

February 2010 Beach Protection District Report

At the February 8 Beach Protection District Commission meeting, Beach Engineer Clay Bryant presented a PowerPoint update on the status of the Town's beaches. He noted that the beach had not changed much since the January report due to the predominance of westerly winds and the lack of any sustained northeaster activity. The north end of the island exhibits some continual thinning; however, the rock revetment north of the public beach showed some recovery allowing sand to bypass and generating recovery to the south. The public beach area, as well as the beachfront for a mile south to the Beach Club, continues to remain stable. However, from the vicinity of the Beach Club southward for approximately two miles, the beach remains very thin. The waffle revetment in jeopardy during November remains covered with sand; but a portion of the wooden bulkhead was re-exposed during the month. The Town re-instituted a shoreline emergency declaration to enable residents to take remedial measures in the event a major storm causes severe erosion. The beachfront from the S-curve to the county line remains in excellent condition.

The engineering staff obtained 16 boring samples of sand on January 14 and 15th in an area farther offshore of the current borrow site. Visual inspection of the sand looks promising, containing a lighter color and better sand content than the current borrow site. The sand is now being analyzed at the lab, and the results will be presented at the next meeting. The next beach renourishment project is still tentatively planned for Fall 2010, with construction beginning in November following the conclusion of sea turtle nesting season.