

**MINUTES**  
**BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 7, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Present: David Cannon, Chairman, Bill Davies, David Lybrand, Bruce Shaw, Patrick Sheehan, Committee Members; Iris Hill, ex-officio.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Cannon.

Bill Davies moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2014 meeting. Bruce Shaw seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Administrator Hill gave the Committee an update on the status of the Beach Nourishment Permit. Coastal Science Engineering has reviewed the project application and has indicated there is nothing in our application that will be challenged. If there was anything in the process that CSE thought would be of concern, they would have notified the Town. However, an issue may arise from the groin lengthening proposal. There were two different scenarios, one with maximum groin lengthening, and one for a minimum lengthening. The costs of the scenarios differed by several million dollars. The Town's project is somewhere between those two. Some of the minimal lengths were extended by CSE resulting in a higher cost than the CSE minimal lengthening cost. Once the permit design is done, the Beachfront Management Committee will need to look at the plan proposed by CSE and make a suggestion to Council based on the amount of money the Town has. The Town may not be able to do the entire project as proposed. Another issue may be with the State Park. When the Town first began the process, the State Park did not ask for funds from the state. The State Park is planning to request funds, along with Hunting Island, in the 2017 Fiscal Year. The Town won't know if the State Park has secured funding until after the Town's project is slated to begin in the fall of 2016. If we wait for the State Park to receive confirmation, it may delay the Town's project. If the Town waits for the State Park and they do receive the requested funding, then the Town will have a cost savings by partnering with the State Park. Using Hunting Island to assist with some of the dredge mobilization would be one way to maximize cost savings. Another positive of partnering with the State Park would be the fact that they serve as a "feeder beach" for Edisto and sand naturally migrates from the State Park to Edisto Beach. Important issues such as these will need to be addressed once CSE gets something more permanent from the State Park. As of now, the Town's project is on schedule to begin in the fall of 2016. If the Town goes to the state for funding, and they are aware that Hunting Island and the State Park are on tap to begin their nourishment a few months later, they will probably suggest that the Town delay the project. Chairman Cannon said that it would seem that funding decisions would be made prior to June when the budget is finalized at the conclusion of the legislative session. Patti Smyer stated that theoretically the State Park would know by July 1, 2016 if their project was slated for funding in the 2017 fiscal year. Mr. Davies said that if the Town waited until July 1, the Town would be behind. Administrator Hill mentioned the dredges would have to be scheduled

so the project would have to be bid in advance. Administrator Hill reiterated that partnering with the State Park/Hunting Island would make a sizable difference in the cost of the project. Administrator Hill has asked Steven Traynum of CSE to send a revised schedule based on partnering with the State Park/Hunting Island. Ms. Hill said that she would pass that schedule on to the Committee once it was received. According to the ACOE, the maximum lengthening of the groins would stabilize the beach for a longer period of time and the beach could be nourished every sixteen years instead of every ten years. Chairman Cannon told those in attendance that the permit is on the Town's website. The Town currently has approximately three million dollars in tourism taxes and four million from Colleton County, and the Town has applied for a pre disaster mitigation grant for three million. The grant is competitive, nationwide, and the proposal was based on the ACOE study. The Town will have between seven and thirteen million dollars available for the beach renourishment project. Administrator Hill said that the property owners on the north end of the beach were very concerned because they have lost between 50 and 75 feet of beach. David Cannon said that a letter writing campaign may be beneficial. It was suggested that the Town wait until there was a legislative sponsor for a bill in support of beach renourishment so residents know what to request.

Administrator Hill updated the Committee on the status of the Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant. The grant goes through the Emergency Management Department of South Carolina first, where it is reviewed, and then to FEMA.

The next item on the agenda was surf fishing. Mr. Cannon stated that the Town currently enforces the ordinance against chumming for sharks. Administrator Hill stated that due to the recent shark sightings and attacks in North Carolina, and the one incident at Edisto Beach, there were several complaints to Town Hall. Those complainants asked Council consider the problem. The complaints have been provided to the appropriate Committee for direction. There were six fish hook impalements between 2013 and 2015. Dr. Rebecca Borders of Edisto Island has reported that she sees approximately three fish hook injuries a season. Administration made available to the Committee copies of ordinances that deal with swimmers and fisherman sharing the same area from beach towns in South Carolina for the Committee's consideration. The issue is not necessarily about fishermen attracting sharks, but more about courtesy and safety. If someone is swimming, it is unsafe to cast a line close to them. A suggestion was made to have the Town attorney draft a definition of "creating a hazardous environment" or something similar, so that the Public Safety Officers could enforce that. Members of the audience suggested banning surf fishing altogether and ignoring complaints that come into Town Hall until a "substantial" number have been received. Administrator Hill stated for the record that she was not proposing adding additional ordinances, but if someone asks for Council to address something, the proper channels are to go through a committee that would address said issues, and then take whatever that committee recommends to Council. Bill Davies asked if the Town had jurisdiction over what happens in the water. Administrator Hill said it was her understanding that the Town has jurisdiction a mile out, according to the state code. David Cannon moved to ban fishing on the beach within 100 feet of people swimming. The motion died for lack of a second.

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Administrator Hill addressed the next item agenda, shellfish harvesting. There was a complaint that sand dollars were being collected by the five-gallon bucket with the purpose of being sold. The Department of Natural Resources has been contacted and is willing to come to Edisto to speak to the Beachfront Management Committee. DNR is already speaking to a group at Edisto in September, according to Mr. Davies. Mr. Davies moved to schedule a meeting of the Beachfront Management Committee and representatives from DNR to hear more about regulations regarding the harvesting of shellfish. Pat Sheehan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Administrator Hill said that she would get in touch with DNR to schedule the meeting and would let the Committee know.

Administrator Hill told the Committee that since there are no areas to put the sand fencing on the beach because of erosion, there will be no sand fencing installed this year.

Mr. Davies moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce Shaw. The motion was approved unanimously.

*The media/public was informed of the date, time and place of the meeting on Friday, July 31, 2015.*

APPROVED BY THE BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



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Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk