
To: NTB Board of Aldermen

Subject: BISAC Monthly Meeting Report

From: Larry Strother, Chair

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Manager's Update. Manager Derian, *ex officio*, updated the committee on the status of the shoreline projects.

* The Phase 5 beach project has been completed. The hauling and fill were completed on May 15th officially and equipment was demobilized from the beach through May 17th. The project consisted of placing approximately 636,000 cubic yards of sand along 18,500 feet of shoreline.

* She reported the completion of a Sea Oats project that ran through May into the first week of June. The cost was shared with the property owner and the Town in a 50/50 split up to \$25,000 that resulted in 25,200 Sea Oats being planted.

Beach matting will be installed at two access points at the Jeffrey's beach access off of New River Inlet Road. The matting will feature the Town's logo and will run to the hard section of the beach. The matting is being placed to assist people with disabilities that require wheelchairs and also be helpful for families with their beach gear.

We are in the process of replacing the wooden beach crossovers. The one at Topsail Road and 10th Avenue is being completed and we will move to Topsail Road and on to Seashore Drive.

We have received notice from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and the Division of Water Resources along with Surf City and Topsail Beach that we have been tentatively awarded \$69,060.90 in the joint Vitex eradication project. We have 26 sites that were identified for North Topsail Beach for the project.

Overview of Topsail Beach Tour

Chris Gibson conducted a tour of Topsail Beach's shoreline May 21, 2024 for BISAC committee members to view the results of their most recent beach renourishment and the engineering that has taken place for the past 10 years.

All that were in attendance were awed by what we saw and more confident that the decision NTB has made to move forward with our 5/30 Year Beach Plan was the right one.

Member Grant said “when we were standing where Topsail Beach and Surf City come together and looked North and South it told us how glad and proud we ought to be that we are doing what we are doing now. He could not believe the difference.”

Member Benson said “the uniqueness of the project at Topsail Beach is that the engineer built a dune in front of the primary dune that was protecting the houses. That new secondary dune is growing in size about 3 feet over time. The source of sand from that is the wind blows the sand from the berm and the stems from the sea oats and other beach grasses trap that sand and allow the dune to build and the sea oats grass keeps growing up and rooting out. A third dune is starting in front of the secondary dune also. It was very impressive.”

Members Coltrane, Gardner and Strother all had positive remarks and were very impressed with what we saw. All commented how glad we were to have been able to see at least some of what we can expect in the not too distant future for NTB.

5/30 Year Beach Plan- Current status, progress, next steps and timing

Chris Gibson, TI Coastal Engineering:

*Core samples of the sand in the borrow area site (DA 143 were completed for testing and analysis.

* Once analysis is completed, a one-stop meeting will be scheduled with state and federal agencies in the September/October timeframe.

* The plan is to submit data for permits and grant applications in the September/October timeframe.

*Expectation is to put the project out for bid in March/April, 2025

*Goal is mobilization of equipment and turning on of pumps in November, 2025 in Phases 1, 2, and 3 (south to north) to be completed 24 months from now (June, 2026).

* Cost is expected to be \$40 million for the total project with the Town’s cost at \$10 million (\$5 per yard).

* We are on schedule with what we brought to the committee 6 months ago.

* Member Grant clarified Phase 4 will be started in the fall(November) to finish up in the spring, which is less than 12 months from now, then the next time we are out of turtle season, we can be doing the rest of the project. We will be using every construction window we have for the next 2 years.

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

- Engineer Gibson said economically the Town will be looking at doing a project every 2 years. It costs about \$1,000,000 per mile to manage a beach in today's money.
- There was conversation about the timing of a temporary retention structure and Chris Gibson said that logistics will be to the contractor to determine.
- Manager Derian acknowledged that we will have to work through cost and solidify timing and Grant timing and who is making the application on the Grants. That all has to be worked out.
- A question arose about planning for a second dune. Engineer Gibson said that the initial template will not include a secondary dune. First, we have to build the foundation to have enough sand to protect the dune to prevent further erosion of the dune. It will have to happen in layers to protect what is there and what has been added.

We will have a better understanding of where we stand after the one-stop meetings with state and federal agencies in September/October.

Next Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 10:30



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