

Delaware Bay Beach Work Group

**Minutes
And
Short Term Recommendations to the
Governor
And the General Assembly**

Senate Hearing Room, Legislative Hall

**Thursday, January 6, 2011
Senate Hearing Room
10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Agenda

Introduction: Senator Bushweller and Senator Simpson

Sarah Cooksey – Sea Level Rise Handouts

Sub-Work Groups – Presentations and Discussions:

Erosion – Chair – Representative William Carson, Jr.

Drainage – Chair – Representative Ruth Briggs/King

Funding – Chair – Senator Bruce Ennis

Introduction: Senator Bushweller

Welcome to our 3rd general meeting.

The goal of today's meeting, you can see the agenda, is to formulate as best we can a series or list of recommendations with regard to the three issues on the table, the erosion issues, the drainage issues and funding issues that we could present to both the Governor and the General Assembly by next week when the General Assembly comes back next Tuesday. With the recognition that these are initial recommendations that we feel we can make at this point without having fully aired out, discussed, studied, and debated all the fundamental issues involved with these things. But also with the hope that by making some initial recommendations we can accomplish maybe two things: 1) To get the recommendations out there and 2) to start creating a much more greater awareness of the issues that are involved with our bay beach communities and the difficulties our bay beach communities face. My hope is that we will create much more awareness among not only the General Assembly and the Administration but also among the general public. That process alone will help us move towards some good decisions both of a short term nature and a long term nature. As we discuss these possible recommendations today, we also need to keep in mind that they are just initial recommendations and they are being made prior to the time when we've really developed a full body of data and had the full discussion that we should have before making firm long term recommendations. Keep in mind that whatever we recommend today needs to fit in with what we might conclude as we go down the road with the process and that is not an easy thing to do because we do not know what actually is going to happen in the process.

Senator Simpson

I want to thank you on behalf of my co-chair for your attendance at these three meetings. They have been extremely well attended by members of all the bay beach communities and I think it is recognition of these important issues. Like, Senator Bushweller said, we need to make the public aware of what is happening along our bay beaches. I do not know how many of you saw the program on WBOC TV regarding Primehook that is an awareness of the issues we are talking about. We have to keep impressing this issue on the public because it does hold so much importance for the State. Again, I thank you for your participation in the sub-work group meetings they were all extremely well attended. It is important that we move forward with our short range and then come back with our long range issues.

Path Forward

Senator Bushweller

First let me thank all the members of the public that have been here for our three initial meetings and the members of the work group who have worked so hard to come up with these short term recommendations. Frankly, while there is a whole lot of work ahead of us I am very pleased with how this has gone so far. We now begin a different faze for this work group. We have been focused in these first 3 meetings on these short term recommendations, things that we could recommend as we discussed by next week. We have a set of recommendations that I think accomplishes at least one broad overarching goal and that is they will help draw more attention

to these bay beach issues that already exist. There will be more attention on the part of the Executive branch and part of the Legislative branch and the part of the general public. We have accomplished an important goal in addition to the specifics of those recommendations in this overarching kind of a thing here.

We are now going to embark upon a longer term process where we start to put a lot of flesh on the bones with regards to all the issues we are addressing. Including, I need to note on the issues of the long term which has been out there from the beginning in the Secretary's letter creating the work group. The long term issue of how do we in fact deal with the apparently inevitable encroachment of the sea on our bay beach communities and areas in what some people consider to be the alternately unwinnable fight of protecting the bay beaches from the sea level rise and the other factors affecting the problem. That is going to be tough, but frankly I look forward to that because I think that from the public policy perspective it is as much an obligation of government to address that issue now as it is to address the shorter term issues.

We have not had any discussion at all, and I want to defer to my co-chair, about our next meeting, and the agenda. I am thinking perhaps at the next work group meeting we need to talk about how this work group will function, going forward given everything we have done so far. We know some things because we decided them today.

We are going to create 2 new sub-groups - 1 for drainage, 1 for erosion addressing the matrices.

Continue a sub-group addressing possible ways of funding these plans.

Review the Beach Preservation Act

The primary purpose of the next meeting will be to discuss how we are going to conduct ourselves over the next year to 18 months or however long we are in existence. We need to go back at the Secretary's letter creating the work group and look at why we were created again and come up with a plan.

Senator Simpson – Tony what is the timeframe are we looking at regarding the cost benefit analysis?

Tony – We are in the process of contracting with a firm now. We have gone through the solicitation process. We met with the top rank contractor. At one point we were waiting for them to get back to us with product that we can begin to react to and get some cost. Hoping that by the end of January that we have them under contract and they begin their efforts. Maybe we can meet quarterly, going into the mid-term. We will probably task our contractor with making a quarterly presentation, to report where they are so that this group has a chance to interact to raise some expectations in the confine of the contract. So at the end there will be no surprises. And maybe do something similar on the drainage side if we do any contractual engineering work we will bring in that contractor also.

The development of the matrices is important and the two funding issues we have hanging out there we want to talk about. We have enough to probably meet on a quarterly basis.

Next Meeting – Friday, April 8, 2011 @ 10:00-4:30 pm in the Senate Hearing Room,
Legislative Hall (Drew Slater reserving the room)

Members of the public are invited.