

Executive Summary – Bay Beach Nourishment Project Coordination with Slaughter Beach

Meeting Date: November 10, 2025

Prepared by: DNREC – Shoreline and Waterway Management Section

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), through its Shoreline and Waterway Management Section (SWMS), is advancing the Bay Beach Nourishment Project—a major coastal resilience and habitat restoration initiative designed to enhance the Delaware Bay shoreline and improve public recreational access. This project represents a significant public investment in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), with an estimated total cost of approximately \$60 million.

Timeline*:

- USACE Design – ongoing through Summer 2026
- DNREC Real-estate – now thru Spring 2026
- Potential project implementation – Fall 2026

****subject to change based on funding and real estate processes.***

Key Discussion Topics

1. Shoreline Public Access Guidelines

Under DNREC's *Shoreline Public Access Guidelines*

(<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/beaches/public-access/>), all state- and federally-funded beach nourishment projects must provide reasonable and equitable public access consistent with State shoreline and federal funding requirements. This includes:

- **Public beach crossovers** spaced approximately every ¼ mile along the nourished shoreline.
- **Adequate public parking** to support each designated public access point.

DNREC seeks Slaughter Beach's leadership in identifying and coordinating viable public access and parking solutions within existing rights-of-way or adjacent privately-owned parcels to satisfy these requirements prior to construction.

Site-Specific Access Considerations

- **Slaughter Beach:** Existing beach crossovers and existing parking should be identified. Additional public beach crossovers and parking locations should be explored per the feasibility analysis.

2. Perpetual Easements

To enable construction and long-term maintenance of the nourishment template, perpetual easements must be secured over all participating properties within the project footprint. These easements authorize DNREC and its federal partners to perform beach fill placement, maintenance, and future renourishment activities (pending funding availability). Coordination with the community is critical to support title verification, property owner outreach, and recordation logistics to ensure compliance with USACE project delivery requirements.

- Slaughter Beach
 - Approx. 106 private property easements
 - 1 private road easement (Isaac Shores Drive)

Next Steps

- Confirm Slaughter Beach's role in facilitating a Shorelines Public Access Plan
- Coordinate on easement outreach and documentation procedures.