

**TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH  
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP  
March 14, 2022**

Members present for the hearing were: Rosemary Hardiman, Mayor; who presided; Lew Killmer, Bruce Frye and Scott Edmonston.

Excused Members: Faith Denault, Patrick Sheplee and Jerry Morris.

Also present were: Cliff Graviet; Town Manager; Terry Tieman, Assistant Town Manager; Molly Daisey, Administrative Assistant and Will

Review and discussion regarding moving forward with a contract for \$251,500 in fiscal year 2023 with the engineering firm McCormick Taylor to produce a 30% preliminary design for the Loop Canal Dam Structure

Mr. Graviet stated that the Town is now in a position to do something that would have impact on flooding in Bethany Beach. This would be a 39% preliminary design plan. A number of engineering firms have been involved in this. Several years ago the Army Corps of Engineers was also involved. There was a study done on the possible impacts of installing a Bladder Dam. And possible impacts in the Assawoman Canal.

After a search in the tristate area, McCormick Taylor came highly recommended. They were able to complete a two-dimensional study. The Town will use McCormick Taylor on the final report on the impact to the community and in the Assawoman of the construction of a bladder dam.

The height that would work best for a protentional dam is a bladder dam that would inflate to a height of 3 feet. The report they completed (that is also available on the Town's website). The lead engineer, Chris Brooks, has met with an briefed the Stormwater and Flooding Committee.

The report showed little to no impact on the Assawoman and surrounding communities, specifically, Ocean View. It should an astounding impact for Bethany Beach. Over 10% of the year Bethany Beach was inundated with flooding in the normal area it usually floods. The study tells us that that had the bladder dam had been deployed, that flooding would not have happened. As soon as water hits 3 feet in the Assawoman, it would self-regulate.

McCormick Taylor is comfortable doing a 30% design review that would be detailed enough, going to a 60/65% design review would not be needed.

McCormick Taylor will be present at the Town Council Meeting this Friday to answer any questions the Council has.

Once authorized to do the work, McCormick Taylor believes this can be accomplished in 6-8 months.

The workshop was adjourned at 10:55 AM