



Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Friday, October 11, 2024, 9:00am
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

Present: Dan Slotchiver, Cindi Solomon, Tim Ahmuty, Council member Miars and Pierce, Stephen Traynum (via Zoom), Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr

Absent: Andrew Vega

1. **Call to order**
2. **Discussion of Funding Assumptions**

Director Kerr reviewed the funding assumptions previously discussed and agreed upon by the Committee. He noted that the amount Wild Dunes would contribute to a renourishment on the north end remains “a wild card.” Historically, they have contributed 75% of the cost and the City 25%. He also pointed out that no federal or state money is assumed in these calculations. Ms. Solomon said it would be good to include a note about prior federal and state monies received for nourishments.

Director Kerr also pointed out that no shoal management or emergency work is being considered as part of the assumptions. Mr. Traynum noted that shoal management projects help the island withstand cyclical-induced erosion. Administrator Fragoso said it will be a future decision of the Council and community to decide if they want a shoal management project versus a large-scale nourishment.

Council Member Pierce said he would like to see the “gross of the net” of the Beach Preservation Fund on an annual basis since that fund is use for beach walkovers and beach monitoring expenses.

Discussion ensued about the appropriate balance to keep in the Beach Preservation Fund. Funding assumptions have a \$2 million balance. Council Member Pierce would like to see that balance grow to \$5 million over time. Mayor Pounds said that would be a City Council decision.

Ms. Solomon suggested the addition of another note pointing out these assumptions are estimates and that the City should continue to seek out other funding sources. Mr. Traynum reminded the Committee of the need to have permits in hand at years 5 or 6 to allow for the flexibility to move on a nourishment project, if necessary.

Director Kerr said he would update the assumptions and the list of financial “levers” available to City Council so that Council can then figure out what additional income is needed each year to effectuate this plan. Mayor Pounds pointed out that there will not be nourishment or emergency needs every year, but the beach monitoring is necessary every six months. Administrator Fragoso said there is a way to include recurring expenses in the financial model.

3. Discussion of Emergency Policy

Administrator Fragoso said it will be necessary for City Council to decide if the City will be responsible for emergency repairs in between nourishments in addition to the large-scale projects or if it will be solely responsible for the large-scale projects and emergency repairs are the responsibility of the homeowners. She noted that other communities do not use their Beach Preservation Fund for emergency repairs. That is the responsibility of the homeowners.

Council Member Pierce would like to review the section of the City’s Comprehensive Plan related to beach management at the next meeting. He said the City needs a clear policy that delineates the City’s responsibilities and the homeowner’s. Administrator Fragoso said that Folly Beach’s ordinances in the meeting packet could be used as a baseline.

Director Kerr said he will review the Comprehensive Plan, the City’s Beach Management Plan, and Folly Beach’s ordinances to create a matrix of what each City allows and does not allow with regards to beach management.

4. Next Steps

The Committee will meet with representatives from Edisto Island at their next meeting to discuss their process of becoming a federally-managed beach. There was a brief discussion about securing beachfront easements.

Director Kerr pointed out that the Committee’s plans suggest the City be proactive in future beach management efforts, and that does not align with what they have heard so far regarding as being a federally managed beach. Administrator Fragoso pointed out that if the City were to engage in interim nourishment projects then the triggers needed to set up a federal project may never be met.

5. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, October 18, 2024 at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk