

BHI Beach Project Workshops Coming In August  
By: Peter A. Ravella, President, PARC

On August 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., the Village and Peter A. Ravella Consulting (PARC) will host the first of two workshops to discuss how best to finance the Village's "Engineered Beach Project." The second workshop will be held August 23 from 10:00 am to Noon. Both events will take place at the BHI Association Center.

Now in the design and permitting process, the Engineered Beach Project will place about 1.86 million cubic yards of sand on the entire length of South Beach and another 150,000 cubic yards on West Beach. If the permitting proceeds as expected, the beach project will be constructed between November 2009 and May 2010.

The project is needed because the South Beach and West Beach continue to erode and current sand placement efforts by the Corps of Engineers are not enough to offset the annual sand losses. The Wilmington Harbor channel does make the erosion worse and that is why the Corps is required to place about a million cubic yards of sand on BHI beaches almost every other year, on a repeating two-year placement cycle. The problem is that every third dredge cycle, the Corps pumps the sand to Caswell Beach, skipping BHI. Under the sand-sharing agreement with Caswell Beach, the Corps sand placement effort can't keep up with the erosion on BHI. That's where the BHI "Engineered Beach Project" comes in.

The project is expected to cost \$15 million and PARC has been retained to help the BHI community find a fair and equitable way to pay for the beach project. At this early stage, PARC is looking seriously at three revenue sources: (1) the State of North Carolina; (2) Accommodation Tax revenues; and (3) *Ad valorem* revenues. The goal is to create a stable and blended funding program. There are many details to be discussed so we are hoping for broad community participation of the planning process.

One of the greatest challenges will be how to inform and engage the community when so few owners live on the island year around. To bridge the gap, the Village has set up the "**BHI Engineered Beach Project Information Center**" which can be accessed from the Village's main website, [www.villageBHI.org](http://www.villageBHI.org). Just click the "Engineered Beach Project" link.

On the site, you will find a **project calendar** of upcoming workshops and meetings, a **discussion board**, where you can post your comments and suggestions, a **documents** tab where you can read project reports and correspondence, view PowerPoint presentations, and otherwise keep up with the beach restoration project and the financing plan. Soon, the documents page will also include **video recordings** of the charettes and workshops that take place on the financing plan.

Best of all, even if you're out of state, you can "attend" the workshops on-line as they will be **web-cast** right from the Project Information Center. As you view the meetings in

real time, you'll be able to follow along with the PowerPoint presentation right on your desktop.

So, please take some time to visit the website and participate in the financial planning process. Together, we can help keep Bald Head Island the unique and special place so many love.