



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People. **Healthy Communities.**

SC Beach Preservation Technical Advisory Committee

Kickoff Meeting
October 12, 2021

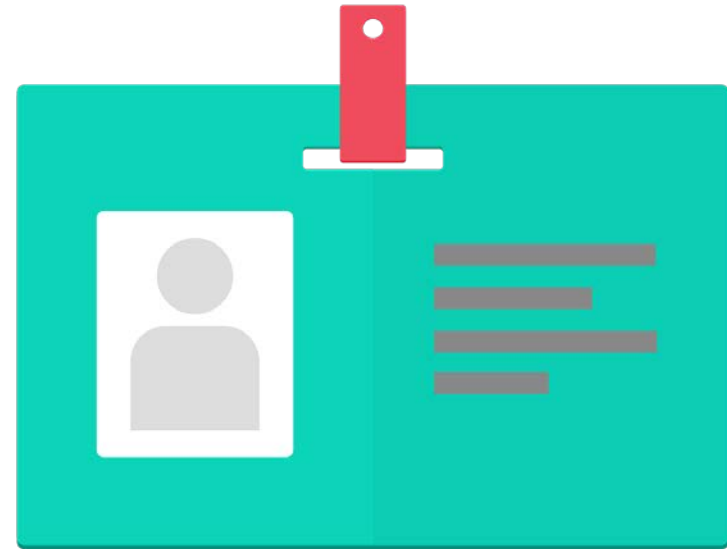


Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- SC Beachfront Management: History & Overview
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - Topics for Discussion
 - Process, Timeline, and Expectations
 - Immediate Next Steps
- Shoreline Stabilization Topic Introduction
- Discussion

Introductions

- Name
- Affiliation
- Expertise or experience you are excited to share as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)





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South Carolina Beachfront Management: History and Overview

Beachfront Management History

SC Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act 1977-1988

Policy: Protect the quality of the coastal environment and promote the economic and social improvement of the coastal zone and of all the people of the State.

- Limited beachfront jurisdiction
- “Critical Line” set at the landward toe of the primary dune, or at the erosion scarp line for eroding beaches
- No jurisdiction landward of this line
- Seawalls routinely permitted



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History

1987 Blue Ribbon Committee

- Appointed by SC Coastal Council in 1987
- Asked to propose long-term solutions to beach erosion issues, while **balancing public and private interests**
- Studied the effects of unregulated development and the proliferation of seawalls
- Recommended changes to the 1977 SC Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act, resulting in the **1988 Beachfront Management Act (BMA)**

History

1988 Beachfront Management Act (BMA)

- Created two new lines of beachfront jurisdiction (baseline and setback line)
- Initially, no new construction was allowed seaward of the baseline
- Limited construction between the baseline and setback line
- No new seawalls allowed
- Existing seawalls, if destroyed, could be replaced with sloping structures 10 feet from the building foundation

History



Isle of Palms, Wild Dunes, 2 oceanfront lots

1990 Revisions to BMA following Lucas case

- Construction seaward of the baseline could now be authorized under a “Special Permit” in certain circumstances
- Destroyed seawalls cannot be rebuilt

History

**2007-2010 Shoreline
Change Advisory
Committee (SCAC)**



**2010-2013 Blue Ribbon
Committee (BRC) on
Shoreline Management**

- SCAC reaffirmed policies of BMA and identified 4 broad goals and 13 recommendations for shoreline management
- BRC considered SCAC work and developed 16 policy and regulatory recommendations for beachfront
- DHEC initiated internal policy changes and promulgated regulations based on BRC recommendations



History

2016 Coastal zone critical areas (Act 197)

Statutory changes based on BRC recommendations:

- No seaward movement of baseline after December 31, 2017
- Requires bonds for removal, prior to issuing sandbag Emergency Orders



History

2018 Beachfront Management Reform Act (Act 173)

- Established the beachfront jurisdictional lines for the 2016-2018 cycle (most seaward line)
- **Replaced “retreat policy” with “beach preservation policy”**
- Restricts any further seaward movement of baseline
- Amended administrative processes, timelines and public input requirements
- Required promulgation of “Primary Oceanfront Sand Dune” definition

History

2018

**Beachfront Jurisdictional
Line Stakeholder
Workgroup**



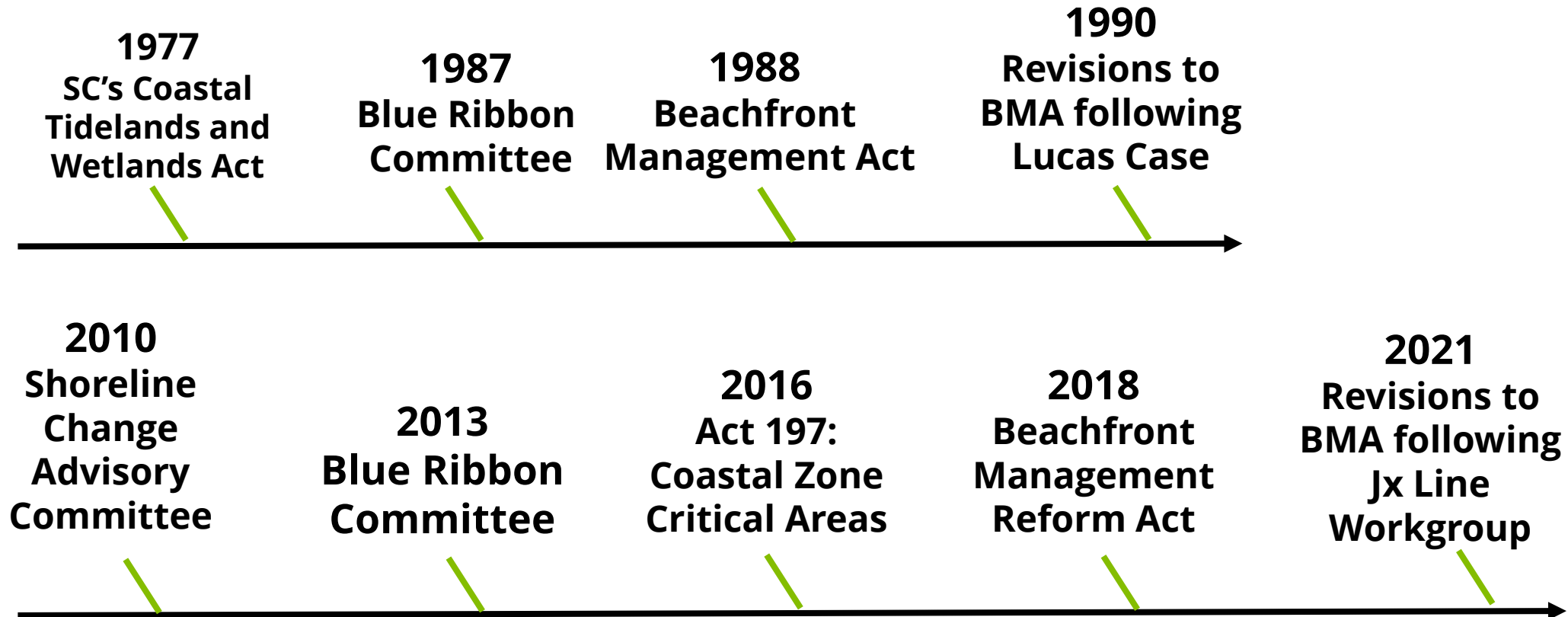
- Recommended definition of Primary Dune
- Identified additional processes to establish baseline
- Considered timing of renourishment projects during jurisdictional line review cycle

Act 41 of 2021

- Revises methods for establishing baseline in standard zone when:
 - Primary oceanfront sand dune is more than 20 feet from current line of vegetation
 - No primary oceanfront sand dune exists



Timeline Summary





Prior to 2018, the BMA adopted **retreat** and renourishment as the basic state policy towards preserving and restoring the beaches of the state (R.30-1.C(6))

Act 173 of 2018 revised the BMA to establish a policy of beach **preservation**.

What does this policy mean?

How is this policy implemented?



Policy Statements: § 48-39-260

Protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the beach/dune system, the highest and best uses of which are declared to provide:

- (a) Protection of life and property by acting as buffers
- (b) Source for the preservation of dry sand beaches which provide recreation and a major source of revenue
- (c) An environment which harbors natural beauty
- (d) Natural habitat for indigenous flora and fauna

Severely restrict the use of hard erosion control devices

Encourage the use of erosion-inhibiting techniques [soft solutions] that do not have long-term adverse impact

Promote carefully planned nourishment as a means of beach preservation and restoration

Preserve and enhance public access to assure full access by all citizens

Involve local governments in long-range beach management planning

The Beach/Dune System is a...

Public Resource

- Provides space and opportunities for recreation
- Natural beauty enhances the well-being of the citizens of SC and its visitors



The Beach/Dune System is an...

Environmental Resource

- Provides habitat for indigenous plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species
- Serves as a sand source for the preservation of dry sand beaches



The Beach/Dune System provides...

Coastal Protection

- Absorbs wave impacts during storms and helps protect natural and man-made features behind it



The Beach/Dune System is an...

Economic Resource

- All of these rely on a dry sand beach
 - Beach visitors
 - Accommodations tax
 - Real estate investments
- Tourism & recreation revenue generated in beach communities estimated btw \$1.52 billion - \$3.09 billion per year (SC Sea Grant, 2021)
- 2018 A-tax: \$30.37 million from beach communities (SCPRT, 2019b)



Question





South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC Charge & Expected Outcomes

Examine

Examine research and information

- Shoreline Stabilization
- Beach Nourishment
- Dune Restoration
- Land Management

Evaluate

Evaluate existing and alternative shoreline policies

- Current state statutes and regulations

Inform

Inform the SC Beach Preservation Committee

- Final Report summarizing:
 - Discussion and deliberation
 - Policy options for consideration

Topics for Discussion

In 2018, the South Carolina Beachfront Management Act (Act) was amended, and a new policy of beach preservation was adopted. In light of this change and the increasingly complex challenges faced by local and state governments, there is a need to evaluate current and future beachfront management tools.

**Beach Nourishment
Dune Restoration**



Shoreline Stabilization

Land Management

SC Beach Preservation Process



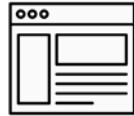
TAC Timeline





Identify Meeting Dates

A Doodle Poll will be sent following the kickoff meeting to identify dates/times for the November, December, and January meetings



Beach Preservation Committee Webpage

A webpage with information about the Beach Preservation Committee and TAC will be created on OCRM's website. Meeting materials and other relevant information will be made available on this page



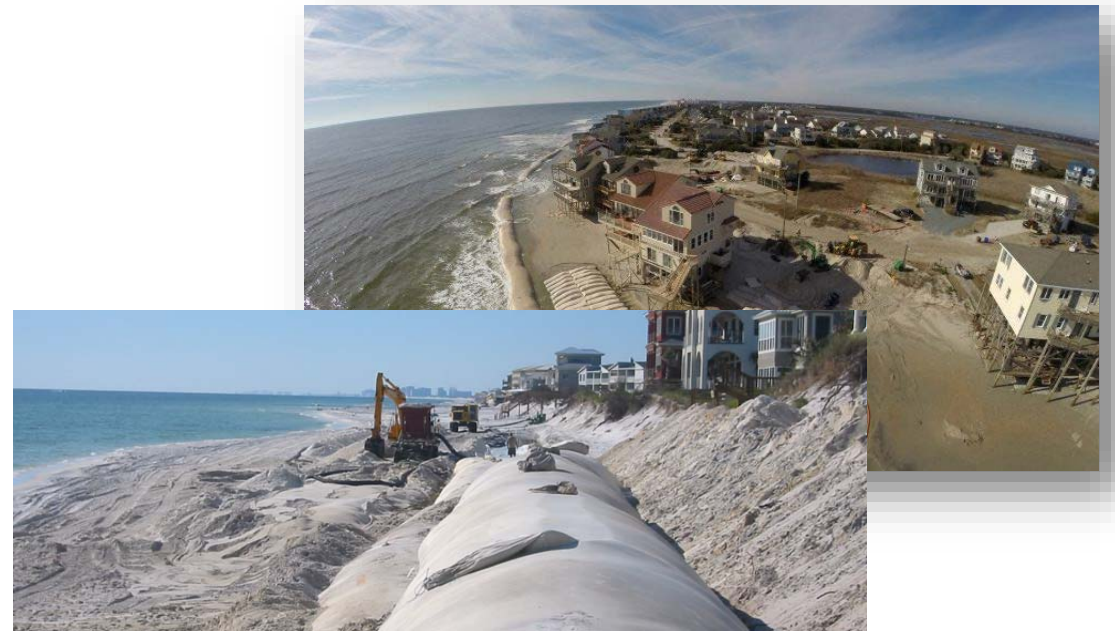
Public Input

We are exploring several methods by which the general public and interested stakeholders can provide feedback and input to the TAC.

Next Steps

Shoreline Stabilization

- Current OCRM Options
- Challenges
- “New” Technologies
- Wave Dissipation and Other Case Studies
- Process Pathway and Study Parameters





Discussion