



**Beach Preservation Committee
Monday, March 23, 2026, 1pm
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Dietmar Ostermann, Wendi Pasterik, Alice Bova, John Schilling, Dan Slotchiver, Council Member Cohen

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester

2. Citizen's Comments -- none

3. New Business

A. Discussion with Stephen Traynum, CS&E on definition of minimum healthy beach

Mr. Stephen Traynum discussed several beach-related issues with the Committee including the definition of a minimum healthy beach, fill volumes for the upcoming renourishment project, erosion rates, and how the width of the beach is measured. Mr. Traynum explained the process, math, and rationale behind the measurements used to create the upcoming beach project.

Committee members disagreed with the calculation of erosion rates and sand losses. Mr. Traynum noted that the south end of the beach is recently accretional, but it remains to be seen how long that beach will stay in place. He reminded the Committee that the USACE plans to place sand in that area every two years.

Ms. Pasterik asked for the following sentence to be added to the minutes: Ms. Pasterik noted that the recent 'accretion' noted on the south end is from placement of Army Corps beneficial use project rather than natural accretion.

Lengthy discussion ensued around the various lines (BCM, structure, and management fill lines) that are used in defining the width of the beach. Committee members generally disagreed with some of the starting points of the measurements used by CS&E.

Mr. Traynum shared data showing a 2.8 million cubic yard deficit of sand island wide if there were to be 200' of dry sand beach seaward of the existing dune line.

Ms. Pasterik asked that the following sentences be added to the minutes: This case was dismissed. While not ideal for beach goers to place chairs by bushes, the area is currently accretional, may likely continue to grow bushes, and has great protective distance from baseline to ocean. A middle case, which was previously requested of committee members, showed an island wide deficit of 750,000 cubic yards if there were 200 feet of beach seaward of the SCDES baseline (with adjustments for homes in Wild Dunes seaward of the baseline).

The need for terminal groins was also briefly discussed. Administrator Kerr said there is \$4 million in the FY27 budget as a placeholder for groins.

MOTION: Mr. Ostermann made a motion recommending the City Council that the city in coordination with the Wild Dunes Community Association (WDCA) contracts the maximum amount of sand, 2.5 million cubic yards, to be placed on Isle of Palms beaches during the upcoming nourishment project in summer/fall of 2026. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review of Beach Monitoring Report

This will be discussed on a future agenda.

C. Review of Beach Renourishment Bids

Mr. Traynum said he is pleased with the five bids the City received for this project. He said he and his staff design projects that are favorable to the contractors, which is reflected in the prices. Mr. Traynum said he will recommend to City Council that they pursue the maximum project that is permitted for both ends of the island. He anticipates the project starting in June, but he pointed out that dredge schedules are notorious for not being maintained. He will suggest they start at the north end.

Administrator Kerr explained that City Council will award the bid to one bidder and there is no negotiation permitted in the sealed bidding process. City Council will discuss the bids tomorrow evening, but the vote to award a bid will not happen until their April meeting.

4. Miscellaneous Business

Referencing the minutes from an earlier Committee meeting, Mr. Ostermann said, “The major difference from the minutes, and that is why I wanted to come back to that is, Douglas, you said, and I paraphrase a little bit, I don’t want this committee to get involved with the current project. We obviously disagreed with you. That disagreement I do not find in the minutes, and I certainly said, and was basically echoed by all of the Committee members, we want to get involved. It’s not that we do not want to do all the other things that the City wants us to do like looking into hard structures, looking at future management practices and all that other good stuff. But we do feel responsible as a beach nourishment committee to help you with what we are already doing. The definition of what a healthy beach should look like. We feel that we should be involved in this contractor selection. You feel that you do not have the time and City Council does not have

the time, but we do have the time to actually look after the project while it is going on every month, every week. And so when we see things happening that we do not like or we feel are getting off track, then I think this Committee wants to be involved in it. And that is what I wanted to add to the minutes, right? That there was a disagreement there, and we, as a committee, decided we want to work on this. If Council has a problem with it, I think they will get back to me, but I already talked to the Mayor.”

He shared a 12-point list of items he believes the Committee should be addressing. He asked for Committee members to provide input on this list prior to the next meeting.

At the next meeting, the Committee will finalize their definition of a minimum healthy beach, finalize the list of areas they wish to work on, finalize their recommendation regarding the bid, and speak with representatives from Foth/Olsen.

5. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Committee will be on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 9am.

Ms. Bova made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk