



'The best ever':

2022 NCBIWA spring conference wrap-up

Some attendees are calling it "the best ever" NCBIWA spring conference. If you missed it, you missed out on updates about grants, pending legislation, technological advances, and protecting the coast.

Our May 4 keynote speaker was Congressman David Rouzer who shared Beltway insights and his efforts on behalf of our coastline. The following day, Congressman Dr. Greg Murphy joined us via video. We were joined by elected officials from both local and state as well.

Topics covered included an update from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard, Coastal Management, and a session by former Congressman Mike McIntyre on "the Sea of Possibilities."

Instructional and helpful sessions included a mini-workshop on how to access federal infrastructure funding and coastal towns shared their challenges and successes over flooding impacts. We learned about King Tides and resiliency programs.

We watched with fascination as Project Sentinel, a mobile instrument tower to gauge wind speed, storm surge and more, was installed next door to the conference hall.

The conference finished with a field trip to Emerald Isle to view firsthand effective erosion control.

More than 200 attended the spring conference. But, if you missed the conference, as a member, you could view the presentations on our website, www.ncbiwa.org.



Top: Emerald Isle Commissioner Jim Normile with N.C. Representatives Bobby Hanig, Pat McElraft and Carson Smith. Bottom: Brian Phillips Ph.D. with the Project Sentinel installation. Middle row, left to right: Braxton Davis, Director, N.C. Division of Coastal Management; Congressman David Rouzer; Lt. Greg Kennerley with the U.S. Coast Guard; and Spencer Rogers, retired NC Sea Grant.

Thanks to our NCBIWA Spring Conference sponsors



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From the chairman...

Welcome to the first official newsletter from the North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterways Association (NCBIWA). For those unfamiliar with our organization, we are a group of local, state and federal elected officials, attorneys, engineers, researchers and government staff members working together with the common goal of protecting and preserving our coast.

The newsletter will be published quarterly to provide the most up-to-date information on grant opportunities, governmental affairs, our events and much more. The newsletter will also provide our members the opportunity to showcase the work they do for our coast. Please share this newsletter with your friends and colleagues that have an interest in coastal issues and encourage them to get involved.

I also invite you to attend NCBIWA's upcoming fall conference, which will be held on Nov. 3-4, 2022, in Wilmington. The strength of our organization comes from all of our members working together with common goals and a shared vision for the future.

Join us as we continue to advocate for the protection and preservation of North Carolina's beaches, inlets and waterways through education and collaboration with key stakeholders. We look forward to a productive year and want to thank all our members for supporting our great organization. — **Bobby Outten, Chairman, North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association**



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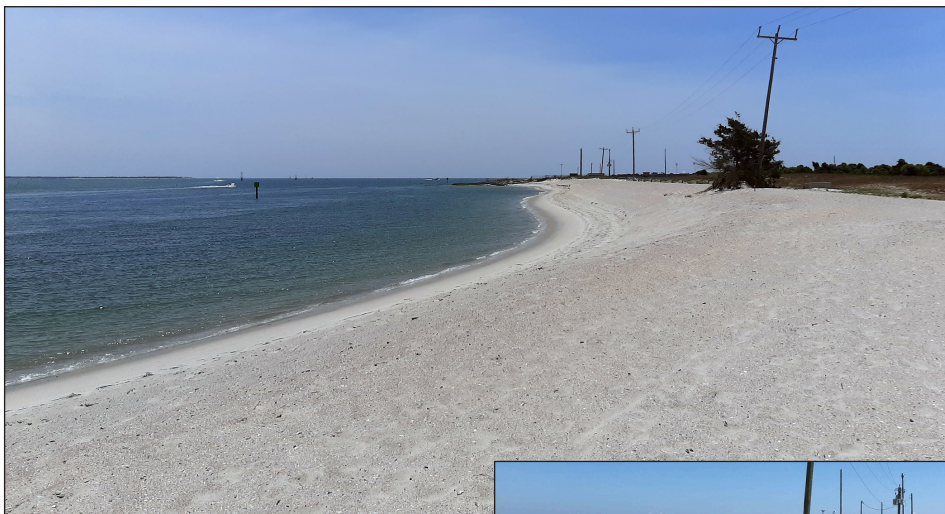
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Carteret County project completed

In mid-May 2022, Carteret County, in coordination with Moffatt & Nichol, engineer of record, and selected contractor, TD Eure, completed the maintenance excavation of the channel at East Taylors Creek. This 36,000-cubic-yard project also provided beneficially used dredged sand to nourish a severely eroded beach on Radio Island and provided infrastructure protection to Marine Road, a Military access road for the U.S. Marine Corps' Landing Craft Utility Ramp. Carteret County was successful in using awarded funds from the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) Program as matching funds for the Shallow Draft Navigation Chan-



nel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund with no out-of-pocket expense to the County. The boating public and visiting beachgoers were able to enjoy these amenities during the busy Memorial Day weekend. Before (above) and after (top) photographs depict the severity of erosion prior to sand placement. Please contact Ryan Davenport, Carteret County's Shoreline Protection Manager, with any questions (ryan.davenport@carteretcountync.gov).

NCBIWA's purpose is to:

- Educate elected officials and the public on the importance of beach nourishment and coastal preservation, sustainability and resiliency through the information presented at our annual meetings and conferences and;
- Advocate on behalf of our members on the Local, State and Federal levels to promote funding for coastal infrastructure including beach nourishment, storm damage mitigation and;
- Encourage the use of science and technology to advance coastal research by governmental and non-governmental organizations and;
- Promote the routine maintenance of federal navigation channels, including the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway, and the proper best use of coastal sediment: better known as Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM).

2022 ASBPA Best Restored
Beach Award Winner:

Ocean Isle Beach Shoreline Protection Project honored

After over 30 years of watching homes, roadways, and infrastructure disappear into the Atlantic Ocean near Shallotte Inlet, the Town of Ocean Isle Beach completed its long-awaited terminal groin project aimed at reducing erosion and protecting public and private development on the east end of the island. Faced with chronic erosion along portions of the oceanfront shoreline, the Town worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to implement the Town's Federal Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) beach nourishment project in 2001.

While the CSRM project was authorized to provide nourishment along a 3.25-mile section of the Town's oceanfront shoreline, it did not include the easternmost portion of the island due to high rates of erosion associated with Shallotte Inlet. In 2007, during a federal re-nourishment project, the Town placed sand as an add-on project in an attempt to protect the eastern end of the island. The additional sand was short-lived and within a few months it had eroded away and the high tides were again threatening roads and homes. In response, an approximately

1,500 ft-long sandbag revetment was constructed by the Town and various private property owners as another attempt to protect their investments.

Recognizing the need for a more adaptive approach at managing the Town's overall shoreline management program, the Town retained Coastal Protection Engineering of North Carolina, Inc. (CPE) in 2011 to begin exploring alternatives to provide protection along the east end of the island. The results suggested that the construction of a terminal groin located just east of the easternmost development of the island could serve as a feasible solution.

The Town then worked with CPE to move forward with the design and permitting process for the proposed terminal groin project, formally called the "Ocean Isle Beach Shoreline Protection Project." The project would consist of constructing a 1,050-foot

terminal groin structure and associated beach fill along an approximate 3,000 ft stretch of shoreline. By 2017, permits were obtained, and the Town was poised to implement the much-anticipated project when litigation delayed construction.

By March 2021, the litigation was resolved, and the Town moved forward with implementing the project. Fortunately, the construction of the terminal groin coincided with the USACE's sixth CSRM nourishment project. This allowed the Town to make use of the USACE's dredging contractor to provide the required fill within the terminal groin's fillet without having to incur additional mobilization/demobilization costs. The terminal groin structure was constructed by Coastal Design & Construction (CDC) between mid-November 2021 and mid-April 2022. The CSRM project and the terminal groin's associated fillet was constructed by Norfolk Dredging, Inc. between mid-February and early April 2022.

The goal of ASBPA's Annual Best Restored Beaches award is to acknowledge community beach restoration projects which increase a shoreline's resiliency, the beach's ability to mitigate storm damage and flooding from severe storms, and naturally allow the beach to adjust to short-term sea level rise while remaining an important part of the nearshore ecosystem. The June

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State opens up funding for navigation dredging

On Monday July 11, Governor Cooper signed into law the \$27.9 billion state budget plan (H103). Of particular interest to our coast, is the section to amend the Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund (Fund) to allow “Any project funded by revenue from the Fund must be cost-shared with non-State dollars... shall be at least one non-State dollar for every three dollars from the Fund.” This is great news for the entire coast as it will allow more local governments to apply for such funds.

To read the bill go to: <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2021/h103>. The language is on page 124.

Movement expected on appropriations bills

The U.S. House of Representatives are moving ahead on consideration of appropriation bills next week.

In a press release on July 11, the House Appropriations Committee announced that six appropriations bills will be brought to the full House of Representatives for consideration and voting. The six bills are Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food

and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies; Financial Services and General Government; Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. You can find the press release for links to bill summaries, bill text and associated reports at: <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-to-consider-appropriations-bills-next-week-0>.

In the U.S. Senate, the Appropriations Committee announced on July 12 that it expects to publicly release their versions of the appropriations bills by the end of July. — **Article courtesy ASBPA.**

Corps of Engineers releases FY22 plan

On May 25, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released the FY22 work plan. Per the FY22 omnibus appropriations bill which the President signed on March 15, the Corps was directed to produce a work plan within 60-days to provide additional funding for authorized Corps projects funded in the FY22 appropriations bill, as well as to provide funding for authorized Corps projects that were not funded by the FY22 appropriations bill (either as a President’s budget request or a Member-requested community-funded project).

Here is a [link \(https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/\)](https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Budget page which has the links to all of the Corps of Engineers information for FY22 and previous appropriations bills. The FY22 work plan was initially shared with Congress on May 20, but due to ongoing conversations with the Office of Management & Budget the public release of the work

plan was delayed until May 25. — **Article courtesy ASBPA.**

Approval of WRDA 2022 looking good

Movement is continuing on the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 2022). During May, both the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have voted unanimously to approve their versions of WRDA 2022.

Not surprisingly, the two versions have significant differences that will need to be resolved prior to final passage, and ASBPA has submitted letters of support for Congressional commitment to develop a final bill this year. There is not yet a timeline for consideration by the full Senate and House of Representatives, but this is a positive step forward and builds hope that WRDA will be passed prior to Congress returning home for the sprint to the mid-term elections.

In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released their call for Section 7001 proposals. This process was created in WRDA 2014 as a way to work around the previous earmark ban. While earmarks returned in FY22, this process still provides non-federal sponsors with the opportunity to submit study requests and modifications to authorized projects through an agency review process.

Interested non-federal sponsors have until Aug. 29, 2022, to submit Section 7001 proposals. In turn, the Administration is required to provide a corresponding report to Congress by February 2023. Submit proposals online at: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/WRRDA-7001-Proposals/> — **Article courtesy ASBPA.**

Coastal Grant Opportunities:

- [Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#) — open through September 6, 2022
- [Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities](#) — open through September 30, 2022
- [Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants](#) — Letters of Intent open through July 29, 2022
- [National Estuarine Research Reserve System Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants](#) — Letters of Intent open through July 29, 2022
- [Marine Debris Removal Grants](#) — open through September 30, 2022
- [Marine Debris Community Action Coalitions](#) — Letters of Intent open through August 16, 2022 (must be submitted through a Sea Grant program)
- [Marine Debris Challenge Competition](#) — Letters of Intent open through August 9, 2022 (must be submitted through a Sea Grant program)
- [Tribal Engagement in Regional Ocean Partnership Priorities](#) — open through September 13, 2022
- [Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#) — open through August 15, 2022
- [Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#) — open through August 29, 2022

Welcome, new members

NCBIWA would like to welcome its newest members:

■ **Anchor QEA**, a nationally recognized coastal and environmental engineering consulting firm that specializes in aquatic, shoreline, and water resource projects.

■ **Choice Flood Insurance, LLC**, a premier flood insurance agency offering federally-backed National Flood Insurance (NFIP), private, excess, residential, commercial and condo flood policies across the country.

■ **Civic Federal Credit Union's** vision is "people helping people," and believes that people, purpose and

prosperity is key to bridging the gap between communities and banking.

■ **Geodynamics**, a company that provides data products to support clients' multi-disciplinary needs.

■ **NATRX** protects shorelines and coastal environments by combining its proprietary digital intelligence platform with advanced manufacturing capabilities to deliver habitat-specific resilience systems that harness and support the adaptive power of nature.

■ ■ ■

Add your name to this list and help protect and preserve North Carolina's coastal communities through collaboration, education and knowledge. Go to <https://www.ncbiwa.org/membership/join-today/> for details.

Ocean Isle

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10, 2022 press release from ASBPA included the following: "Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina has recognized the value of restoring and protecting their beaches since the creation of a dedicated local funding source in 1989. With long-term planning,

continued adaptive management of multiple shore protection projects, Ocean Isle Beach has created improved beach conditions for recreation and habitat for biological resources and has successfully mitigated the chronic erosion on the east end of the project."



NCBIWA Fall Conference

Join us on

**Thursday-Friday,
Nov. 3-4, 2022**

at The Terraces On Sir Tyler,
1826 Sir Tyler Drive,
Wilmington, NC 28405

**Call for abstracts open
until Aug. 31, 2022**

For more more information, go to <https://www.ncbiwa.org/events/upcoming-events/>

Coastal Resilience meeting

The N.C. Coastal Resilience Community of Practice, organized by the [N.C. Coastal Reserve](#) and [Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership](#), aims to bring together diverse coastal stakeholders to focus on how ecosystem resilience can build local community resilience. Our informal networking group meets virtually quarterly and membership includes state, regional, and local partners from all sectors. Our meetings include presentations from experts, discussions on partner projects, and partner resilience work updates. Anyone working on or interested in coastal resilience issues in North Carolina is welcome to join. Our next meeting is on Monday, Sept. 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. View past meeting agendas and notes here: <https://deq.nc.gov/coastal-resilience-community-practice>. To join our group, contact Whitney Jenkins at whitney.jenkins@ncdenr.gov.