



Sunset Beach Navigation Project
Update to Town Council
October 07, 2019





Discussion Outline

- Permit Review Status for S. Jinks Creek, Bay Area, & Feeder Channel Systems
(Mary's & Turtle Creek Permit issued in December 2018)
- Beneficial Reuse Material Placement Location
(5th Street to 12th Street)
- Comments & Questions

Project Site Map

Material from S. Jinks Creek will be placed as beneficial reuse along the ocean front by a hydraulic dredge.
Material from Bay Area and Feeder Channel systems will be mechanically excavated (backhoe) and trucked to an upland landfill facility.





Current Permit Status

▪ State Permit Status (DCM)

- The State, or Division of Coastal Management (DCM) review could reach completion by Thursday, October 10th. DCM has indicated the permit will most likely be conditioned to require a connection to deep water. Thus, a variance request to the Coastal Resource Commission (CRC) will be necessary in order to avoid dredging Tubbs Inlet, N. Jinks Creek, or Jinks Creek behind OIB.

(15 NCAC 07H.0208.b.1.f requires all dredging projects to connect to adjacent waters at an equal or greater depth than the proposed dredging.)

- The earliest CRC meeting the variance could be presented is most likely **February 2020**. Variance requests must be submitted a minimum of 6 weeks prior to the CRC meeting.



Current Permit Status

▪ Federal Permit Status (USACE)

- The USACE initiated an Individual Permit (IP) process for the S. Jinks Creek, Feeder Channel, & Bay Area system based on the volume of comments received through the CAMA process.
- The USACE wanted to provide their own notifications to ensure all potential stakeholders have an opportunity to comment. The comment period ends on October 24th. The USACE will review the comments received at that time and most likely issue a Statement of Findings for the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- The USACE provides the Town an opportunity to respond to each comment, and will consider the Town's response in evaluating the comments after the 24th.



Beneficial Reuse Material Placement

DCM has indicated receipt of a significant number of comments pertaining to the beneficial reuse material placement. DCM recognizes the state rules that require beach compatible material to be maintained in the system, they also recognize the potential issues that may arise if the project is permitted as-is.

DCM has asked if the Town would like to reconsider the placement location before a permit decision is made.



Beneficial Reuse Material Placement

If the permit is issued as-is, DCM feels like it may be unlikely for the Town to obtain enough easements to place the beach compatible sand. Also, every time a permit is modified, the opportunity for an appeal or challenge must be provided to the potential stakeholders.

Available Options

- The Town may delay the permit decision in attempts to discuss the project with the property owners and identify if sufficient lands are available in the current design. (This would require an 'Applicant Hold' on the permit to delay the permit decision.)



Beneficial Reuse Material Placement

Available Options

- If sufficient lands are not available, the Town may modify the placement location, which could include another area on Sunset Beach or truck hauling the beach sand to another island/placement site. Since discussions with Ocean Isle Beach failed, this would most likely also require another variance request from the CRC.
- Otherwise, the Town could move forward with the permit decision and see what challenges come, based on the current material placement site. (5th Street to 12th Street)



Beneficial Re-use Material Placement

Available Options

- If the Town approves an “Applicant Hold” it would allow time to fully consider each option without significantly delaying the project further. An applicant hold only pauses the review clock, it does not restart it.

Therefore, under an applicant hold the Town could research the potential of an alternate placement site and still make the February CRC variance request. Also, an applicant hold can be canceled by the applicant at anytime.



Thank you!

Questions / Comments

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