

FRIPP INLET REVETMENT REPAIRS

October 2016

Hurricane Matthew, a category 2 hurricane, hit the barrier islands of South Carolina and the Lowcountry on October 8th. The Fripp Island Public Service District's Fripp Inlet revetment along Porpoise Drive was heavily damaged and sustained several major breaches.

Notwithstanding the damages, the revetment accomplished its intended purpose, with no loss of water or sewer lines and minimal damage to the road.

Upon gaining access to Fripp Island after evacuation orders were lifted, PSD Commissioners and staff began working immediately to repair the areas of the revetment that incurred the worst damage. Roger Wilson Construction LLC was contacted and asked to convert an existing approved proposal for revetment repairs to an emergency repair. Over the course of the next several weeks, Roger Wilson completed several temporary emergency repairs to the revetment, adding armor stone in the lowest areas to combat the effect of erosive wave action along the roadway, which could eventually endanger the District's water and sewer lines beneath the road.

The District submitted a Request for Public Assistance to FEMA for federal funds to assist in covering costs of hurricane-related damages to the revetment and a permit was obtained from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). Commissioners and staff also worked with the SC Department of Transportation to get permission to bring overweight vehicles loaded with armor stone across the Harbor River Bridge. Beaufort County was contacted and authorized the use of a vacant county-owned site on St. Helena Island that could be used as a temporary storage area for armor stone, if needed.

November 2016

Roger Wilson submitted a proposal to add additional rock to several areas of the revetment and the proposal was approved at the District's regular monthly meeting held on November 9th.

A survey of elevations at cross-sections along the revetment was done for comparison with the survey done by Coastal Science & Engineering in 2012, in order to determine the average loss of elevation along the revetment. It was determined that the loss of elevation from the top of the revetment ranges from 1 to 4 feet.

FEMA visited the island to assess the damages and advise the District on what steps must be taken to qualify for federal funding. FEMA informed the District that, in addition to continuing to follow the District's procurement code for retaining construction and professional services, it must also follow the more stringent federal procurement code for any projects that will receive federal funding. This means that all work done as part of the permanent revetment repairs must be competitively bid in a fair and equitable manner, and the award of any contract must be authorized by the District Commission.

The PSD solicited a proposal from Roger Wilson for a more comprehensive emergency repair of one of the most heavily damaged sections of the revetment in order to prevent further erosion

and undermining of the roadway in that area. Roger's proposal was approved at a special Commission meeting held on November 17th.

The District solicited proposals for professional engineering services for the permanent revetment repairs from several firms experienced in marine construction engineering.

December 2016

Roger Wilson completed the work approved at the November 17th special Commission meeting, and some additional minor work intended to help prevent water intrusion onto Porpoise Drive during high tide.

The Commission approved a proposal from McSweeney Engineers for professional engineering services for repair of the revetment at its regular monthly meeting on December 13th.

Pertinent Information

At the beginning of the current fiscal year, the District had a budgeted amount of \$30,000 for revetment repairs, and an emergency reserve of \$228,800. To date, including engineering services, the District has incurred a total expense of \$87,217 for revetment repairs and pledged an additional \$15,300 for engineering.

The District has a vacuum sewer line located within the road right-of-way adjacent to the revetment southeast of the intersection of Remora Drive and Porpoise Drive. Prior to beginning construction on that section of the revetment, the vacuum sewer line will need to be moved in order to protect it from damage caused by construction and heavy vehicles. The District has begun the process of soliciting proposals from engineering firms capable of engineering and design of this smaller, revetment-related project.

Given the necessity to comply with FEMA procurement, documentation, and environmental requirements, the District is moving as quickly as possible to repair the PSD-owned portion of the revetment. The District will continue to monitor the revetment conditions as we move forward with permanent repairs. Please be aware that until we are able to complete permanent repairs, high tide events, especially those accompanied by north and northeast winds, will continue to cause some flooding of the road and surrounding areas.

The Public Service District Commission and management would like to thank you for your patience as we work towards a complete repair of the revetment, and encourage you to call our office at any time for an update on the work. We'll also be updating our website with information and the latest work completed, so please check back often.

December 16, 2016