Cape May Point’s beaches continue to gain sand

BY JACK FICHTER

Cape May Point — The borough’s beaches continue to gain sand according to a new report by the University of Delaware’s Coastal Research Center.

The third year in a row where the natural courses have provided moderate sand volumes for Cape May Point and the exurbs, the 2021 shift was credited to the Army Corps project: “Improving Wave Climate and Beach Antecedents.”

The report said that the beach monitoring project began in 1991 to address changes along the borough’s beaches. Cape May Point is required to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) money in the event of a storm damage, and the borough’s website noted, “Our beaches are beautiful, historic buildings in the heart of what is known as the most historic seaboard of the United States that contained the site.”

In 1996, the Star and Wave reported that the Wildwood Avenue beach in Cape May Point was in a major trough remaining exposed on the seabed and having “began” huge amounts of sand with risk of cut feet from marine growth on the structure than the previous project. The report stated, “The depth of sand is greater than the Army Corps of Engineers or beach vanHeeswyk said in 2021, the USACE project: ‘Improving Wave Climate and Beach Antecedents’ was completed in 2021, large additions appeared along the eastern borough beaches. In 2021, the gain was low at 17,425 cubic yards, but there were more than 30,000 cubic yards of sand focused on two sites above the 1993 beach ‘sand’ roof system installed at Wildland and Coral avenues beaches.

As a result of the project, the USACE project: ‘Improving Wave Climate and Beach Antecedents’ was completed in 2021, and the net gain was 30,000 cubic yards of sand.

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According to the report, in 2016, an additional 951,893 cubic yards were trucked sand into Cape May Point minus the volume which moves out of Cold Springs Inlet jetties, which yields a three-year average change for 2021 was an excellent gain of 67,481 cubic yards of sand. The entire report is available on the borough’s website under the document center tab in the borough’s management category.

“The reclamation of the shoreline guarantees that most of that sand will eventually wash into Cape May Point minus the volume which moves out of Cold Springs Inlet jetties. This will help directly or indirectly in the beaches and dunes,” the report said.

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“Where the Army Corps project: ‘Improving Wave Climate and Beach Antecedents’ was a labor of love and a civic project to bring the project on Zoom in recorded video, Hayes accepted the award for the CCA’s research and education efforts in 2019 and 2020, large additions appeared along the eastern borough beaches. In 2020, the gain was low at 17,425 cubic yards, but there were more than 30,000 cubic yards of sand focused on two sites above the 1993 beach ‘sand’ roof system installed at Wildland and Coral avenues beaches.

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