

LITTLE BEACH – FEMA GRANT

The Bonnet Shores Fire District is pleased to announce that we were recently awarded a FEMA grant to survey the water off of Little Beach. This survey is designed to look at the factors that may be contributing to the coastal erosion and change in sand and rock location that have occurred over time along the coastline at Little Beach. The grant application was submitted in January 2021 and the funding was announced last week. The work planned is briefly outlined below. We will be sending more details as the phases are started and plan to keep resident updated on the results of each phase as they are available.

Components of the Study plan

1. Baseline Studies

Baseline studies are needed to understanding the possible causes for the erosion that has occurred and will include sediment and seaweed transport processes within the area to be surveyed. This information will be used to develop conceptual plan options as to how to limit the erosion. These studies will include mapping of the sea grass off the coast of Little Beach and wave height and circulation patterns of the water in the area to be studied. This phase is expected to last for nine months.

2. Develop and Evaluate Conceptual Alternative Engineering Plans for the Study Area

This phase uses the information obtained in Phase 1 to evaluate engineering solutions for the study area that would have as the objective to slow or decrease erosion of the coastline.

3. Develop a Conceptual Shoreline modification Plan

This phase will utilize the information derived from the first two phases to develop a user and environmentally friendly plan for the Little Beach shoreline.

Timing of the Study

The study is planned as an 18 month study that will start by the end of August 2022 with the Baseline studies. Components 2 and 3 will start by January 2023 and will be completed in March 2024.

People who made this award possible:

Bill Delgizzo and Janice McClanahan initially met with Dr. King to try and figure out how to improve and preserve the coastline at Little Beach.

Janice McClanahan was also very generous with her time and knowledge for the completion of the grant application.

Bill Delgizzo also stayed in contact with Sen Sheldon Whitehouse's office, who was helpful during the award process.

Michael J. DeLuca, AICP, Director of Community Development, Town of Narragansett, initially sent the grant announcement to us. He saw it in an email he had received from Sen Whitehouse's office. He was also very generous with his time and knowledge by providing critical information needed for the grant application.

Melinda Hopkins, CFM, Mitigation Planning Supervisor & State Hazard Mitigation Officer, RI – EMA, was very helpful and patient during the wait for the funding.

Mary Flynn coordinated the information needed for the grant application, entered the data, and was the liaison to EMA during the award process.