

# *Town of North Topsail Beach*

Daniel Tuman, Mayor  
Michael Yawn, Mayor Pro Tem  
Aldermen:  
Richard Farley  
Deborah Lanci  
Richard Macartney  
Robert Swantek



Steven H. Foster  
Town Manager

Carin Z. Faulkner, MPA  
Town Clerk

**TO: All North Topsail Beach Phase 1 Property Owners**

**FROM: North Topsail Beach Aldermen**

**SUBJECT: Beach Erosion of North Topsail Beach shoreline**

The Town of North Topsail Beach (NTB) is blessed with some of the finest beaches anywhere in the United States. However, as in some other states bordering the ocean, in recent years a number of factors have contributed to erosion of our shoreline. Beach erosion is particularly acute near the New River Inlet at the northern end of Topsail Island, requiring the condemnation and recent dismantling of some nearby NTB oceanfront structures.

North Topsail Beach has been involved in a number of initiatives that address shoreline erosion. The firm of Coastal Planning & Engineering (CP&E) was retained to assess the extent of beach erosion, and to recommend potential solution(s) for our shoreline. In 2008, NTB formed the Beach Erosion Study Team (BEST) Committee to provide additional input to the Town from NTB citizens.

North Topsail Beach's Board of Aldermen is responsible for deciding what to do about shoreline erosion. The Board would like to hear from property owners about their opinion and financial commitment on this matter. After reading the attached "*NTB Beach Erosion Fact Sheet*," please complete the enclosed survey and mail it directly to the Eastern Carolina Council for analysis. **DO NOT DROP THESE OFF AT TOWN HALL.** Mailed responses must be received by November 19, 2010 in order to be included. To ensure anonymity, the Town Board of Aldermen and North Topsail Beach staff will not have access to the individual survey responses.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

# **NTB Beach Erosion Fact Sheet**

## **The Problem**

According to the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, our shoreline is eroding at an average rate of 2 – 3 feet/year. The shoreline erosion rate at the north end of Topsail Island, near the New River Inlet, is estimated to be in excess of 12 feet/year. Some North Topsail Beach oceanfront structures near the New River Inlet were condemned in recent years due to beach erosion that allowed the ocean to undermine the homes' pilings. If shoreline erosion continues at these rates, additional oceanfront structures may be threatened in the future.

## **The Solution Being Considered**

The State of North Carolina does not currently permit the use of hardened structures (jetties, groins, sea walls, etc.) to control beach erosion. One option that is allowed is beach nourishment, which involves placing a large quantity of sand on the beach to replace that which has eroded. CP&E and the town have proposed a five phase beach nourishment project that involves the realignment and enlargement of the New River Inlet navigation channel along with dredging sand from offshore. Sand removed from the enlarged channel would be used in phase 1, and would be deposited along the northernmost 9000 feet of the town's shoreline, widening the beach by 75 – 100 feet. If the town has the approval of the taxpayers and goes forward with the project, the plan is to begin phase 1 construction in November, 2011. It is expected that re-nourishment of the new sand would be required every 4 years. If the town gets approval of the taxpayers in phases 2-5, we plan on a construction project every other year.

## **The Cost for Phase 1**

The overall estimate for initial construction and monitoring for phase 1 is \$10,000,000. The town is not eligible for federal financial assistance for phase 1, but the town will be applying for state and county assistance for this project. Even with that outside funding and a substantial contribution from the town's Beach Fund, it appears that we will need to raise approximately \$5,700,000 to perform this project. It could be an additional \$3,000,000 more if the state and county decline to help. The thinking of the Board is that property owners of each phase should fund the additional amounts required for the construction of that phase, through additional taxes or assessments. Costs for the other phases are similarly significant. This survey is designed to gather input from you to assist the Board in understanding if it is the will of the people to proceed with this project.

## **Additional Information**

A number of documents are available on the town website, including the BEST report, information on the risks of the project, additional financial details, a presentation on the project, the permit for the project, links to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, a blog on beach nourishment, etc. Those can be accessed at the town website at <http://www.ntbnc.org>