stakeholders that they were making these two changes. They could have done it, sent it off to NEPA without our knowledge. So we want to thank them. We also want to thank the Reps from...

RESIDENT: So how soon the Work Agency work going to start now? We have five meetings now, so how long we have to wait for them to start?

CHAIRMAN: They won't start until they sort themselves out.

RESIDENT: Yes, but...

CHAIRMAN: I also want to thank NEPA for having been here. And as I said in my own ignorant self, I think that the answer rests with NEPA. And if my little nonsensical suggestion can be taken into consideration, that we put a pause on this thing, complete your investigation, have them compared and see which is the better of the two. I am sure the community would be more receptive in that regard.

I want to thank the media for having been here, JIS.

And our nice ladies, the stenographers on the stenograph machines for being here, and recording the proceedings.

Again, thank you all for coming. We are

asking NWA to keep the community informed. We have our concerns, and we have a right to be concerned, we live here. I was born and grown here, and I remember when Sandy Park Beach was white, you used to run down it 'til yuh tired. Now there is no beach at Sandy Park. I remember out there as a child I used to jump off the bridge and dive in the water crystal clear and don't buck mi finger at the bottom of it. That's how clean it was, now I can't even see the bottom. So I know Negril, I have never been anywhere else, and I am now 60 years of age, I am proud to say, yes. So I know Negril. We want the best for Negril. We all want the best for Negril. As a child growing up in Negril we always hear about the 'mother' people whey come warn, the warner people dem, they used to warn how Negril

going to sink. Because of the Sodom and Gomorrah, it's going to sink, tidal wave going to come and sink it. Now, I always say, "it have to sink with me because I have nowhere going". And up 'til now I don't see no tidal wave come sink it. And all of those who say it is going to sink a run come a Negril. So there must be something here, and we all want the best for Negril. We want all those developments for everybody.

So again ladies and gentlemen, I thank you. And as we depart I will ask JIS to play the National Anthem as we stand in recognition of the National Anthem.

(National Anthem played)

Adjournment taken at 4:00 p.m. S