

Members Present: Amy Lanier, Cecil DeLorme, Freda Rutherford, Harry Spirides, Harvey Ferrelle, Helen Downing, John Wylly, Lou Off, Mary McCracken, Wick Searcy, William Sprague,



Members Absent: Bert Adams, Greg Stoeffler, Henry Levy, Jimmy Burke, Mark Smith

Visitors / Ex-Officios Present: Jason Buelterman (by phone), Paul Wolff, Diane Schleicher, Kevin Haas, Erik Olsen (by phone), Joe Richardson, Allen Garrett, Bill Garbett, Wanda Doyle, Arnold Seyden

CALL TO ORDER (*Agenda Item 1*):

Amy Lanier called the meeting to order.

ATTENDANCE AND GUESTS (*Agenda Item 2*):

Council Members Wanda Doyle and Bill Garbett attended. As well as, Allen Garrett from the COE and Kevin Haas from GA Tech, Joe Richardson and Arnold Seyden were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*Agenda Item 3*):

Mary McCracken motioned to approve the minutes from December. Lou Off seconded. All approved.

BEACH SURVEY REPORT – KEVIN HAAS (*Agenda Item 4*):

Kevin Haas from GA Tech came to report on the findings of the Topographic and Hydrographic Study that was done in November 2009. See attached see for more information on Mr. Haas's report.

ERIK OLSEN CONFERENCE CALL (*Agenda Item 5*):

Erik Olsen from Olsen Associates, Inc. was in attendance via speaker phone and answered questions that each sub-committee asked relating to their specific areas of concern. See attachment for more information on what Mr. Olsen shared.

CHANNEL IMPACT PHASE II MEETING REPORT (*Agenda Item 6*):

Because of the limited amount of time at this month's meeting due to the Beach Survey Report and the Conference call, please see the attached letter from Amy Lanier, the BTF Chair.

SEA WALL REMOVAL (*Agenda Item 7*):

Because of the limited amount of time at this month's meeting due to the Beach Survey Report and the Conference call, please see the attached letter from Amy Lanier, the BTF Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES (*Agenda Item 8*):

Because of the limited amount of time at this month's meeting due to the Beach Survey Report and the Conference call, each sub-committee was asked to submit a written report. Please see attached.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Agenda Item 9*):



Because of the limited amount of time at this month's meeting due to the Beach Survey Report and the Conference call, please see the attached letter from Amy Lanier, the BTF Chair.

MEETING ADJOURNED (*Agenda Item 10*):

***Attachments: GA Tech Survey Report, Conference Call Report, Letter from the Chair, Sub-Committee Reports**



Tybee Island Beach Survey, November 2009

Kevin A. Haas Ph.D.
Paul A. Work Ph.D. P.E.




Goal:
Perform the beach monitoring required as part of the federally authorized beach nourishment project.

Methodology:
Measure 41 cross-shore Bathymetric profiles on Tybee Island established by the USACOE using topographic and bathymetric surveys.



Kinematic GPS Backpack Survey

Topographic survey is done near low tide
Used two Ashtech Z-12 dual frequency GPS receivers, one for a base station and one for the rover.
Post processing using GrafNav software to apply kinematic corrections
Vertical control was verified with repeated surveys of profile 12 and a local benchmark






Kinematic GPS Bathymetric Survey


Bathymetric survey is done near high tide
Ashtech Z-12 dual frequency GPS receivers used for the base station
Ashtech Z-Surveyor dual frequency GPS receiver used on the boat
Ceeducer fathometer with 200 kHz 2.8 degree transducer used for depth measurements
Data collected using Hypack software
Post processing using GrafNav software to apply kinematic corrections
Depth measurements verified daily with bar checks.





**USACOE Survey
July 2008**

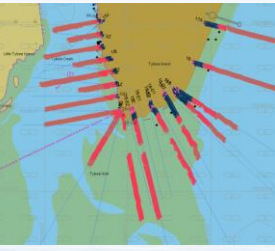


**GTS Survey
November 2009**

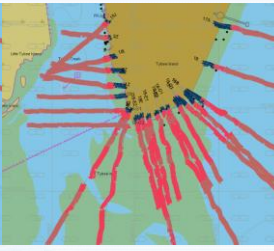





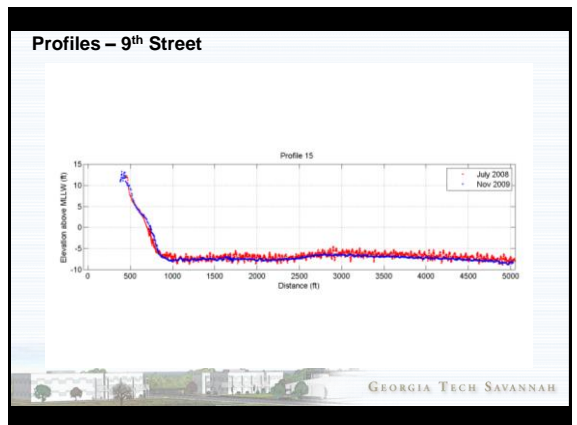
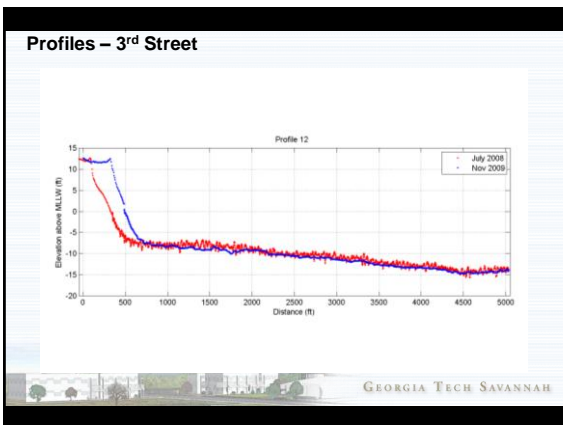
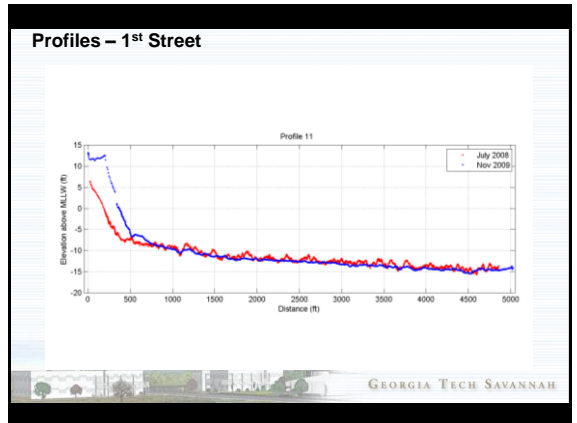
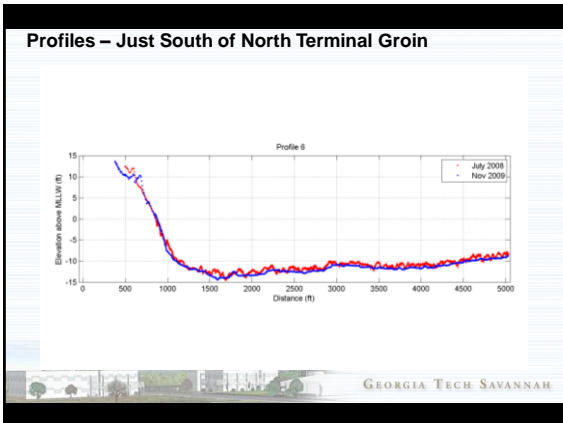
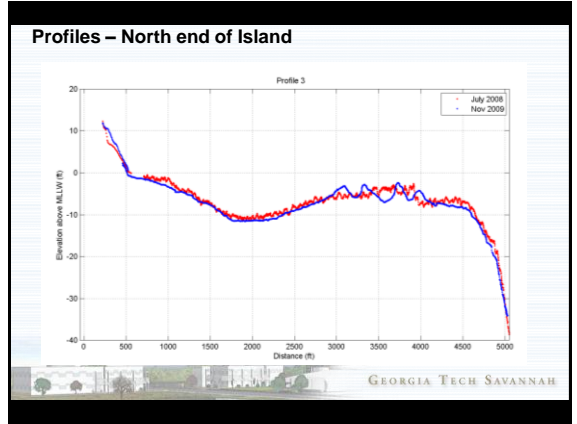
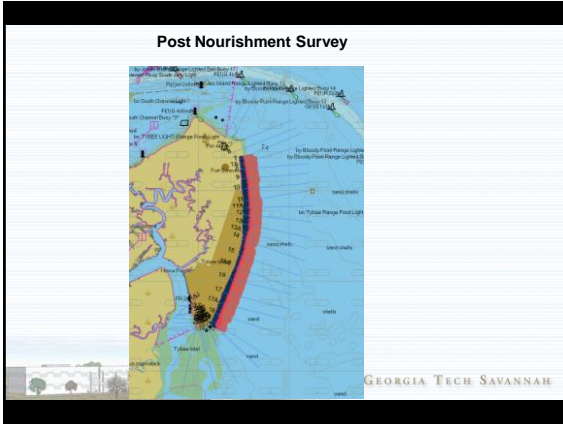
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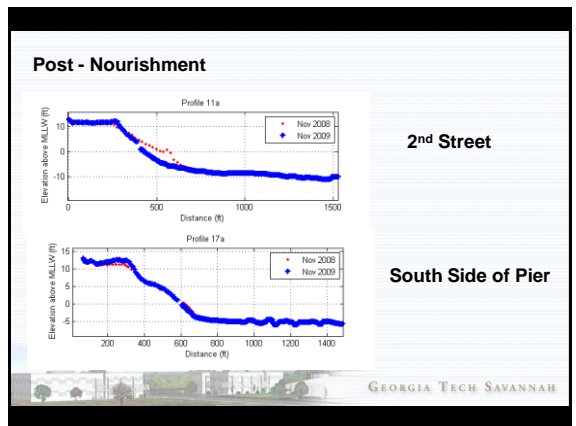
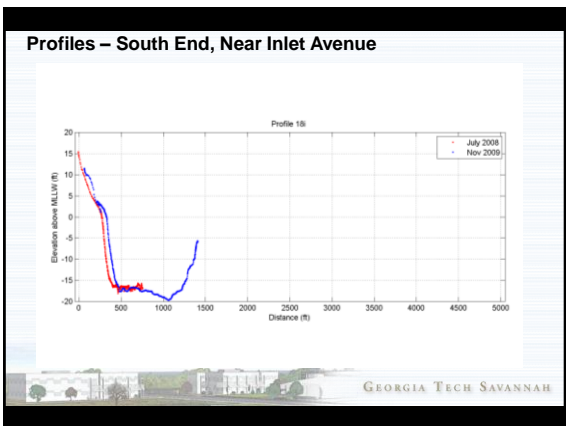
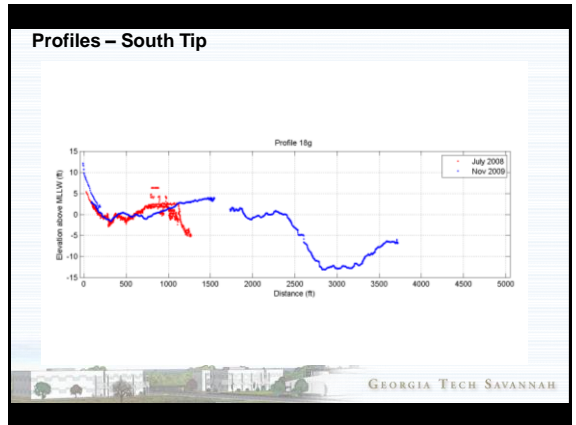
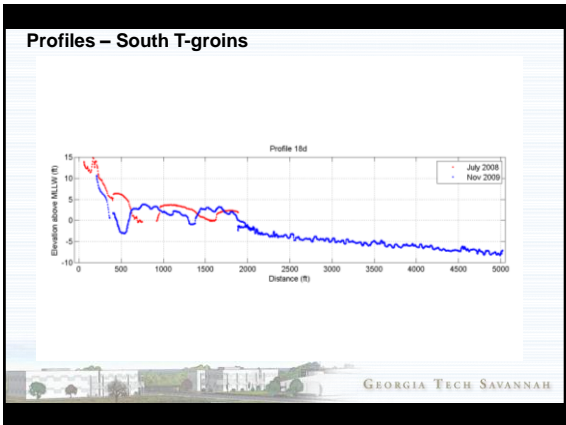
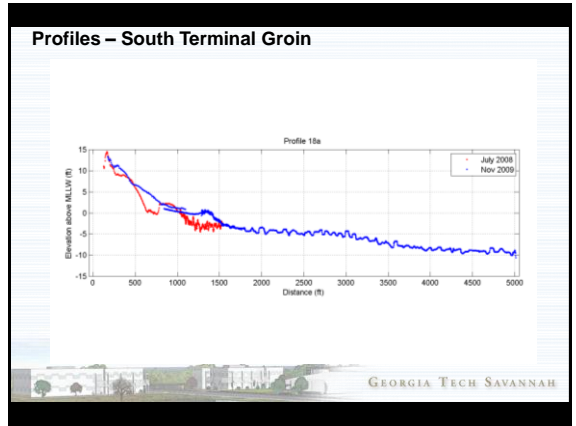
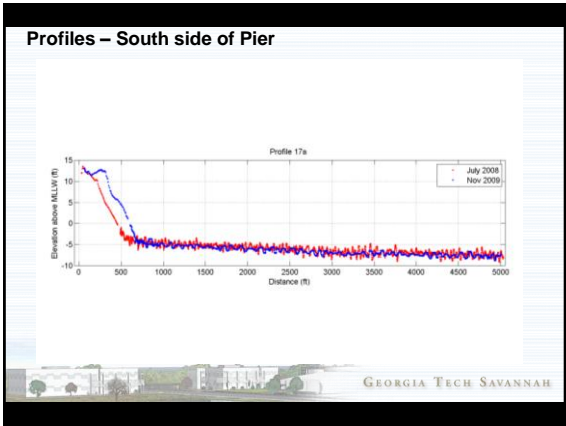


**GTS Survey
November 2009**









Overlap – Not as good as desired; some profiles better, some worse than previous survey.

- Overlap was not included in report figures.
- Small window of opportunity for survey due to tides, weather and daylight.
- Future surveys will be done closer to high/low tide.

Figures – Agree that it is difficult to use figures for engineering analysis. Therefore will revise them with smaller symbols and will include all overlap.

GEORGIA TECH SAVANNAH

Qualifications and Methods

- Used same methods and type of equipment as the USACOE.
- The USACOE previously (2006) wrote a letter to the city verifying we use the same methods.
- Together we have 20+ years of experience with surf zone surveying.
- The BTF did interviews to verify methodology.

Wrong Profiles – The USACOE provided Diane with profiles to be surveyed. These match the historical profiles used to monitor Tybee Island.

GEORGIA TECH SAVANNAH

Questions?? Comments??

Kevin Haas

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Paul Work

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912-966-7943



GEORGIA TECH SAVANNAH

MEMORANDUM

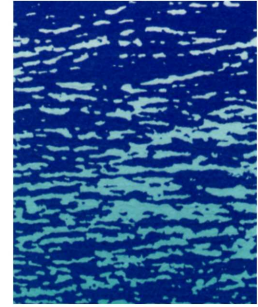
TO: Amy Lanier, Chairperson, Tybee Beach Task Force

CC: Diane Schleicher, City Manager, Tybee Island
Mayor Jason Buelterman, Tybee Island; Bubba Hughes, Esq.

FROM: Erik J. Olsen, P.E. *EJO*

DATE: 21 January 2010

RE: Tybee Task Force Telephone Conversation



Coastal Engineering

Pursuant to our telephone conversation today, I thought I would reiterate a few salient points in writing to assist the Task Force committee(s) in the future. Accordingly please consider the following comments, observations or recommendations:

1) **N. Beach/Point**

This area was originally recommended by Olsen Associates, Inc. (OAI) as a viable borrow area for a small scale dune enhancement project constructed along a portion of the shorefront facing the Savannah River Channel several years ago. It was however, quickly eliminated from consideration due to unresolved legal issues regarding ownership. That is to say, the ownership of the accreted land (to be potentially excavated) is in question. In that regard, we can only defer to any findings made by Bubba Hughes, Esq., City Attorney.

We would also point out that the area of interest is designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services as Piping Plover habitat. Such a designation would make permitting very difficult and any work intended to be performed in plover season essentially impossible

2) **Sea Wall Removal and Responsibility**

Although perhaps not 100% definitive, the historical evaluation of COE files (via the FOIA) and the resultant memorandum by OAI make a strong case for federal responsibility. At the least, it negates the long-held COE position that the groin removal program initiated by the COE, using funds specifically for removal of hazards left on U.S. Army lands surplused to local interests, is *not* accurate. That is to say – there is *no* evidence in the COE files substantiating the allegation

olsen
associates, inc.

4438 Herschel Street
Jacksonville, FL 32210
(904) 387-6114

that the COE derelict structure removal program was halted then by Tybee Island Mayor Hosti. In contrast, City files reflect that the Mayor announced at that time to the City Council that the District intended to complete the removal program.

My conclusion after reviewing the files is that in all probability, one or more individuals of the District staff made a determination that a) the removal project was very difficult (understandable), b) its final cost would be high (no disagreement there), and that c) once the pending shore protection project was constructed – the derelict structures would be buried and therefore no longer “problematic”. It is my belief that the latter assumption by staff is the root of what caused the problem which exists today.

Until the Savannah District concurs with this assessment and performs a “*mea culpa*”, it will be difficult to get your Congressional to try to find a funding source. You will again find yourself in the position of pointing your finger at the COE and the District seeking to defer responsibility.

I strongly urge that your legal counsel forward a copy of the assessment for review by the District Engineer and his legal counsel. A meeting to discuss their interpretation of what happened – after they do their own internal due diligence – would then appear to be in order.

If you desire, we have a long-term relationship with a firm in Washington, DC which could potentially help resolve the issue and ideally seek to identify a funding source that your Congressional(s) could then seek to tap.

4) **HB727 Compliance**

Compliance could be resolved by a determination that the USACOE is *not* in conformance with the State of Ga CZM Plan. This would take formal confirmation by the Ga. DNR. It might be prudent to have the question formulated and posed to Susan Shipman’s replacement by Burke Day himself (in writing), or someone else of similar authority.

A companion alternative could be Lawsuit or proactive direct opposition to any federal EIS related to Harbor Deepening, or major modifications to Channel Maintenance Operations.

5) Harbor Deepening

The District has formulated their study documents and EIS which are now being put out for review by a peer-group. It is my understanding that mitigation to Tybee Island is *not* addressed as one of several items to be incorporated into the project plan as mitigation. It is the District's position that the proposed channel deepening project will cause no "*incremental*" damages to Tybee Island.

I would suggest that it can be shown that that is *not* the only benchmark they need to meet – particularly with the recent adverse COE finding-of-fact that the navigation project has historically been responsible for 70-80% of Tybee's erosion problem. Both legally and in the EIS, the project is vulnerable to a challenge by Tybee Island. If successful, Tybee's sand requirements could be addressed either physically or politically. To pursue this route will necessitate a political and financial commitment by Tybee Island to in all probability take the COE (and the non-federal project sponsor *i.e.*, GPA/DOT) "to the mat".

6) Future SPP Renourishment Funding (2015)

It is recommended that the City request in writing a timeline and budget for all major milestones which need to be accomplished by the Savannah District, USACOE to perform a 2015 renourishment project. It is not too early to have this planned out. On the basis of the District's financial requirements for study, design and construction, Tybee will need to submit the appropriate annual requests to their Congressional(s) for funding of that phase of work. It is very important that Tybee seek to maintain the recommended 7-year renourishment interval. It is therefore not too early to begin to initiate a federal funding request this year or 2011 at the latest.

7) Inlet Impact Feasibility Analyses – Phase II

I strongly recommend that the City request a meeting with the PDT to discuss the 2-page scope provided to date for Phase II activities. At that meeting, the PDT should be requested to make a presentation as to what Authority would be used to implement a solution; how they derived their alternatives and on what basis did they perform their costing. At the meeting, the Tybee representatives should be allowed to ask questions and provide recommendations, criticisms, etc. The meeting should be viewed as a staff-level closed-workshop and *not* subject to political or legal posturing in order to achieve as reasonable and open dialogue as possible with the staff.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

MAYOR
Jason Buelterman

CITY COUNCIL
Shirley Sessions, Mayor Pro Tem
Wanda Doyle
Bill Garbett
Frank Schuman, Sr.
Kathryn Williams
Paul Wolff



CITY MANAGER
Diane Schleicher

CITY CLERK
Vivian Woods

CITY ATTORNEY
Edward M. Hughes

CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

January 19, 2010

Dear Beach Task Force,

Greetings and happy New Year (and decade) to all of you who serve on the BTF!

As customary, our meetings this year are set for the third Thursday of each month, beginning promptly at 11:30 a.m. at City Hall, and will run between 60 and 90 minutes long, with an aim for one hour.

I would like to thank you for meeting in sub committees and submitting questions to ask Erik Olsen via conference call in our general meeting this month. So that most of our hour is spent in conference with Erik, I would like to cover some agenda items in this letter:

January 2010 Announcements

Topping the agenda for February, we will be treated to two science fair presentations that feature the beach. St. Michael's students Chase Polak and Alex Fanning will take about ten minutes to present their findings.

Per our bylaws, the annual meeting takes place next month. Members shall, by a majority vote, elect officers. The Nominating Committee will present the slate.

With pride and reluctance, I accepted the resignation of Shirley Sessions as she takes her seat on the Tybee Island City Council. Shirley plans to attend our meetings whenever possible and encourage the council to prioritize and promote our endeavor.

With deep regret, I accepted the resignation of Dan Parrott in late December, 2009. To his surprise and dismay, Dan was informed by the USACOE that his participation on Tybee's Beach Task Force could appear to pose a possible conflict of interest that would jeopardize his retirement, and was strongly advised to reconsider his continued membership in the Tybee Island Beach Task Force. It is Dan's wish that *no written or oral petitions be made to any federal, state, or local representative or senator, nor any member of the USACOE on his behalf mentioning his name or this issue.* After two years, he will be eligible to return to the BTF without any concerns from his former employer.

We are grateful to Dan for his part in updating our Beach Management Plan, overseeing O&M compliance measures, and coordinating with the DNR as well as other coastal engineers. We thank him for his knowledge, integrity, work-ethic, enthusiasm, and humor. He will be sorely missed....until 2012!

January 2010 Sub Committee Updates

I ask that Sub Committee Chairs please submit a short, written update to be handed out at the beginning of the meeting to save time for our conference with Erik.

Channel Impact Study, Phase II

The Mayor and I met with Col. Kertis, Sharon Haggett, and Mackie McIntosh on January 13th to discuss the status of Phase II. Mackie is the Project Manager for the study. This study will cost \$2.606M with a 50% cost share between the feds and a local sponsor. Phase II is a 3 year study beginning in January 2010 and ending in January 2013, and will examine the channel impacts to Tybee Island.

NOTE: An assessment of the North Beach for the inclusion in the Storm Damage Reduction Federal Project will increase the total Phase II cost to \$3.492M. Per a 2006 letter from the Mayor to Col. Held, the North end was excluded from the study. If Tybee intends to include the North Beach in the Storm Damage Reduction Federal Project, then it will need to communicate this to the COE.

The colonel suggested that the Mayor ask the DOT to be the local sponsor since the navigation channel is their project and is causing approximately 80% of the erosion to our beaches per the Phase I study. The COE has established a scope of work and has \$175K in its budget to begin upon the receipt of matching funds or “in-kind services” from the local sponsor.

The colonel asked why Tybee does not independently fund beach renourishment like Hilton Head. The Mayor explained that our tax base is smaller than HH’s, such that even if the same rate of short-term accommodations tax is applied, the funds accrued would not be enough to pay for our renourishment. HH, by contrast, accrues funds in an excess of their renourishment costs and can fund other beach projects too. The Mayor does not want to raise the tax rate. Also, HH is not south of a major shipping channel. HH and Tybee differ based both on tax base size and “channel impact”.

The COE will follow up with answers to the following questions:

How far in advance does the City need to apply for the 2015 renourishment?

Will including the 50 year extension in the Phase II study cost more money?

Is the Phase II Study required for the 2015 renourishment? NO.

Is the Phase II Study required for the 50 year extension?

Define “in-kind” services that can be applied the Phase II study and 2015 renourishment.

Sea Wall Removal

The USACOE wrote a letter to Hon. Jack Kingston refusing to remove the sea wall. As far as the COE is concerned, the property was given to the City of Tybee and a “real estate closing” is final. However, it could be argued the city did not know of the sea wall when it took possession in the 1930’s until it revealed itself after years of erosion. In the 1980’s the COE maintains that while some of the structure was removed with DERP-FUDS funds, that Mayor Hosti, by a telephone call, halted the project. Their documented evidence does not jive with the city’s records. Not only do dates for referenced council meetings not match up, but there is confusion between the meaning of removing the wall farther “down”. The city meant deeper, while the COE argues that it meant south.

See you at the Thursday meeting,

Sincerely,

Amy Lanier, Chair

Beach Task Force Sub-Committee Reports January 2010

Nourishment and Funding Sub-Committee Report

County Commissioner Pat Farrell is planning to present to The Commission his findings after his meeting with Mayor Buelterman. This is in regards to the last re-nourishment cost analysis. This will be done swiftly so that our request for funds may be included in the 2010 Budget. Previously, Tybee Island received \$150K per year, matching our input. Hopefully, he will be able to convince The Commission of our need for additional funds!?? to match Tybee Islands \$250K per year.

Beach Management Plan Sub-Committee Report

1. The committee is suffering from attrition, i.e. the loss of Shirley Sessions and Dan Parrott. We could use another couple of members.
2. We met with Diane following the BTF. She reported that she was completing the city edits.
3. She and I have been cleaning up a few details this week and then will be ready to send to Erik for his review.
4. Upon the completion of his review we will be ready to present to the BTF for their approval, then on the council and DNR.

Channel Impact/CZM/SC Port Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee did not meet due to absent members.

North Beach Sand Management Sub-Committee

Meeting was by email and telephone to create questions for the Erik Olsen Conference Call.