

**MINUTES**  
**BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**April 26, 2016**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Present: David Cannon, Chairman, Bill Davies, Matthew Kizer, Bruce Shaw and Pat Sheehan, Committee Members; Iris Hill and Bob Doub, ex-officio. Steven Traynum joined via conference call.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bill Davies moved to approve the minutes of October 29, 2015, with changes suggested by Chairman Cannon. The motion was seconded by Matthew Kizer and approved unanimously.

Town Administrator Iris Hill began the meeting with a brief history of the United States Army Corps of Engineers' project in Edisto Beach. Coastal Science and Engineering's Steven Traynum joined the meeting via conference call. The project began in 2004. At that time, Town Council was looking for a way to get into the federal program for funding. Right now, 100% of the project cost is done by the local sponsor. The Town counts on the state and the county to help fund the project. In 2004, the concern was, in the future the county or state may decide not to contribute to the project. If the Town was in the federal program, they could count on being partially funded (65%) in case the state and county pulled out. Then the Town would only have to come up with the 35%. To receive federal funding, the project must demonstrate feasibility. The Town had several reports done, including a cost to benefit analysis for storm reduction. Subsequently, Town Council decided to forego the federal program. The Town has an approved project, and as soon as the preliminary engineering design is done the Town can go forward with funding requests. It is necessary for the Town to go ahead with the beach renourishment as soon as possible and not wait to be part of the federal program due to mitigating factors such as the unpredictability of storms in our area and the instability of some houses on the north end of Edisto Beach. Also, legislation is currently pending that prohibits any modifications to existing groins. The concern is that if legislation is changed, the Town may not be able to do anything to the groins. The Army Corps is asking for a 35% cost share from the Town, which would be about \$100,000 for the preliminary design. Town Administrator Hill has asked the ACOE to look at the project to make sure the values are current.

Chairman Cannon asked Mr. Traynum about the status of the permit. Mr. Traynum said that the permitting was on schedule and that all the requirements had been satisfied. The permit is not holding up any progress on our project. Matthew Kizer asked Mr. Traynum when the permit would be finalized. Mr. Traynum said that CSE should hear from the state in "a couple weeks" and then from the Corps in the next couple weeks after that. There is no reason the permitting would be held up any longer than that, according to Mr. Traynum.

Chairman Cannon asked Mr. Traynum about the life of steel sheet pilings. Mr. Traynum said previously that steel sheet pilings would last between 20 and 25 years. Mr. Traynum said that there were thicker sheets that could be used for a longer life, but anytime steel and salt water are being used, corrosion will occur that may shorten the life of the piling. Mr. Traynum stated that CSE would include in the bid package composite pilings and steel pilings.

Chairman Cannon asked Mr. Traynum if he thought the Town could still plan on starting the project in the fall of 2016. Mr. Traynum agreed that the Town could, and added that the first of November would be a good projected start date. Hunting Island's schedule may be a little later, and the Town may want to wait until then (possibly January 2017) because of shared mobilization costs.

Administrator Hill asked Mr. Traynum if \$12 million will be enough to lengthen all the groins. Mr. Traynum said, "It should come real close." Administrator Hill asked if the Town was still scheduled to cost share the mobilization with the State Park and Hunting Island. Mr. Traynum said that those two entities were still on board. Mr. Kizer asked if the State Park and Hunting Island were both in the same stage in the permitting process as the Town. Mr. Traynum stated that they are a little behind the Town. Mr. Traynum said that CSE was meeting with the environmental agencies in the coming week to make sure that will go quickly. Mr. Davies asked if both the State Park and Hunting Island were behind, to which Mr. Traynum replied, "Just Hunting (Island)." The State Park is included in the Town's permit. Administrator Hill asked if the question from Senator Campsen about the sand sourcing and Harbor Island would slow down the Hunting Island permit. Mr. Traynum said that the Public Hearing should clear up any misunderstanding concerning Harbor Island and the regulatory side of renourishment should not be affected. Chairman Cannon asked about cost estimates, specifically the addition of surplus sand to the project and the total of the project as \$11,771,139. Mr. Traynum answered that figure is still an accurate estimate. Mr. Traynum was excused from the meeting and the Committee continued with the agenda.

The next agenda item addressed the damaged sand fencing. Matthew Kizer stated that the only thing left of most of the sand fencing is the poles and exposed wires. This is both unsightly and dangerous. Mr. Kizer asked for the Town to assist in removing the damaged fencing. Administrator Hill said that Town personnel, specifically the Fire Department and Police Department are working on this and a request has been made to the Lions Club for assistance. Mr. Kizer asked if the poles had been pulled up. Administrator Hill stated that they had not been removed because the Town was hoping to use them again. The Building Official is researching the use of smaller-gauge wire to use on the beach that would disintegrate faster and would not be uncovered as quickly. Mr. Davies asked how the poles were being removed. Bob Doub, Public Works Director, said that the Town had used a back hoe, but that causes damage to the beach. The poles were originally buried two feet into the sand. With the accumulation of sand around the poles, however, now some were under six feet of sand.

Administrator Hill updated the Committee on the work of the lobbyist. Everything is still "on track" for the \$40 million dollars requested by Governor Haley to be approved for beach nourishment. The Town has been in contact with the Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) Department over the last few years to make sure funds will be available. More recently, the lobbyist for the Town has been in touch with the lobbyist for the PRT to make sure everything is still on track.

The next agenda item addressed a grant of easement from beachfront property owners. Chairman Cannon said that he had been through two renourishments and there had never been a question about an easement. He asked Administrator Hill if this was a requirement from the Army Corps of Engineers. Administrator Hill said it was a requirement from the Corps and a requirement for federal funding. Administrator Hill said there are some accreted properties that are below the high water mark, who had quit-claim deeds. Before the accretion, that was not an issue because the

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Town had a document stating the Town had control over all the properties. In order for the Town to put sand on accreted property, an easement must be granted. The Town does not have to have a perpetual, irrevocable easement. A construction easement will suffice for our project. Administrator Hill said that the Town was hoping to be higher up on a funding list for future renourishments by securing the perpetual irrevocable easements.

Possibility and timing of the ACOE renourishment project was the next agenda item. Administrator Hill stated that Council would be looking at whether or not they want to do the preliminary engineering design with the Army Corps at the next Council meeting. The preliminary engineering design will cost approximately \$100,000. Chairman Cannon asked if the design could be done after the renourishment. Administrator Hill said that it could, but there may not be matching federal funds at that time.

The final agenda item was the overall schedule to date. Mr. Traynum's thoughts were that the Town is on schedule, but if the Town wanted to share the mobilization costs with Hunting Island, the renourishment may not begin until January. Town Administrator Hill told the Committee it was in the Town's best interest to work with Hunting Island and the State Park for the cost savings.

Mr. Davies asked about the twelve houses discussed as "at risk" at the last meeting. Administrator Hill said that the houses still "had issues." Administrator Hill said she would talk to Building Official Patrick Brown about the issues to see if anything had changed and would email the Committee.

Bill Davies moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce Shaw and approved unanimously.

*The media/public was duly notified of the date and time of the meeting on Friday, April 22, 2016.*

APPROVED BY THE BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



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Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk

June 28, 2016