Protecting Maine’s Beaches for the Future: 2017 Report Update

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History

- Over the years, the Legislature has discussed many coastal issues
- Numerous stakeholder groups (2004-2006, 2016)
- Some recommendations from 2006 report implemented, some delayed
- In 2016, L.D. 1254 *Resolve to Further Study the Implementation and Funding of a Beach Management Program* passed
History

2004-2006 Stakeholder group goals

- Reduce the threat or risk of erosion to beaches
- Enhance beachfront for habitat
- Enhance beach for recreation and tourism
- Improve public safety
- Improve coastal public access
- Protect residential and commercial development and public infrastructure
History

February 2006 Report to the Legislature

Protecting Maine’s Beaches for the Future

A Proposal to Create an Integrated Beach Management Program

A Report of the Beach Stakeholder’s Group to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources
122nd Maine Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

February 2006
2006 Report Implementation

Accomplished
- Revised Ch. 355 Sand Dune Rules to improve balance between development and hazard mitigation
- Improved habitat awareness and protection
- Continued beach mapping
- Improved educational materials for homeowners

Not Accomplished
- Recommendations to improve nourishment options and funding to support
Why are Beaches Important?

Importance of The Maine Beaches region to Maine’s tourist market:

- About 12 million visitors in 2015, 3.8% increase over 2014 and about 30.4% of all Maine visitors
- In 2015, visitors spent more than $1.6 billion, up 1.8% from 2014
- For 25% of overnight visitors and 35% of day visitors to Maine, Beaches region is their primary destination
- 4.46 million are overnight visitors and 7.55 million of those are day visitors

*Source: Maine Office of Tourism - DPA 2015 The Maine Beaches Regional Tourism Impact Estimates*
In 2015, Maine Beaches visitors spent more than $1.6 billion, up 1.8% over 2014.

2015 Total
$1.61 billion
Directives of L.D. 1254, Resolve to Further Study the Implementation and Funding of a Beach Management Program

- Update data & findings in 2006 report
- Implementation recommendations for an IBMP
- Comprehensive beach nourishment policy
- Implementation timeframes
- Public access easements
- If applicable, identify funding sources
Working Group Members

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Land Bureau Director, DEP

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Laura Zitske
Plover & Least Tern Proj Mgr, Maine Audubon Society
Updated Data and Findings

Working Group Updated…

- Tracked implementation of 2006 report recommendations;
- Economic assessment of The Beaches Area;
- Geologic profile changes with MGS data;
- Chronology of Significant Events;
- Wildlife Habitat Ranking;
- Compilation of Funding Options
Updated Data and Findings
Implementation Recommendations

Create a beach nourishment proposal process where...

- Applicants have a competitive opportunity for beach nourishment project funding
- Criteria ranking system for beach nourishment and management proposals
- More than one proposal can be approved

Additional recommendations...

- Update Ch. 418 Beneficial Use of Solid Waste rule
- Establish funding mechanism
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Comprehensive Beach Nourishment Policy

- Recommended Steps in the RFP Process

Step 1: Establish State funding amount
Step 2: Create a detailed request for proposals
Step 3: Have a team/board review proposals
Step 4: Team rates each proposal against set criteria
Step 5: Funding awarded to top scoring proposals
Implementation Timeframes

- Funding source determined
- RFP process can begins
- RFP review process by committee
  - Annual or biennial
Public Access Easements

- Public access easements are incorporated into the criteria the proposals will be ranked on.
- Responsibility on the project proposer to gain public access and easements.
- Higher consideration given to beaches with more public access.
Identifying Funding Options

Some funding sources discussed:
- Environmental Bond for Maine’s Beaches
- Tourism Infrastructure Bond
- Dedicated Use of Fines and Penalties
- Real Estate Transfer Tax (Regional)
- Local Option Sales Tax