

Army Corps awards Cape May beach replenishment contract

PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District awarded a \$7.6 million contract to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co. of Oak Brook, Ill., to complete periodic nourishment of the Cape May Inlet to Lower Township Coastal Storm Risk Management project.

The project is a joint effort of the Army Corps'

Philadelphia District, the U.S. Coast Guard and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The contract calls for dredging about 240,000 cubic yards of sand from a borrow area about 2.6 miles south of the Cape May Inlet jetties. The sand will be pumped onto the beach at two locations:

U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May property, south of the jetty, and between Brooklyn Avenue and northeast of Wilmington Avenue in Cape May.

The sand is then built into the engineered template, which is designed to reduce damage from coastal storm events. Great Lakes Dredge and Dock is expected to begin dredging

and beach fill operations in the fall. The Army Corps and Coast Guard are funding about 90 percent of the costs and the DEP is funding about 10 percent of the costs.

The Cape May Inlet to Lower Township beach fill project is located on the Atlantic coast of New Jersey, extending from the southwest jetty of Cape

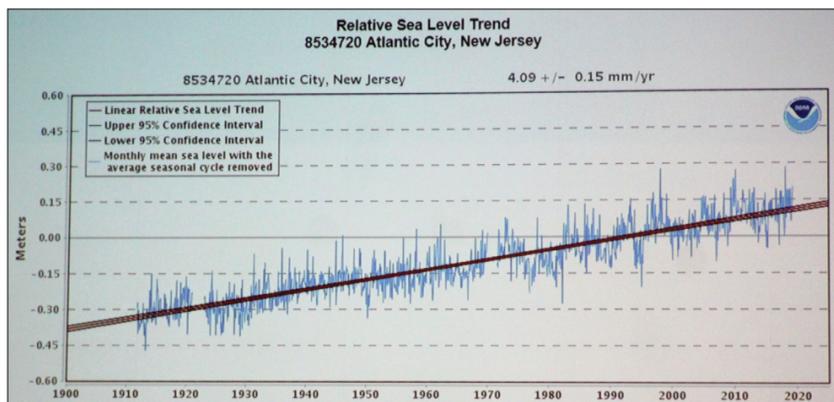
May Inlet to 3rd Avenue in Cape May. It includes Cape May, a small portion of Lower Township beach and Coast Guard Training Center Cape May.

The initial construction of a 25- to 180-foot-wide berm at elevation 6.7 feet was completed in 1991.

Beach replenish had been scheduled for this past winter but was postponed until after the summer season due to the Coast Guard not having its funding in place.

Cape May receives beach replenishment every two years on a 50-year contract from the Army Corps for mitigation for the federal government building the Cape May Inlet jetty, which blocks the natural flow of sand.

Climate change



Continued from Page A1

if you will. I guess right now we're about three and half degrees Fahrenheit warmer on average than we were in the early 1900s," she said.

The northeast portion of the U.S. has seen an increase in intense rainfall events both in the number of inches in an event as well as the number of inches per hour. Tedesco said the northeast has seen a 55 percent increase in those events since the mid-1950s.

For sea level rise, a sensor in Atlantic City measures the water level every 15 minutes. It has recorded a 6-inch rise since the 1980s, she said. The rate of

rise in the past 25 years is more than double the rate the ocean was rising during 100 years of the Atlantic City records.

Tedesco said since 1965, New Jersey is in a rise rate of 1.5 feet per century.

"The projections are we will see an additional 1 to 1.8 feet of rise from where we are now by 2050," she said.

It used to be a big deal when coastal meadows flooded but now it happens eight to 12 times per month, Tedesco said. One of the reasons the sea level is rising faster in New Jersey is the land is sinking, a product of the ice ages of long ago, she said.

"If we were to let our beaches and our marshes

move, we would be OK. But instead we built infrastructure and roadways and houses and we said 'this is where our beach is going to be,'" Tedesco said. "So our barrier islands can't move and when they try to move, they do so during storm events."

She said a product of that is beach erosion as well as marshes "drowning" with too much water. Tedesco said the rate of rise is now exceeding the ability of ecosystems to keep up.

Projections predict increased major storm intensity and frequency while at the same time the ocean is rising, giving storms the ability to cause more damage, she said.

Munroe said the increase



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Members of the panel discussion on climate change held July 24 at Lower Cape May Regional High School include Lenore Tedesco, left, Daphne Munroe, Jenny Shinn and Dr. George DiFerdinando Jr.

in rainfall events has a major impact on oysters in Delaware Bay. Excessive rainfall affects the salinity of the bay from freshwater runoff from land.

"If the salinity decreases far enough, the oysters will die," Munroe said.

July 24 marked the 400th day of continuous low salinity over the oyster beds in Delaware Bay due to rainfall event after rainfall event, she said.

Shinn said oysters are important for the fishing

industry and ecosystem since they filter the water.

DiFerdinando said climate change can be approached by mitigation to either decrease or stop it, or adaptation, which is learning to live with the problems it causes.

"I have to change how I am exposed to heat, to the air, to the insects around me. I have to change my own behavior to protect myself, not to just protect the planet," he said.

Tedesco, whose office

overlooks marshland, said 4 feet of sea level rise is possible by 2100.

"I think about the rate of change in all these ecosystems and all the wonderful diversity of life and the richness that's out there that I see, and think 'That's not going to be there,'" she said.

Shinn said she has a 1-year-old son and wonders how the world will look in the future.

Tedesco said a "voice" is needed to address climate change.

"If we put as much energy as a society into solving some of these things and adapting instead of arguing about it and fighting about it, we'd probably get somewhere," she said. "I'm just dumbfounded by the fact that we're still having a conversation with people that are denying climate change."

Michael Hill, an NJTV anchor and reporter who moderated the event, said it was noted in a conversation he had about climate change that there is a doubt about the science of climate change in the highest office in the nation.

He said it's a wakeup call for individuals, for nonprofits, for scientists, for researchers, because with that doubt, the science must be presented with solutions.

DiFerdinando said he would ask a doubter if they were waiting for the president to lead their community to adapting to climate change.

"People have to raise their voices and really demand change," Tedesco said.

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MOON PHASES
First quarter, Aug. 7 • full moon, Aug. 15

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