

**MINUTES**  
**BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**OCTOBER 29, 2015**  
**1:30 p.m.**

Present: David Cannon, Chairman, Bill Davies and Bruce Shaw, Committee Members; Iris Hill, ex-officio. Quorum of the Committee was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bill Davies moved to approve the minutes of August 7, 2015, seconded by Bruce Shaw and approved unanimously.

**New Business:** Mr. Cannon said the Committee had been asked to come up with alternatives for Town Council on the lengthening of groins and beach nourishment project. Mr. Cannon briefly reviewed the spreadsheet provided to the Committee by Steven Traynum of Coastal Science and Engineering. A copy of that spreadsheet is attached to these minutes. Mr. Cannon asked Mr. Traynum to add two columns to the spreadsheet showing surplus sand to construct groins in cubic yards, and cost of that surplus sand. The surplus sand would be used to construct a working surface that would help the contractors not be as dependent on the tide in working on the groin lengthening. Mr. Cannon said the extra sand would also be useful in the construction of a dune. Mr. Cannon distributed alternatives that he had come up with for the Committee. "Alternative #1 is to lengthen all the groins according to this prescription. Provide nourishment to include satisfying the trapping capacity, lengthen groins providing berms and dunes. This is the 'whole enchilada' here. That number comes up \$11,771,139. This includes the total mobilization cost and a 20% contingency." Mr. Davies said he thought the total was closer to \$14 million. Mr. Cannon said that had been the total previously, but when looking at the spreadsheet, it seems that the total for the project had been reduced. Mayor Darby told the Committee that the previous estimate was to simply double the projected amount for sand, which was more than what the actual cost would be. "Alternative #2, which would be less work and less money, would be to lengthen all the groins per the spreadsheet and nourish only to the trapping capacity to lengthen groins. In other words, no berm, no dune. That's \$9,782,139." The third alternative would be "to lengthen groins, through priority 18... in other words, that's all the groins that are to be lengthened 65 feet or more. The other groins, the ones that would be lengthened 30 or 40 feet.....there's no real urgency in doing that..... That gets you down to a bare minimum of \$9,219,757." Mr. Davies asked if CSE had approved the cost figures Mr. Cannon had come up with. Administrator Hill said that the figures had been sent to Mr. Traynum, but an answer had not been received yet. Mr. Cannon said the question is now how to fund the project. The first choice would be to have the legislature pay for the renourishment. Another, less desirable choice would be the Town taking out a loan. Mr. Cannon asked if anyone had other suggestions. Mr. Davies said, "If we do it now, and we do it halfway, then when our next chance is in ten years ...the government is liable to say 'If you had done it right the first time, it would've been sixteen years.' If we're going to do this, I'd prefer to do it all." Administrator Hill stated that after the recent floods and storms the beach

was resurveyed and the beach lost less than 10,000 cubic yards of sand. The high tides have caused the beach to lose more sand than the storms. Administration has been talking to FEMA about allowing the Town to extend the time period to complete the project so that the Town can use that 75% to replace the 10,000 cubic yards when the dredge is in place. Administrator Hill stated that if the Hunting Island and the State Park projects were not part of our renourishment, the costs would be higher. The State Park has requested 2 million dollars and Hunting Island has requested 6 million dollars in the upcoming budget. Mr. Cannon expressed concern over how the mobilization money would be divided. Administrator Hill stated that she was under the impression that each part of the project would pay 1/3 of the mobilization costs. Administrator Hill said, "With the way the environmental community is going, our chances of lengthening groins is going to go away in the future." Legislation has been attempted to prohibit the lengthening of groins, and eventually it may pass. Mr. Davies moved to recommend to Council that the entire project be done, lengthening all groins as suggested by CSE and nourish beach providing berms and dunes. Mr. Shaw seconded the motion. Mr. Davies stipulated that he wanted CSE to agree with the costs proposed by Mr. Cannon, with the main thing being following the plan in its entirety. The motion passed unanimously.

The Army Corps of Engineers has answered questions from the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding birds and turtles so the permitting process is moving forward. Administrator Hill said that once the permitting process goes through US Fish and Wildlife, there is a period of up to 145 days to issue a biological opinion from the formal consultation. Then the permit will go to the state and then to the Army Corps of Engineers. Administrator Hill said the Town is on schedule. Tommy Mann said that if the \$11,771,139 is correct, the Town is 5 million dollars short. He stated that ATAX, Local Accommodations tax and Hospitality tax could be encumbered to service bonded indebtedness or other indebtedness if the Town borrows from a source to fund the debt over the next ten years. Administrator Hill said that she would check on that.

Building Official Patrick Brown said there were at least twelve houses in jeopardy and need emergency orders for sand to protect them. Administrator Hill asked if there would be problems with doing emergency orders. Mr. Brown said the Town has the authority to issue emergency orders, but the homeowner must make the request. Mr. Brown stated that the Town could notify the homeowner that they were in a dangerous situation and ask them if they want to do something. Sand scraped from the roads due to wash over would not be allowed by OCRM to be put back on the beach. If a homeowner were to get permission and have large sand bags placed in front of their property for protection, those bags would have to be removed during the beach renourishment project. Homeowners would need to contact FEMA ([disasterrelief.gov](http://disasterrelief.gov)) to request assistance.

Administrator Hill informed the Committee that DNR had met with her and addressed the harvesting of sand dollars. There are only one or two other communities that do some type of regulation.

Beachfront Management

October 29, 2015

3

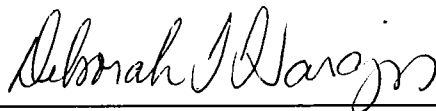
Patrick Brown told those in attendance that OCRM that some houses in the 600 block may be negatively affected by the upcoming November king tides.

Administrator Hill told the Committee that the Legislation Delegation would be at Edisto Beach for a meeting and dinner on Monday, November 2, 2015.

**Adjournment:** Bill Davies moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shaw seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

*The media/public was duly notified of the date and time of the meeting on Friday, October 23, 2015.*

APPROVED BY THE BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



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Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk  
April 26, 2016