

Fish, Game and Forestry Committee

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June 26, 2023

Councilman John Bogosian
City of Isle of Palms
1207 Palm Blvd.
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Councilman Scott Pierce
City of Isle of Palms
1207 Palm Blvd.
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Re: Southern tip of the Isle of Palms Dune Restoration Project

Dear Councilman Bogosian and Councilman Pierce:

Thank you for contacting me concerning the availability of state funding for a dune restoration project on the southern tip of the Isle of Palms. It is my understanding that the Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grant Program, which is operated through the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, may have residual funds available for projects under \$500,000. According to the enclosed grant guidelines, the State may contribute up to half of the amount of the project. I strongly encourage Council to apply for the funds should it choose to move the dune restoration project forward.

Thank you both for your commitment to public service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Campsen".

Senator Chip Campsen

Enclosures: Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grant Guidelines

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grant

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism (SCPRT) has funding available for beach renourishment through the 2016-2017 South Carolina Appropriations Act and is soliciting applications for matching funds from eligible applicants.

Because these funds are administered by SCPRT through an open-cycle grant program, applications will be accepted at any time of year provided that the application is complete and that all requirements have been met prior to application submission.

Applications for funding will be evaluated by a review committee to determine if the application has satisfied all information and documentation requirements and to ensure that the project meets the minimum regulatory requirements.

Eligible Applicants

Any county government or municipality with a State-approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan is eligible to apply for funding.

Application Submission

An eligible applicant may submit applications for more than one project; however, each project must be submitted as a separate application bound individually and clearly labeled. Five paper copies (including one signed original) and one electronic copy (Adobe® Acrobat® Portable Document Format – PDF) of each application must be submitted. PDF documents must be submitted on a labeled CD-R and contain the complete application package in a single PDF file. All applications must be delivered to

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Attn: Justin Hancock
1205 Pendleton Street
Suite 248
Columbia, SC 29201

For general questions regarding this grant, please call 803-734-1747 or email jhancock@scprt.com.

Application Process and Requirements

Eligible applicants must submit a fully-completed application packaged to request grant funds. Incomplete applications or those which do not include all required information will not be considered and will be return to applicant. Applications must include the following sections:

- A. Applicant Information and Commitment
- B. Project Narrative and Maps
- C. Budget Summary and Proof of Matching Funds
- D. Engineering Studies and Post-Project Monitoring Plan
- E. Beach Renourishment Permit Application or Copy of Approved Permit
- F. Approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan

A. Applicant Information and Commitment

The applicant must submit the following information:

1. The name, address, telephone number and email address of the primary point-of-contact with the local government making the application and the name, telephone number and email address of the designated liaison agent.
2. The name, address, telephone number and email address of the project consulting engineer or other agent.
3. A resolution adopted by the applicant's governing body approving the submittal of an application for beach restoration funds, and committing to the local funding requirements necessary to complete the project.

****The Chief Executive Officer of the governing body must sign the original application****

B. Project Narrative and Maps

The applicant must submit a narrative description of the project which includes discussion of the following:

1. Project limits
2. Quantity of fill
3. Borrow sites
4. Expected design life of project
5. Project construction schedule and timeframe
6. Estimated first cost and annual maintenance costs
7. Source and availability of all local, state, and federal funds for the project
8. Project benefits, including environmental, economic and social
9. Environmental impacts
10. Public access to project area

The applicant must also submit a map or maps showing the following information relevant to the proposed project:

1. Project site and borrow area locations
2. Upland ownership of property, indicating federal, state, local or private ownership
3. Public access points
4. Public and private parking areas
5. Baseline and setback line(s)

C. Budget Summary and Proof of Matching Funds

The applicant must submit a budget summary using the attached form. The budget should include an itemized breakdown of anticipated expenses for both the State assistance and local share of the total project cost. Budget summary should also include Federal share, if applicable.

In addition, the applicant must submit at least one of the following items as proof of matching funds:

1. Bank statements or other documentation demonstrating that the organization has on hand sufficient liquid assets to meet the match requirement. Documentation may be in the form of bank statements and/or a letter from a senior bank officer certifying an approved line of credit available to the organization for use as match funds for this program and sufficient to meet the match requirements. Bank statements and/or bank letter must be attached to grant application in order to ensure that the funds are available as of the date of the application. Please provide any additional financial information that would be helpful to SCPRT staff in verifying the availability and source of match funds.
2. A sworn statement signed by the CEO or CFO of the local government entity stating that the match funds are locally-generated and specifically designated for beach renourishment.

D. Engineering Studies and Post-Project Monitoring

The applicant must submit any engineering studies that have been completed for the project, and **plans for standardized pre- and post-project monitoring to include physical and biological parameters for both offshore (borrow area) and onshore (beach and surf zone) impacts.**

E. Beach Renourishment Permit Application or Copy of Approved Permit

The applicant must submit a DHEC-OCRM regulatory permit application for the proposed beach renourishment project. If the applicant has already received an approved permit for the proposed project, then the applicant must submit a copy of the approved permit with the funding application.

The applicant should submit all relevant approvals, permits, or permit applications that have been submitted to or received from other regulatory agencies for the proposed project as part of the funding application.

F. Approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan

The applicant must submit the relevant sections of the current, State-approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan, which presents the following information:

1. Analysis of beach erosion control alternatives
2. Upland ownership of property, indicating federal, state, local or private ownership
3. Public access points
4. Public parking areas
5. Private parking areas
6. Baseline and setback line(s)

Additional Information

The applicant may submit additional information, including but not limited to letters of support, discussion of relevant nearby projects, studies, inventories, analysis, or planning documents discussing or applicable to the proposed project. Germane additional information received will be considered as part of the funding review process; however, additional information may not be used as a substitute for required information or documentation.

Application Review and Evaluation

All applications will be evaluated to determine if the proposed beach renourishment activity meets the minimum regulatory requirements and then rated based on the five criteria listed below. Each element of the funding consideration criteria is rated using the following numerical evaluation to assess the degree that the application meets the criteria:

- High – 3 points
- Medium – 2 points
- Low – 1 point
- Does not meet criteria (a resource of factor is present, but the proposal has been evaluated to have no value or to not have an intended benefit) – 0 points

Evaluation Criteria

1. Environmental impact of the project.
 - Improves the ecological function of the beach and dune system
 - Restores degraded dune habitat
 - Restores habitat used by threatened or endangered species
2. Public recreation benefit.
 - Protects existing or historic public recreation areas
 - Improves the public accessibility to the beach
 - Provides or enhances full and complete public access

3. Expected useful life of project.

- Anticipated life expectancy of project benefits
- Time to complete project and time required for stabilization of beach in years
- Longevity of previous renourishment projects

4. Protection benefit of project

- Protects public property or infrastructure, or historic or culturally significant structures
- Protects economically important land uses
- Reduces potential storm damage to private property

5. Tourism Impact of the project

- Is a major area of focus for state and/or local tourism marketing strategies
- Protects or enhances a core component of the visitor experience to its respective destination
- Ensures continuity of visitation that significantly impacts the local business community

Funding Restrictions

State assistance awarded and paid shall not exceed 50% of the total eligible costs for the project. The State share must be matched on a one-to-one basis with non-federal, local funds. All local, matching funds must be secured and available prior to submitting a funding application. In addition, any federal assistance necessary for project completion must be secured and documented prior to submitting a funding application.

Federal funds may not be used to match state funds.

In-kind services may not be used as match.

Eligible Costs

Only hard costs, including the installation of shoreline stabilization structures, directly associated with the renourishment project will be allowed.

Ineligible Costs

The following costs will not be paid with State funds nor used to provide the required local share:

- Costs incurred outside the contract period
- Costs associated with the preparation of permit applications and any necessary modifications
- Indirect or overhead costs of the municipality or county government, such as rent, telephone service, and general administrative support

- Salaries and other expenses of elected officials, whether incurred for purposes of project direction, execution, or legislation are not an eligible cost. In addition, volunteer services contributed by these officials to the project may not be used as local share.

Project Timeframe Requirements

Applicants should have acquired all necessary permitting prior to submitting an application for grant funding; however, applications will also be accepted for projects that have applied for OCRM permitting and can be reasonably expected to receive permitting from OCRM within six (6) months of the effective date of the grant agreement.

Project must be completed within twenty-four (24) months of the grant agreement date. If the project is not able to comply with either the beginning or ending dates, the grantee should notify SCPRT in writing, explaining why the project is unable to meet the required deadlines. SCPRT will review each request for an extension on a case-by-case basis.

If OCRM permitting has not been obtained within six (6) months or if no substantial activity has occurred within eighteen (18) months of the grant agreement, SCPRT reserves the right to revert awarded funds and the applicant will be required to submit a new application for funding.

Reporting Requirements

Municipalities must provide quarterly progress reports to SCPRT for the duration of the contract, including a summary of all expenses incurred during the reporting period.

Other Grant Requirements

The proposed beach renourishment sites must be in public ownership.

In addition to responsibility for compliance with local regulations, the applicant is responsible for complying with all applicable State and Federal agencies and laws including, but not limited to the following:

- DHEC-OCRM statute, policies and regulations
- DHEC-EQC 401 Water Quality Certification
- SC Department of Natural Resources
- US Army Corps of Engineer Permits
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service