



**Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Friday, October 18, 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 (via Zoom), Cindi Solomon (via Zoom), Andrew Vega, Tim Ahmuty, Council member Miars and Pierce, Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr

Also present: Crawford Moore, Mayor, Edisto Island and Mark Aakhus, Town Administrator, Edisto Island

1. **Call to order**
2. **Meet with Edisto Beach staff to discuss USACE process**

Mayor Crawford Moore and Town Administrator Mark Aakhus of Edisto Island shared their experience of the USACE process/becoming a federally managed beach with the Committee.

Mayor Moore said the Town's current process is the second attempt, which began in 2022. He stressed the need for communication with the residents and property owners so that they understand what the project is and what it is not. The Town established a Beachfront Committee made up of 5-6 residents who communicate with the front beach property owners. The Town created and provided many materials throughout the process to explain what would be happening. Mayor Moore and Administrator Aakhus shared several of those communications with the Committee.

Mayor Moore said the most challenging part of the process has been explaining and securing the necessary easements for the project to move forward. Residents needed to understand that the easement belongs to the Town and not to the Federal government. Should the Town ever cease to be a federally managed beach, the Town can relinquish those easements back to the property owners.

The Town of Edisto Island signed their partnership agreement with USACE in 2022, and easement agreements went out earlier this year. They anticipate the first nourishment to take place next year. They are protected by FEMA until USACE places sand on the beach.

Administrator Aakhus shared some details of their agreement with the USACE. He said the nourishment cadence is determined by a benefit/cost analysis. He shared copies of the USACE's easement agreement, described what it says, and what they did to calm the fears of property owners. He also shared the slide deck of what the USACE presented to property owners.

He talked about the Non-Federal Sponsor Real Estate Guide and how important it was to follow those instructions. He explained how the Town paid for the required preparatory work through various cost shares, budget allocations, and in-kind credits, noting the Town's out-of-pocket expenses have been limited to date.

Mayor Moore said the town is already planning for the next renourishment in 16-20 years. They anticipate a named storm in the interim, and damages from a named storm are covered by the federal government. He said they are looking for revenue opportunities and talking to anyone who benefits from the beach. He does not believe they will assess any additional taxes on residents.

Administrator Aakhus spoke highly of the USACE project managers. He also encouraged the City to not "go cheap" on easement attorneys.

4. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, October 25, 2024 at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk