

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA
BEACH EROSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

A meeting of the Town of Sullivan's Island Beach Erosion Advisory Committee Commission was held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 in Town Council Chambers, 1610 Middle Street all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Commission members Chairman Wade Logan; Vice-Chairman Peter deVito, Jerry Callahan, Councilman Jerry Kaynard, Larry Middaugh, Aaron Nettles, Jeffrey Short (arrived at 6:25pm) and Vincent Sottile III. Mayor Carl Smith was in attendance as were Staff members Town Administrator Andy Benke and Asst. to Town Administrator Lisa Darrow.

I. Call to Order. In the absence of By-Laws or a Committee Chairman, Councilman Jerry Kaynard called the meeting to order, stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to state law. He noted all Committee members were present except George Detyens, whose absence was excused due to an unavoidable conflict.

II. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Kaynard suggested, and Commission generally concurred, adding approval of Committee By-Laws following the publicized presentation on the shoal bypass process and beach erosion.

III. Perspectives on Sullivan's Island Beach Erosion and Shoal Bypassing.

Chris Mack, PE of Dewberry, Inc. made a power presentation on the shoal bypass process and beach erosion mitigation options. He also provided an historic overview of the Town's beach erosion/accretion cycles and answered questions from the Committee. **(Copy of power point presentation attached as Exhibit A).**

Mr. Middaugh queried about the efficacy and longevity of large sand bags in erosion mitigation. Mr. Mack noted that the composition of a sand bag would speak to the durability, noting that some bags with low UV ratings may last 100+ days before breaking down.

Mr. Middaugh asked about hard erosion devices and whether these measures would extend erosion further downstream from the hard erosion installation site. Mr. Mack gave a mixed reply to this question, suggesting the impact of hard erosion devices to properties downstream would be on a case-by-case basis. Particulars such as the existence of sediment downstream and the natural establishment of revised shoreline equilibrium would interplay in the net accumulated impact of such measures.

Councilman Kaynard asked how current Mr. Mack's erosion data was for Sullivan's Island. Mr. Mack responded that he had data from 2006 this evening but suggested that it should be sufficiently accurate to provide an overview of the Town's erosion/accretion cycles and patterns.

Mr. Mack spoke of large scale re-nourishment projects, noting the challenges included:

1. Identification of upland sources of sediment and maintaining inventory
2. Permitting for projects
3. Identification of Funding

Mr. Mack referenced Isle of Palm's recently completed beach re-nourishment project on the north end of the Island and noted that now would be the type of that City to plan for next erosion cycle. He suggested that in approximately three (3) years Isle of Palms will be faced with a similar erosion pattern in the Wild Dunes area again.

Mr. deVito suggested cutting through beach shoals with an ocean going dredge. He submitted this was Sullivan's Island's primary problem. Mr. Mack noted cutting beach shoals was an option he planned to review in this presentation.

Mr. Mack spoke of the historical impact of erosion/accretion cycles on the Island, particularly noticing the erosion cycle on properties along 2905-3105 Marshall Boulevard (north of shoal accretion).

He cited Captain Sands Inlet Project on Kiawah Island as an example of successful realignment of a channel. In this project, Kiawah Island accelerated the closure of accreting shoal to stop the tidal shore/wave action that eroded portions of the beach northward of the accreting shoal. He noted that this scenario is very similar to the erosion/accretion patterns on Sullivan's Island. Mr. Mack noted Kiawah Island had accomplished this realignment in the 1980's and 1990's and currently, essentially every ten to fifteen (10-15) years.

Other erosion mitigation options discussed by Mr. Mack included T-head groins and installation of extended groins at specified intervals.

Suggested action plans/steps:

Mr. Mack spoke of the now disbanded South Carolina chapter of the American Shore Beach Preservation Association, noting that the North Carolina Chapter was very active in advocating and lobbying for federal and state funds for beach management/beach re-nourishment funds.

Mr. Mack spoke of the need for a good, current Beach Management Plan, required in order for a municipality to receive federal or state grant funds for beach management, waterway dredging, etc. He spoke of the need to review a municipality's beach management plan annually for updates. Mr. Mack further suggested developing a good shoreline and inlet management.

Mr. Mack then suggested development of a good pre-storm and post-storm event beach plan. Important components would include annual beach monitoring and documentation of erosion, accretion and shoreline dynamics. He submitted this documentation would be important for FEMA funds after a storm event. He noted some beach communities accomplish this by performing monthly analyses or twice yearly surveys (summer and winter), during low tides. Other beach communities choose to take aerial photos of the beach front and waterways during low tide.

The Committee thanked Mr. Mack for sharing his time and knowledge on this matter.

Mr. Chris Mack's presentation started at approximately 6:10pm and ended at approximately 7:30pm.

IV. By-Laws

Mr. Kaynard noted Staff had provided the Committee with draft By-Laws for their consideration. **(Copy of By-Laws attached as Exhibit B).**

MOTION: Mr. deVito voted to approve the proposed By-Laws as presented; seconded by Mr. Nettles.

Discussion: The Committee briefly discussed the need to set up an annual meeting, but agreed that it could decide upon the schedule in January 2009, per By-Law language.

Call for the question: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

V. Election of Officers

1. Chairman:

Mr. Middaugh nominated Mr. Wade Logan as Chairman; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Mr. Logan noted he was not lobbying for the position but would accept it.

Mr. deVito nominated Councilman Kaynard as Chairman but Councilman Kaynard declined.

MOTION: Mr. Middaugh moved to elect Mr. Wade Logan Chairman by acclamation; seconded by Mr. Callhan; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

2. Vice-Chairman

Mr. deVito nominated Councilman Kaynard as Vice-Chairman but Councilman Kaynard declined.

Councilman Kaynard suggested either Mr. Aaron Nettles or Mr. deVito for this position. After some comments, Mr. Callahan nominated Dr. deVito; seconded by Chairman Wade. Mr. deVito accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Mr. Callahan moved to elect Dr. deVito Vice-Chairman by acclamation; seconded by Chairman Logan; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

3. Secretary

Chairman Logan nominated Mr. Sottile for secretary; seconded by Mr. Nettles. Mr. Sottile accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Chairman Logan moved to elect Mr. Vincent Sottile Secretary by acclamation; seconded by Mr. Nettles; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

4. Old Business – N/A

5. New Business

A. Next Meeting date: The Committee decided to meet at 6:00pm on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at Town Hall.

Committee members will look at their calendars and schedule meeting dates for holiday months (November and December) in October.

B. Agenda/Action Items for Next Meeting:

Beach Management Plan

The Committee discussed the need to determine status of Town's Beach Management Plan. Councilman Kaynard asked Asst to Administrator Darrow to make copies of the current Beach Management Plan to Committee as soon as possible.

The Committee discussed desire to start looking at other municipalities' beach management plans at the next meeting. Committee members suggested having a representative from OCRM at a future meeting would be helpful in determining the sufficiency of the Town's current Beach Management Plan for FEMA storm funding and/or other beach grant funds.

Chairman Logan noted the Committee would plan at its October meeting to discuss goal setting and a good course of action for its research work. Thereafter the Committee would establish smaller work groups within the Committee to accomplish these goals.

Review of historical beach files. Councilman Kaynard indicated he was compiling historical files and data on the beach and would share with the Committee.

There being no further business, the Committee was unanimously adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Darrow
Asst. to Administrator
Acting Secretary

Approved at the October 28, 2008 Beach Erosion Advisory Committee Meeting