



# City of Folly Beach

## PLAN TO ACQUIRE RENOURISHMENT FUNDS

*Prepared by Mayor Goodwin and City Administrator Connor-Rooks*

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### Background Information – Sections 3 – 6 is information from the Corps of Engineers.

- 1. How is it renourishment funded?** The City and Corps of Engineers signed an Agreement whereby the Federal government agreed to pay 85% of the renourishment cost with the City paying 15% of the cost. Of course, there is a caveat which states *if funds are available*. The City after the first project in 1993 has put funds in reserve especially earmarked for renourishment. The amount put in annually is \$150,000. Last audited financials indicate this account has a total of \$1,617,000.
- 2. Why did the Federal Government agree to pay 85%?** The Federal Government agreed after a study was conducted in 1992 which proved 57% of Folly Beach's erosion problems have resulted from the construction of the Charleston jetties by the Corps of Engineers and was the direct responsibility of the Federal government.
- 3. When is it time to renourish?** This is the actual language in the Agreement: "Periodic nourishment will be initiated upon a mutual agreement between the Government and the Local Sponsor based on the results of annual inspections and surveys as outlined in this manual. Periodic nourishment is deemed necessary when 25% of the length of the project storm berm has reached a 15 foot width at elevation 9.0 NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) - means a fixed reference adopted by the U. S. Government as a standard geodetic datum for vertical elevations.) At this time an approximate high tide beach width of 60-75 feet will exist."
- 4. What does that mean?** Corps recent assessment: (1) A survey to see how much of the beach has been lost was conducted, the main thing was to determine if 25% of the beach length looks like it needs nourishment. (2) There's a long stretch from about 10th Ave. East past the washout that is even in worse condition than that- a good portion has no "project storm berm" at all, much less 15 feet width. That area is probably 20% of the total beach length, so I expect we're close to the 25% trigger point. (3) Unfortunately, if we've reached the 25% point, we still have to request funds.
- 5. Why now?** Folly Beach has reached the point whereby about half of the beach length no longer has the sacrificial sand in front of the protective berm. The Federal Budget is set ahead of time and it is too late for 2012 but we need to get in the budget cycle for 2013. We need to begin initiating

our plan now in order to ensure the Federal government will dedicate the needed amount, especially when there is a caveat that states "if funds are available."





6. Last correspondence I received from the Corps: Short version: Folly Beach needs to be renourished. We are not in the budget for renourishment any time soon and it will require action on your part to try to get Federal funds sooner.

Long version: We estimate that Folly Beach has about half of the beach length that no longer has the sacrificial sand in front of the protective berm. Since our "trigger point" to justify renourishment is 25% of the beach in this condition, we know we need to get in the budget cycle for renourishment. Since we have already made budget requests for fiscal year 2012 and we have not completed our analysis, we would not get construction funds through the regular budget cycle until 2013. We do not know why the 2005 and 2007 renourishments did not last very long.

We will now estimate how much sand is needed to do a renourishment and use that to estimate the cost of renourishment. Once we check to see that we have done any required updates to economics and environmental requirements, we will send a report to our division office in Atlanta for approval, and that approval is how we are allowed to request renourishment construction funds in the Corps budget.

#### **RENOURISHMENT PLAN (Implemented upon notification the "trigger point" has been reached.)**

1. *Create a Task Force, preferably using some of the same individuals who were effective in 1992 and 2004, i.e., LaJuan Kennedy, Eddie Taylor, Ben Peebles, Jane Theiling, etc. Meet and begin "brain storming" to come up with new ways to approach the Powers that Be to sell them on the need for renourishment, i.e, tourism is the largest industry in South Carolina and only industry in Folly Beach, etc..*
2. *Write initial letters to the Charleston County Delegation stating Folly is fast reaching the point of needing renourishment funds and why and making sure they support us and singing our song. Sample Letter and List of Senators and House reps.*
2. *Prepare map with layers of Mylar which shows the erosion at various intervals over the years. A picture is worth a 1000 words and this was used last time and was very effective.*
3. *Contact other municipalities and request a Resolution from each supporting Folly Beach in its efforts to acquire renourishment funds. Prepare a "Sample Resolution" and send to them which will make it easier for them to put it on their agenda.*
4. *After time has passed whereby the Charleston County Delegation has received the letters, have Task Force with Mayor and appointed Council Member to go to Columbia and meet with all possible to garner support. The first time, the Task Force took sand dollars along with statements and gave to the individuals with whom they met.*

5. *Follow up visit with second letter asking the senators and house reps to support your efforts by writing letters to our Senators and Congressmen in Washington.*
6. *Letters from the city should also be sent to our representatives in Washington and other representatives who would be empathetic to our plight.*
7. *When writing and having dialogue regarding renourishment, use the following when you can:*
  -  *protects 64,000,000 in assessed property value*
  -  *South Carolina depends on tourism as it is the largest industry; Folly's only industry*
  -  *tourism helps the economy by creating jobs and putting money into the local coffers*
  -  *Folly residents have faithfully reserved \$150,000 each year to have their funds ready for the next renourishment.*
8. *Plan to have a contingent of people (SUGGESTION: Mayor, two (2) members of Task Force, possibly two (2) council members, Senator or Member of the House of Representatives) visit Washington to lobby for this cause. Prior to the Renourishment of 2005, the city sent a contingent of people, with the map (item #2 above) to Washington. I am positive this effort sealed the deal because thereafter Congress put the funds back in the Corps' budget.*

*Be aware, however, Congress did not designate the funds for any particular project so the City had to compete with other towns which had been hit hard by hurricanes. The fact that we could prove we had repaired walkovers, constructed new ones, cleared 50' right-of-way s adjacent to the beach for parking was the factor that persuaded the Corps to choose Folly Beach. I am sure the Task Force will bring forward more ideas and when we get them or others we will update this list.*