



BEACH PROJECT UPDATE (7-27-2019)

In light of the setbacks we're currently experiencing with the Army Corps of Engineers I decided to reach out to Marinex Construction, the low bidder on the town's project last year, to see what their work schedule looks like for fall 2019/winter 2020. Marinex informed me that their dredge is currently sitting, although they have 2 projects they're in the process of bidding on. One project has a bid due date of July 31 and the other is due sometime in August, and if awarded it would tie them up for the next 2 years.

As far as our project goes, they could only provide information about their current near term availability since their circumstances could drastically change if awarded one of the projects they're bidding. Marinex confirmed that they would honor their bid price from last year and reduce the cost of mobilization by \$459,000. They would also lower the unit price for additional sand to \$9.25 per cy, down from their original per cy price of \$10.33, and they want to start the project on October 1. Our permits don't allow for a start date prior to November 1, but the town's coastal engineer is confident OCRM will allow for a permit modification provided all turtle activity on the island comes to end before then.

The town's project entails a base bid project of 700k cubic yards of sand with the option of adding up to an additional 400k cy. Based on Marinex's original bid from last year, the 700k cy project would've required the Town to borrow around \$1.2m. Given the new Marinex pricing, an additional \$400k in the beach fund and good portion of the engineering costs already paid for, the same project today would require borrowing \$300k. The full 1.1m cy project would've required borrowing \$3.6m last year, but this fall it can be accomplished by borrowing \$2.5m.

Whether or not Marinex will be working on our project has an affect on how they will bid these other projects, so their current offer is predicated on the Town providing them with an answer by July 30th, before they submit their bid on one of the other projects.

On Wednesday I presented Town Council with this opportunity for their consideration, and last night they convened for a special meeting to discuss and evaluate the offer. Coastal Science and Engineering was present at the meeting to answer any questions council had regarding the project. No decisions were made and another special council meeting has been scheduled for Monday morning at 9:00am.

We realize this is a very short timeframe in which to make such an important decision, but I can assure you council's decision will be an informed one. The original town project took almost 3 years to plan before it ultimately went out for bid and none of the details about the project have changed other than the price and construction timeframe. Please watch the recording of the June 2018 public meeting regarding the project if you'd like a refresher about the details. It can be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=Gm40eAxyWzg

You can also find more information about the project on the town's website at <https://www.townofpawleysisland.com/beach-renourishment/>

If you have questions or comments you'd like for council to consider before deciding on this issue, please email them to info@townofpi.com