

Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board

Work Session Agenda

Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

2 Plum Street

August 31, 2016

3:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Review of research materials and documents**
3. **Timetable and next steps**
4. **Adjourn**

Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board Staff Report

From: Larry DiRe 
Date: August 31, 2016
Item: Draft beach sand management plan
Attachments: Draft proposed beach dune management practices

Background

Over the past several months the Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board has been working on a proposed beach sand management plan for the Town's public beach. The Board has met several times, and consulted experts and practitioners in the field. The draft text attached is the result of this process. Upon further review and discussion, recommendations will be sent to the Town Council.

Discussion

The Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board is meeting to study beach sand management practices in the wake of substantial beach sand wind erosion and accumulation on streets and residential properties along the beach front that occurred in spring 2016. A review of the past and currently employed beach sand management practices will allow the Board to make appropriate recommendations to Town Council and provide an opportunity for residents' input into the scale of the sand wind erosion problem and potential practices to mitigate future wind erosion events.

Recommendation

Following discussion provide direction to staff.

Cape Charles Dune Board Recommendations

Implement now and before USACE fencing is installed – 26 August 2016

1. Town should resculpt the sand near the pier (see notes from Lee Perkins visit). Make one access point for people and equipment next to the pier. Close the other one. Resculpt remaining sand into a lower, wider dune with a large flat area for gathering/picnic tables on the boardwalk side.
2. Move excess sand at the south end to fill shallow hole by Madison and any remaining to the north end but don't move sedge grass to other parts of the beach!!!!
3. Move volleyball courts seaward / away from the base of the dunes
4. Remove/treat/kill the sedge grass before it can spread and before it goes dormant – either bury or Round up (see notes from Lee Perkins visit)
5. Reallocate sand fencing so as to not block beach access walkways. Instead use the fence to define dune “wings” next to the walkway access points along the entire beach to prevent sand from blowing into the walkways (see notes from Lee Perkins visit). Indicate somehow (spray paint just before the contractor works there? utility flags?) the preferred shape/dimensions (height/width) of the Town or contractor to pile sand in the wings if needed before the grass is planted.
6. Suggest to USACE to instal new sand fences seaward 20' - 50' (is that right?) from the existing dune line (see notes from Lee Perkins visit), rather than at the toe of the existing dune
7. For new dunes at the north end on boardwalk side, leave at least 5' buffer between toe of dune and the boardwalk (see notes from Lee Perkins visit)
8. Arrange for the purchase of /order ABG to be planted later – need to order in advance so it can be grown! (see notes from Lee Perkins visit about ideal planting time, cost, and plant source)

Implement after USACE installs fences and plants but before winter – to be developed at 31 Aug. meeting

1. Install additional fencing at the north end to mitigate sand blowing during the winter
2. Other?

Implement during the winter (Jan. Feb) – to be developed at 31 Aug. meeting

1. Plant ABG where thick grass growth is needed soonest (see notes from Lee Perkins visit about ideal planting time), e.g., make lower /wider dunes in the broad parts of the beach where people don't sit (show photos)
2. Other

Implement in spring (Mar. – May) – to be developed at 31 Aug. meeting

1. Fertilize ABG (see notes from Lee Perkins visit)
2. Refine/replant street side of dunes?
3. Other

Other good practice recommendations - TBD

1. Develop guidance for equipment operators and train

2. Signs/other things to educate public on dune benefits and values – why they should stay off
3. Etc.