



Town of North Topsail Beach **Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee**

To: NTB Board of Aldermen

Subject: Monthly Report for May 24, 2022, Meeting

From: Mike Benson, Chair

Date: May 24, 2022

Manager's Update. Manager Derian, *ex officio*, reported that

- the FEMA Phase 2 Cat B project has been completed with the last section completed along the Goldsboro Lane dune line. The volume of sand placed was not as great as in other sections due to the smaller volume differences in pre-and post-storm surveys for that reach of beach. This last phase of the Cat B work paused in November placed an additional 8,100 cy of sand into the dune line this spring.
- The Cat G beach fill project has been paused for turtle season with nearly 100,000 cy of sand placed. This project resumes in November with almost 500,000 cy to be placed.
- Sea Oats planting has resumed with Coastal Transplants starting work where they left off near BA 4 and started working south. They are scheduled to be near St. Moritz going south starting tomorrow (May 25) and continuing through Memorial Day. After Memorial Day they will be planting northern limits of the project of BA 4 and will continue in this direction until approximately June 23rd. June 24th, they will flip back south starting approximately 3,000 feet south of St Moritz and moving approximately 6,000 feet. July 6th through mid-August they will be starting approximately 9000 feet from St Moritz and finishing at the Surf City town line.
- An updated EIS timeline for the New River Inlet Management Master Plan was distributed to the BISAC committee based on recent conversations with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Manager Derian also informed the BISAC committee that the BOA added a placeholder of \$30 thousand dollars into the proposed 2022-2023 budget should the BISAC move forward with plans to develop a 30-year engineered beach plan.

NCBIWA May Conference Summary. Chair Benson and Alderman Grant summarized the highlights from the recent NC Beach, Inlet Waterway Association meeting in Emerald Isle. Coastal flooding, CAMA rule changes, and legislative updates from Congressman Rouzer, Congressman Murphy, as well as from State House representatives were among some of the conference topics. Chair Benson said that BISAC members would now be invited to attend this

bi-annual conference as not only is it educational but also an excellent platform for making person to person connections with local, state, and federal coastal program leaders as well as researchers conducting coastal studies.

30-year Beach Management Plan. Chris Gibson talked about the advantages of having a 30-engineered beach plan for the entire 11 plus miles of North Topsail Beach shoreline. One major advantage that would overcome the current town plan is that once approved, a 30-yr plan comes with a CAMA major permit for the life of the plan. Rather than permitting individual projects as the Town currently does, the basic required information is already in the CAMA database so specific project requests can be processed faster than waiting on a CAMA decision for each separate project.

Recommendation. The Board of Aldermen should direct BISAC to begin the initial project scoping work needed for an engineered beach plan with the consultant costs to be covered by funds set aside in the proposed 2022-2023 Fund 30 budget. In addition, however, the BOA should direct BISAC to explore funding opportunities to defray part or all the planning costs to prepare an engineered beach plan.

NC Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund. During Engineer Gibson's remarks on 30-yr beach plans, he noted how the Town of Topsail Beach has taken advantage of state funding to supplement the costs of beach nourishment. The NC Water Development Grant Program recently announced a call for applications for the fall grant program. A discussion then ensued about how funds from the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund could be leverage with Federal and state funds to possibly extend our current Cat G. project in Phase 5 into Phase 4 with minimum, if any cost to the Town.

Recommendation. The Board of Aldermen should direct Manager Derian to apply for CSDM funding in the upcoming funding cycle.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 10:30 am