

April 28, 2025 Sustainability commission meeting

Joie, Wendy, Will, Patrick, Jeff, Bev, Brad

Audience: David Plavin, Kevin Roche, Ken, Kathy

April 7 meeting minute approval

Wendy motion to approve

Joie second

Unanimous approval

Presentation from Art Cleaves and Chris McCall

York County EMA – resilience, disaster recovery, FMEA

Preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation

Resilience after January 2024 storms

York County Coastal Sand Dune Restoration and Protection Initiative

Roby Fecteau is Biddeford emergency management contact

Why York EMA got involved with dunes and beaches: January 2024 wiped out dunes, when the public assistance declaration was made, YCEMA got involved. This storm was different – the first time towns/cities wanted to get money to restore the sand/beach.

Every coastal town in York County saw coastal damage

Category B vs Category G –

B – emergency protective measures, 5-year storm

G – long-term 100-year storm

Both require extensive engineering work – need to show documentation and engineering schematics

We need to develop plans to engineer our beaches so that our communities become category G eligible for damage from future storms

We can currently get 90% cost-share on category B, need to work towards the same for G

Flood Mitigation Assistance - \$544,415 for Biddeford for Category G design

CDA – including money for Biddeford (\$3 million)

\$75k would get us about 30% design

If we have Cat G beach – we need to maintain it every year and monitor it

UNE monitoring could help with this – but we need proper records to maintain these systems and be eligible for future reimbursement

SMPDC data show that beaches support 27,000 jobs and \$1.6B in tourism spending

Somewhere between 1:6 and 1:13 dollars spent in mitigation to money saved in the future

Focus on nature-based solutions that support wildlife

What YCEMA needs from us:

- Letters of support for grant applications

- Talk with state legislators – demonstrate value of mitigation efforts

Currently signed the MOU – Ogunquit, OOB, Saco, Wells

What is holding up MOU in Biddeford – City Manager needs to be resolved, council support purchase 5-4, but still not signed MOU

Senator Collins is leading the big CDM

Smaller amount to Congresswoman Pingree's office

Comprehensive beach management plan to highlight maintenance and monitoring costs to make it happen in Biddeford – dune grass planting, monitoring, dune maintenance – height

County and engineering firm is working on the Beach Management Plan

FEMA will pay for restoration on private property because it protects infrastructure if there is public access to the area that is being restored

Could we create a website on the City's website explaining the beach process around Cat G and B?

Can we get documentation from Art on FEMA help for private land and infrastructure?

Summit for coastal residents? Bring YC EMA and property owners together

Patrick – motion to approve minutes from March 24 with two spelling corrections

Joie seconds

Unanimous approval

We are doing the Earth Day celebration this weekend, might need to delay again with rain forecasted

Patrick – could we do a temporary bike lane out to Rotary Park for an event – pollinator festival for example?

Joie motion to adjourn

Patrick second to adjourn