



**Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, March 29, 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, Andrew Vega, Tim Ahmuty, Cindy Solomon, Council members Pierce, Campsen, and Miars, Mayor Pounds, Director Kerr

**Absent:** Administrator Fragoso

**Also present:** Sullivan's Island Mayor Pat O'Neil, Sullivan's Island Town Administrator Andy Benke, Steven Traynum, Nicole Elko (via Zoom)

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Discussion with Sullivan's Island leadership of opportunities and concerns for potential beach nourishment work at Breach Inlet**

Administrator Benke said that the 175,000 cubic yards of sand the island will receive from the beneficial use project will be spread out between Stations 30-32, some will be put at Breach Inlet, and the remainder will be put into dry storage for homeowners at the west end with erosion concerns. He and Mayor O'Neil said the island does not have concerns about erosion. Their residents are responsible for protecting their property in times of erosion. Dr. Elko agreed that Sullivan's Island is in sand management mode; they have plenty of sand, but it is not always in the right places.

Mayor O'Neil said they are open to discussing a larger project at Breach Inlet, but their participation would depend on the circumstances.

Mr. Traynum shared pictures of the changes to Breach Inlet over time. He said, "I don't think there is anything that is clogging it [Breach Inlet]. It's just that it is this natural reconfiguration of the shoal and the channel. It's just a natural evolution of it. The channel is going to maintain a cross-section area that is based off of the volume of water that goes through it, not the amount of sand that is moving on the seaward side of it. So the channel isn't clogging. Relocating the inlet manually, you're essentially doing what nature is going to be doing by itself over the next, again I'm assuming, 12 months, maybe 24 at the most."

He said the area has been accretional over a long period of time and only recently became erosional. He said it might be necessary to change their understanding of the processes going on in that area and manage it differently. With higher sea levels and strong storms, he said, "We might need to assume this is the new normal."

When asked about the need to prepare for the next erosional cycle, Mr. Traynum said, “I like having as many tools you can to manage a beach, so I don’t want to say that any option is a bad option. You want to look at the cost. I think you’d have to have an ocean certified dredge in that area, so your mobilization is already going to be significant. So at that point, you’re asking is it better to bring in new sand to the system or you’re recycling the same volume within the system. Ideally, you’re adding new sand even if it is a little bit more expensive because then you’re increasing your bank account. So that is a positive and that project is a little bit more predictable as to what is going to happen. You’re just adding sand to your beach. You’re not impacting the inlet and kind of letting it continue to adjust naturally. So I think it is a better project, but having the ability to handle it in multiple ways. There may be some advantages.”

Dr. Elko agreed that managing the inlet could be worked into a long-term plan for both islands.

Mr. Traynum gave a lengthy explanation of what would be required of the City to justify the installation of a terminal groin in the area. He would like to see how the beneficial use project works in the area before moving forward with such a plan. He noted that there will be environmental groups opposed to the installation of a groin. He added that groins are used to slow erosion and that the beach will still need to be renourished from time to time. A longer erosional cycle in Breach Inlet would be needed before planning for a groin.

### **3. Discussion of optimal beach profile and goals for future beach conditions**

Mr. Traynum shared information about beach volumes and detailed a theoretical example for planning purposes. He described what a healthy beach volume looks like and how to plan nourishments to maintain it. He said an “ideal” profile is site specific and depends on the shape of the natural profile. The profile can include community preferences such as aesthetics and historical conditions. Protections of homes, yards, and pools also impact the goals of any plan.

### **4. Next Steps**

Mayor Pounds said there are no presentations expected for the next meeting and the Committee could begin to work on a plan. The Army Corps of Engineers will attend the meeting on April 12.

Council Member Campsen would like to learn more about the creation of the special tax districts.

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, April 5, 2024 at 9:00am.

### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk