



Beach Preservation Committee

9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 5, 2026

1207 Palm Boulevard

City Hall Council Chambers

Public Comment:

All citizens who wish to speak during the meeting must email their first and last name, address and topic to Nicole DeNeane, City Clerk, at nicoled@iop.net no later than **3:00 p.m. the day before the meeting**. Citizens may also provide written public comment here:

<https://www.iop.net/public-comment-form>

Agenda

1. **Call to order** and acknowledgment that the press and the public have been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
2. **Citizens' Comments** – All comments have a time limit of three (3) minutes.
3. **Introduction of members**
4. **Discussion of Beach Preservation Committee Purpose and Goals**
5. **Discussion of Prior Beach Preservation Efforts**
 - a. [2023 Isle of Palms Beach Management Plan](#)
 - b. [2025 Beach Ad Hoc Committee report and action list](#)
 - c. [Major prior projects overview](#)
6. **Discussion of Active Beach Projects**
 - a. [Major renourishment status](#)
 - b. Alternatives analysis status
 - c. [USACE projects status](#)
7. **Discussion of Committee's Future Beach Preservation Efforts**
8. **Miscellaneous Business**

Next meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 9am
9. **Adjournment**

City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina

Beach Preservation Committee

Residents of the Isle of Palms are invited to apply to be a member of the Beach Preservation Committee. The online application is available below. The deadline to submit an application is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, _____, 2025.

Purpose of the Beach Preservation Committee:

City Council formed the Beach Preservation Committee to advise City Council on matters of the beach including the preservation, enhancement, protection and conservation of the beach by exploring innovations, best practices & data around changes.

The Beach Preservation Committee may address matters as requested by City Council and its committees, and on its own accord take up issues and initiatives that fit within its mission, with regular reporting to the council.

Goals of the Beach Preservation Committee:

- Advise and make recommendations on best management practices for promoting a healthy beach.
- Advise and make recommendations on innovations that could be considered to reduce the financial burden of beach nourishment and preservation.
- Identify and pursue financial opportunities for beach preservation and nourishment.
- Advise and make recommendations on state, federal and local policies that impact the city's ability to maintain and enhance a healthy beach.
- Support Isle of Palms as a strong advocate for South Carolina beaches and model for other coastal communities.
- Develop and support partnerships with related community groups and stakeholders.

Qualifications:

- Membership is open without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, veteran status, or membership in any other group protected by law in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Applicants shall demonstrate an ability to understand complex issues and respect the diversity of interests of community members.
- Applicants shall demonstrate and encourage flexibility when considering perspectives of non-participating citizens and interest groups.
- Candidates will be selected by the Administration Committee based on ensuring that it is representative of a diversity of community members.
- Applicants must be available to meet every other month or as needed. Meetings may generally last one hour.

General Conditions:

- The board will consist of five (5) adult citizens and a City Council liaison, with a preference of having three (3) ocean front property owners, representation from each geographic area of the island and at least one (1) resident from Wild Dunes.
- Members shall serve 3-year staggered terms.
- Members shall be recommended by the Administration Committee at a public meeting and appointed by City Council.
- All members shall serve without compensation.
- Failure of any member to attend three consecutive meetings; misconduct; or nonperformance of duty, may be cause for removal from the advisory board by the Council.

- The advisory board shall have no authority to make any expenditures on behalf of the City or to obligate the City for payments of sums of money, without prior Council approval.
- All meetings will conform to legal requirements for public meetings, including public notice and record-keeping.

Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations - Next Steps- Updated 2/4/26

1) Beach Restoration Policies

Recommendation	Next Step
Establish a minimum healthy beach volume profile per Figure 5 (approx. 600 cy per foot within the unstabilized inlet zones and 380 cy per foot elsewhere on the beach)	no action necessary now - semi annual monitoring reports will be provided to the public, Council and Beach Committee and notice of triggers being hit will be provided
Establish triggers, as stated in the January 2025 Beach Ad Hoc Report, for when Council should consider authorizing construction of mid-scale and large-scale projects	no action necessary now - bi annual monitoring reports to be provided to Council and Beach Committee and notice of triggers being hit will be provided
Consider becoming a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) managed beach	underway and no action necessary now - letter of intent submitted for feasibility study
Repeal ordinance prohibiting hard erosion control structures 250' of mean high water	need Council direction- discussed in 2nd opinion
Modify ordinance prohibiting hard erosion control structures 250' of mean high water	need Council direction- discussed in 2nd opinion
City performs emergency work (sand scraping, trucking in sand and/or placement of sandbags)	need Council direction- discussed in 2nd opinion
Establish property owner's responsibilities for maintaining dune system within private property (Folly Beach model)	need Council direction- should be done after decisions made about hard erosion control structures
Prohibit construction of new pools seaward of the maximum building line	done
Consider seeking second opinion on emergency protective actions, future beach nourishment program and other beach protection options (groins, sandbag installation and review of emergency protective actions taken during the last 2 years)	completed by Foth Olson

2) Proactive Response to Beach Erosion

Recommendation	Next Step
Accelerate and increase frequency of large-scale dredging beach nourishment projects from every 10 years to every 8 years	no action necessary now - semi annual monitoring reports to be provided to Council and Beach Committee and notice of triggers being hit will be provided

Initiate permitting for large scale nourishment projects two years after completion of a large-scale nourishment project	no action necessary now - permit applications submitted in Set. 2025 and under review
Coordinate construction of large scale nourishment projects on both unstabilized inlet zones to occur at the same time	no action necessary now - permit applications for both ends expected to be submitted Aug. 2025
Hire full time employee tasked with overseeing resilience efforts, including beach management	included in draft FY26 budget- next step is job description to be considered by Council and begin hiring process
Establish an ongoing Beach Preservation Committee made up of 5 Residents and 2 Council members	done
Increase the frequency of beach monitoring surveying from annual to semi annual	done

3) New and Consistent Funding Mechanisms for Future Needs and Projects

Recommendation	Next Step
Establish separate accounts for 1) emergency beach restoration work, and 2) large-scale beach nourishment projects and 3) other beach related projects	done
Consider raising revenue to cover the proposed proactive beach nourishment schedule (See funding sheet)	need Council direction
Engage state and federal lobbyists/legislators to secure funding for beach nourishment	no immediate action necessary- state and federal lobbyists have been engaged and given direction
Engage state lobbyists/legislators to amend state law to allow beach nourishment to be added to Municipal Improvements Act (MID) to allow City to establish special purpose tax district	no immediate action necessary- state lobbyists have been engaged and given direction
Engage state lobbyists/legislators to amend state law to provide coastal communities ability/flexibility to raise revenue for beach nourishment (i.e. real estate transfer fees or additional ATAX)	no immediate action necessary- state lobbyists have been engaged and given direction
Establish a cost-sharing plan with Wild Dunes for projects along areas that do not meet public access requirements based on WD contributions to the Beach Preservation Fund	underway. Both city staff and Wild Dunes staff have indicated an ability to continue to participate, but expressed concerns about their abilities to continue in outyear major renourishment projects



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January 21, 2026

Douglas Kerr
City Administrator, City of Isle of Palms
P.O. Drawer 508
Isle of Palms, SC 29451
(843) 886-6428

Re: City of Isle of Palms
Request for Qualifications (RFQ 2025-02)
Beach Management – Alternatives Analysis

Dear Mr. Kerr;

At the request of the City of Isle of Palms, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC (Foth) is pleased to present the following proposal pursuant to RFQ 2025-02 for Beach Management – Alternatives Analysis. This proposal provides for engineering services to perform analyses and prepare reports for submittal to the city. The deliverables are intended to provide guiding information about specific beach erosion and beach management practices, plans, and policies at Isle of Palms to facilitate city decision making about future beach management activities.

Specifically, Foth shall conduct an alternatives analysis to analyze and provide guidance on specific beach management practices and methods of erosion control that include, but are not limited to:

- Stepping away from active beach management on all or part of the island's beaches;
- Beach renourishment only;
- Beach renourishment plus adding shore perpendicular groins at key locations;
- Beach renourishment plus adding breakwaters at key locations;
- Beach renourishment plus adding geo-tubes at key locations;
- Beach renourishment plus creative shoal manipulation to minimize damage of future approaching shoals;
- Projects focused on modifying the conditions within Breach Inlet and/or Dewee's Inlet to alleviate erosional currents (channel realignment, forced bypassing or other effort to physically change inlet); and
- Any combination of the above methods and any others deemed worthy of consideration.

The study will review existing data and information (as identified in RFQ 2025-02) to support a comprehensive analysis of beach management and erosion control practices (including those listed above) that may be evaluated for implementation at Isle of Palms. We are also aware that

City Council has identified specific considerations for each of the alternatives that include, but are not limited to, physically altering the aesthetic of the beach, initial and ongoing maintenance costs, the likelihood of being granted State and Federal permits, the likelihood of being successfully implemented, impacts to wildlife and habitat, impacts to tourism, legal ramifications, and potential negative downdrift impacts. Foth will coordinate with the city prior to execution of the work to identify any constraints that City Council would like to consider as part of the alternative evaluation. The work will be performed in two distinct tasks. These are:

1.0 **Literature and Beach Management Activity Review.** The Consultant will review existing data and information, that includes:

- Reports and recommendations from the Beach Ad Hoc Committee;
- Second Opinion from Foth | Olsen dated 9/29/2025;
- Prior beach management efforts;
- Planned future projects, including USACE projects on the southern end;
- Beach monitoring reports and surveys;
- Existing imagery to understand inlet shoal bypass events; and
- Information included on the Isle of Palms beach restoration webpage.

It is assumed that the City of Isle of Palms will supply the requisite historical documentation noted above for this review. Through the course of this review, the Consultant may identify additional data and reports beyond those listed above that may be included in the assessment. The Consultant shall also meet virtually with the US Army Corps of Engineers to gain an understanding of the Corps' future plans at Isle of Palms.

2.0 **Alternatives Analysis Summary Report.** The Consultant shall perform analyses that explore the probable feasibility of each of the alternatives noted above. The work shall include development of:

- Opinions on the feasibility of each practice and method listed above;
- Opinions on possible benefits and detriments of each of the identified alternatives;
- Opinions on the probability of successfully permitting and constructing;
- Opinions on the probable cost (initial and 20 years into the future) of each of the identified alternatives;
- Opinions on lifespan of each of the identified alternatives before complete replacement is necessary;
- Conceptual renderings or photographs of real-life examples of what the alternatives would look like from the ground; and
- Summary of expected financial benefit or expense each alternative would achieve over the course of ten years or other meaningful timeline.

The work will be summarized in an engineering report suitable for presentation to the city, City Council, and public and private stakeholders.

Deliverables: Foth shall prepare and submit a report that summarizes the findings, opinions, and recommendations. Foth will also present these findings in-person to City Council at Isle of Palms. The report will be submitted to the city in electronic PDF format.

Fee: The total fee to complete the scope of work described herein is \$92,500.00, lump sum.

Disclaimer: This scope of work and budget does not provide for the collection of new physical, new environmental data or numerical modeling. Should the city decide that additional data, analyses, and modeling be required to facilitate beach program decision making, we will be happy to discuss additional scope and budget required to support the city in such endeavors.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal to the City of Isle of Palms. We are available any time to discuss any questions that you may have regarding our proposed scope of work and budget.

Sincerely,



Christopher Creed, P.E.
Senior Coastal Engineer and Client Team Leader



Albert E. Browder, Ph.D., P.E.
Senior Coastal Engineer and Client Team Leader