

In accordance with notice to members of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, a meeting was held on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room C of the Coastal Resources Management Council Offices, Oliver Stedman Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI.

Members Present

Anne Maxwell Livingston, Chair  
Bruce Dawson  
Janet Coit, RIDEM  
Tony Affigne  
Mike Hudner

Staff Present

Jeffrey M. Willis, Deputy Director  
Jim Boyd, Coastal Policy Analyst  
Danni Goulet, Marine Infrastructure Coordinator  
Janet Freedman, Coastal Geologist

1. Introductions were made of new Council members and CRMC staff.
2. Jeff Willis began with explanation of the history of the Matunuck Beach Erosion issue. Mr. Willis stated that the meeting at 6:00 would be a listening session with dialogue between the two Councils regarding the progress that has been made since the last time the two Councils had met. Mr. Willis informed the Council that in his opinion the Town's and the property owners' preferable outcome would be the approval of a riprap revetment; but CRMC staff would prefer the use of structures such as sand bags and burritos. The Town sees problems with these solutions as they need maintenance and can be costly. Other alternatives were discussed such as moving the businesses and road upland. Mr. Willis stated that the Town Manager Stephen Alfred sent a letter to CRMC refuting suggestions in the staff report such as alternatives to road location. There was discussion between staff and Council regarding recent enforcement issue of illegal bulkhead which was constructed at the Ocean Mist using creosote treated piles and the accelerated erosion rate caused by bulkhead. There was discussion between Council and staff regarding the financing of the projects and where the funding would come from to build the revetment. Mr. Willis informed the Council of the Temporary Assents set up for wooden bulkheads in the Matunuck area but that no applications had been received as of yet. Staff explained temporary value of wooden bulkhead. Staff and Council reviewed maps of the area showing the different areas of concern. Ms. Freedman gave status update on the use of burritos in the area to the west of Matunuck beach stating that they have been successful but they require maintenance. Mr. Willis and staff explained the negative impacts of hard solutions to the beach area stating that scouring will occur where gaps are. Mr. Goldman clarified CRMC's jurisdiction stating that CRMC governs below mean high water and above MHW as well. The Federal permit review process was discussed regarding ACOE and their jurisdiction. Mr. Willis stated that if South Kingstown decided they wanted to pursue a hardened structure, a permit from the ACOE would be required. Mr. Willis stated that another alternative the Town was considering was requesting a water type change in this area from Type 1 to Type 2 but that staff did not recommend this action as it would open up the area for hardened shoreline and also as the shoreline from Westerly to Narragansett is Type 1 waters. Ms. Freedman informed the Council that filling in the shoreline to regain lost property was prohibited and that any structure built would have to be as close to the existing bank as possible. Maps were reviewed showing the erosion over the years. Mr. Boyd clarified that during any significant storm event, the revetment would not protect the structures but that the town argues that the structures had survived other hurricanes; the difference being that there was more beach back during the previous major hurricanes which provided more buffer. Council was informed of the emergency access issues and that during a storm event if flooding were to occur there would be no access to

approximately 200 homes; most of these homes are seasonal and could not be occupied in the winter (Carpenters). Ms. Freedman stated that an evacuation plan was in place for the 250 houses on the other end of the road in the event of flooding from major storm event. CRMC has suggested emergency access bridge. Mr. Goulet stated that he has been working with the town to develop an emergency assent for protection of the road only, but that the Town had not come in with a formal application – this is still in the design phase, and the Town is also working with RIDOT. Mr. Goulet stated that Town was considering a riprap slope as the utility lines directly overhead makes it impossible to drive steel sheets. Mr. Goulet stated the best option would be to move the road but that the Town was not receptive to that at all. Mr. Goulet explained the temporary bulkhead structure permits were good for one year with a six month extension due to the building code; also a permit was needed from the Town. Mr. Goldman clarified that CRMC could change their water type regulations on their own if they so chose; it did not have to be in response to request from Town.

3. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Turner  
Recording Secretary