



AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

PREPARED BY: Jeremy Hardison, Community Development Director **DEPARTMENT:** Community Development

MEETING: Town Council February 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Public Hearing for Draft Town of Carolina Beach – Beach Management Plan

The federal storm damage reduction project has served the Town well over the last 60 years and continued nourishment of the project will continue to provide storm damage reduction to the Town's infrastructure and development within the Town. Also, in order to retain its Static Vegetation Line Exception granted by the NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) on September 9, 2009, reauthorized on May 14, 2014, and once more during the winter of 2020, the Town must provide a progress report to the CRC every 5 years describing the condition of the project and an update of the requirements outlined in the Beach Management Plan (BMP) rule (15A NCAC 07J).

This document has been created for submittal to the NC Division of Coastal Management for review and subsequent evaluation by the NC Coastal Resources Commission for approval of conditions as it relates to the Town's Beach Management Plan.

The North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) recently amended Title 15A of North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) Subchapter 7H .0304; .0305; .0306; .0308; .0309; .0310 and Subchapter 7J.1200; .1202; .1203; .1204; .1205; .1206; and repealed Subchapter 7H .1301 through .1303 to replace and streamline the previously existing Development Line and Static Line Exemption rules under the Ocean Hazard Areas of Environmental Concern. The amended code went into effect on August 1, 2022.

The intent of the recently amended CRC rules is to provide an approach for local communities to utilize local and subregional Beach Management Plans to support delineation of the vegetation line (VL) that considers the communities long-term commitment to maintaining the beach through a managed beach nourishment plan. With an approved CRC Beach Management Plan in hand, communities can define oceanfront setbacks measured from the existing vegetation line rather than by the more restrictive pre-project vegetation line. In order to utilize the less restrictive existing vegetation line as a baseline for measuring oceanfront setbacks, the Town will need to develop a beach management plan (BMP) and have it approved by the CRC. The CRC's rules, specifically 15A NCAC 07J.1200, require the BMP to consist of a long-term (minimum of 30 years) maintenance plan that addresses the anticipated maintenance event volume triggers and schedules, long-term sand needs, and annual monitoring protocols, as well

as identification of financial resources and/or funding sources necessary to fund these long-term nourishment activities. The copy of the plan can be found <https://www.carolinabeach.org/Home/Components/News/News/413/16>

The Town shall provide an opportunity for public comments on the Beach Management Plan prior to submission to the Coastal Resources Commission for approval.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Open Public Hearing

Motion- Motion to approve the 2025 Carolina Beach – Beach Plan for the Coastal Resource Commission to consider adoption on April 30th.