

January 2, 2020

White Point Swash

 Happy New Year to all of you! Many of you have expressed concern regarding planned actions for White Point Swash. Horry County completed their work in December, leaving the last 400 feet of dunes as a work in progress. The sand piled on top of these dunes prohibits placement of fencing or sea oats. The 450 feet of dunes that did not experience erosion from Hurricane Dorian is still intact. Based on the current condition of these dunes and the area in front of them, the chance we will lose them is minimal.

 The permit the Town received in 2018 included sand fencing and sea oats, but at the time, the County Consultant recommended a wait period. The recommendation was to wait until after the grading was complete in March 2019, cautioning for the potential for repeated erosion for portions of the dunes. The caution was correct. We lost 400 feet of the 850 feet of repaired dunes during Dorian. If we had installed the sand fencing and sea oats in 2019, we would have lost approximately 50% of them. Sand fencing and sea oats are recommended to prevent wind erosion only. The only known remedy for water erosion is more sand. **Any corrective measures we take must be in our Ocean Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) issued permit.**

 After speaking with Director of Horry County Public Works, David Gilreath, yesterday, he is in support of proceeding with sand fencing and sea oats. This method is effective in rebuilding sand dunes using the force of the wind. We plan to issue a bid proposal this month for installation of sand fencing and sea oats. Cost judgment, based on quotes received in 2019, should be under $20,000.00 for the 450 feet of dunes. We will keep you informed as we proceed.

 Sincerely,

 Huston Huffman

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 Mayor

HH/jbn

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