



Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Friday, February 23, 2024, 10:30am
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

Present: Dan Slotchiver (via Zoom), Andrew Vega, Tim Ahmuty, Council members Miars and Campsen, Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr

Absent: Council Members Pierce, Cindy Solomon

Also present: Stephen Traynum, Matt Slagel

1. Call to Order

2. Discussion of State Beach Management Act and OCRM Regulations with Matt Slagel, Manager, Beachfront Management Section, OCRM

Mr. Ahmuty asked Mr. Slagel to speak about the State's change from retreat to preservation with regards to protecting the beach. Mr. Slagel shared that a workgroup recently addressed that question and came back with recommendations: define beach preservation (which the State legislature is considering now), provide clarity around the beach's critical area (which includes the beach dune system, active beach, tidelands, and coastal waters), and provide a standard pathway for permitting pilot projects.

Mr. Slagel said he is unaware of new programs or technologies being used elsewhere in the state to better retain sand on the beach. He said there is one subcommittee currently discussing beach preservation issues. State monies allocated for beach preservation go through SCPRT. OCRM continues to work with the Beach Advocates Group to help support preservation efforts.

Mayor Pounds asked about OCRM's view about a municipality securing permits for beach nourishment every five years as a proactive measure. Mr. Slagel said OCRM has no issues with it as long as a "big" nourishment is not happening every year. Mr. Traynum said further proactive activities that the City has done includes annual beach monitoring and measurement, the addition of the Beach Preservation Fee, and looking for borrow areas in advance of an anticipated project. The City also installs sand fencing and vegetation after each project becomes stable.

Mr. Traynum also shared information about shoal management with the Committee and the upcoming Army Corps of Engineers' project. He also spoke to the Corps' willingness to put sand on the beach each time they dredge the ICW.

Mr. Slagel shared that OCRM is planning to update the setback and jurisdictional lines along the beach this year and they will be good for 7-10 years.

Mr. Slagel described the beach's critical area and the active beach. He said the beach's critical area changes daily. He said beach vegetation is the primary indicator of where the beach's critical area begins and ends.

Committee members briefly discussed funding issues with the State. Mr. Slagel said that there is a lot of talk on the State level about the need for funding beach preservation but also a lot of competing interests across the state. Administrator Fragoso noted that while permits are not expensive, perhaps the state could consider having them last longer than five years.

3. Next Steps

Administrator Fragoso said she will reach out to her contact in Dare County, NC to see if they are available to speak to the Committee next week about their funding structure.

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, March 1, 2024 at 9:00am.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk