



Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 11:00am
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

Present: Dan Slotchiver, Cindi Solomon, Andrew Vega, Tim Ahmuty, Council members Miars and Pierce, Administrator Kerr, Mayor Pounds

1. Call to order

2. Presentation – Tara Marden, Coastal Protection Engineering Report

Tara Marden of Coastal Protection Engineering shared the report commissioned by several beachfront homeowners. Her report is attached to these minutes.

Council Member Pierce observed that sand is bypassing the inlet and wondered if it makes sense for the City to renourish the beach without additional mitigation efforts. Ms. Solomon noted that all of the sand added to the beach in front of her home has washed away. Ms. Marden said a deeper analysis of Breach Inlet is needed to understand what is happening in the area to cause the erosion. Such a report could take 6-12 months to gather data, prepare analysis, and provide conceptual alternatives.

Ms. Marden pointed out that having the support of relevant agencies is key to the execution of any mitigation effort. She added that if erosion is happening now, then without any interventions, it will continue.

3. Review progress on Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations

Director Kerr reviewed the status of the recommendations put forward by the Committee, starting with the second opinion report, which should be available by the end of August.

The City has submitted its letter of intent to the USACE to become a federally-managed beach. He believes it will be 5 years from now before the City has an answer from USACE about that possibility. He shared the Edisto Island has “soured” on becoming a federally-managed beach due to the easements needed to secure the project.

He expects City Council will address the need for emergency work in Wild Dunes at their August meeting. Mr. Traynum will be present at that meeting to discuss emergency measures as well as the assumptions for the large-scale renourishment project planned for FY27. Council Member Pierce would like to see the permits prior to the August Council meeting.

Further discussion about homeowner’s responsibilities for beach nourishment and property protection needs to be coupled with further Council-level discussions about hard erosion control

devices. Administrator Kerr pointed out that there is money in the FY26 budget for groin design. He also shared that residents on the north end of the island are investigating the installation of geotubes.

The prohibition of pools seaward of the maximum building line passed City Council earlier this year.

Work is still needed on the ideas to raise additional revenues for beach nourishment.

The City has engaged a federal-level lobbyist whose main priority is beach funding.

Changes to State law regarding beach nourishment funding is still a long-term goal.

City Council created the Beach Preservation Committee, and applications for membership are being sought for consideration.

Administrator Kerr said there have been internal conversations with Wild Dunes about cost sharing for large nourishment projects. He said that current City and WDCA leadership cannot bind future leadership to spending in later years. He suggested that an MOU could be discussed. Council Member Pierce said a project-by-project commitment from WDCA would be in order, recognizing how much of the soft costs related to nourishment projects are paid by the City in advance of sand being placed on the beach.

4. Next steps – forthcoming second opinion from Foth Olsen expected late August

Mayor Pounds said the Committee will meet again in August to discuss the second opinion.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk