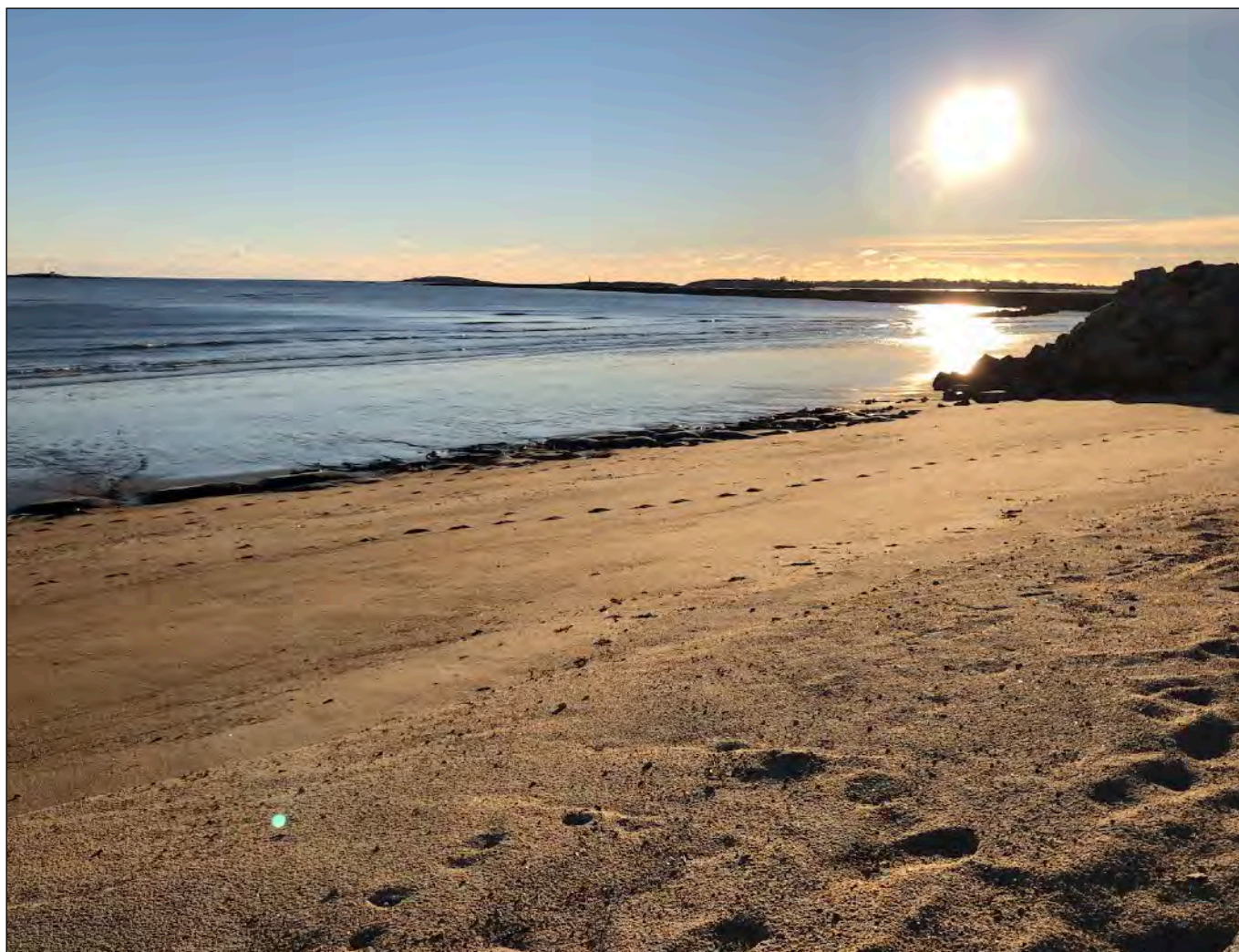

2022 Annual Report

SOS Saco Bay, Inc.

December 2022



SOS  **SACO BAY**



Letter from the President

Hello Friends of Saco Bay,

The year of 2022 has been our most successful year yet in government action and funding. And after 3 years since SOS Saco Bay, Inc. formation, we are at the finish line with the Army Corps and the City of Saco entering into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) in 2023 (by summer?). As an issue advocacy group with one mission: to save Saco Bay and its shoreline for future generations, we have made huge strides on shoreline action.

Our 2022 success included real and substantial funding initiatives by all levels of government:

- \$18.1M increase (from \$26.9M to \$45M) from the federal government specific to the Defense Department budget to spend on a protective barrier /jetty and beach replenishment at Camp Ellis
- \$1.5M through York County federal ARPA funds a shared Southern Maine dredge (hydraulic harbor / river dredge Model 670 from Ellicott in MD) in a close 3 to 2 vote from York County Commissioners in October.
- \$170K from the City of Saco to fund a Dredge Authority setup, plus over \$250K of ongoing Public Works to annually fix damaged roads / shoreline from storms .

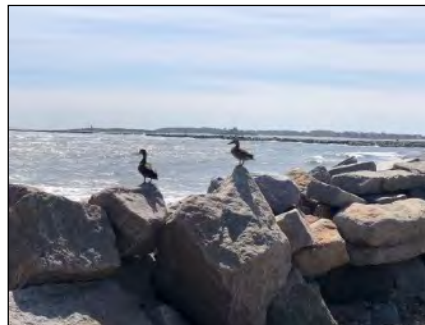
-
- \$20K (end of 2021) from the State of Maine to study Wave Attenuation Devices to use in conjunction, addition or replacement of/as a protective barrier to our beaches (pictured with me on the prior page in use in Florida/Gulf States). We stayed engaged with supplier Living Shorelines Solutions as we await the Army Corps PPA

These funding actions are for tangible equipment, time sensitive work on our shoreline, not a wait-and-see promise a decade or more away. The Army Corps funding increase, along with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, are the only Maine projects specifically cited in the Defense Department budget. This funding is meant to be spent in the next couple of years, with a PPA signed soon in 2023. I have personally visited the dredge being built in Baltimore, MD, ready for delivery by May 2023. And we have produced By-Laws for the coming Dredge Authority, and engaged city leaders to be ready to spend setup funds for a Dredge Executive Director and staff recruitment to run the dredge. Whether this surge of action on funding is due to climate change, man made jetty problems, economic factors, or post Covid draw to the beaches, we value all the government attention and funding finally coming our way here in Saco Bay.

As in our prior years, donations are welcome, but not required. We continue to ask for your ongoing vigilance and feedback on our updates, as after the great news of 2022, the harder work is due to begin later this year of implementing solutions to our shoreline. Thank you for keeping the faith in us and representative government.



Kevin Roche
President
SOS Saco Bay



Introduction

In July 2019, SOS Saco Bay formed, superseding SOS Camp Ellis, which had been dormant for over a decade. We continue on that mission and call for action to mitigate the damage caused by the Saco River jetty that amplifies powerful waves that erode and modify our beaches. We also expanded our focus to the entire Saco Bay.

Officers, Board of Directors and members

The Officers of SOS Saco Bay were appointed in 2019. The current officers are:

- Kevin Roche, President and Treasurer
- David Plavin, Vice President
- Stacey Coravos, Secretary

The Officers are expected to remain in place through 2023.

Board of Directors to provide governance and guidance. Our directors are :

- Cathy Stackpole
- Melissa Jacques
- Alan Shepard

The Board will remain in place through 2023.

Membership currently stands at 336 on December 31, 2022.



Treasury Report

As of December 31, 2022, there was \$3,618.64 in the SOS Saco Bay, Inc. account. We did not campaign for donations in 2022 as we were able to perform our work without any additional funding. We do accept donations on the SOS Saco Bay website (www.sossacobay.com) and received some very generous donations in 2022.

Our 2022 routine expenses were to maintain an online presence: website hosting, domain name registration and our mail list. We also sponsored five students from Thornton Academy for our first Coastal Conference.

SOS Saco Bay, Inc., is filed with the Internal Revenue Service and is a 501(c) 4 non-profit organization. A summary of transactions can be seen in the Appendix A.

2022 Highlights

Events

SOS Saco Bay continued to expand its roster of key contacts, and we have an impressive team of government officials, environmentalists, and economic experts. That was clearly evident at our third annual Saco Bay Symposium in March, one of three events we hosted. The event was co-sponsored by SOS Saco Bay and the City of Saco with the assistance of State Senator Donna Bailey. Our invited list of attendees was at 26 and we had terrific response with only two unable to attend. The event was held in person at Saco City Hall.

State Representative Lori Gramlich (District 131, Old Orchard Beach) was our keynote speaker and she was terrific. She spoke of the cost of doing nothing, what can be done and State Legislative initiatives. Lori is now the Chair of the Environment Natural Resources Committee and works with us on the dredge initiative. Presenters at the Symposium included Maine Geologic Survey marine scientist, Peter Slovinsky, who provided an update on the movement of sand. Peter and his team do amazing work analyzing the coastline; he is supportive of the Living Shorelines solution; and regularly works with us. Others speaking were Brian Ambrette, Senior Climate Resilience Coordinator, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, who spoke of grant programs and how the State can aid our efforts; and reports from our Federal delegation, Saco Mayor William Doyle; and Mary Beth Richardson of the State of Maine Department of

Environmental Protection. Kevin Roche provided an update of our pursuit of a dredge for York County and Saco City Administrator provided a status report regarding the Army Corps of Engineers remediating jetty issues.



SOS President Kevin Roche addresses the membership in August.

Our second event was our annual Members’ Meeting in August. It was held outdoors at Huot’s and we had an excellent turnout of more than 60 people. Kevin Roche and David Plavin provided updates on the Army Corps and dredge. Saco Ward 4 Councilor, Mile Burman, provided a city update (See Appendix B). We also had a lively question and answer session.

We added an event this year. In September, SOS sponsored its first annual Coastal Conference. Pete Hanrahan, from Hanrahan Environmental, organized and led the event that drew 90 attendees to Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center. Lori Gramlich was once again asked to be our Keynote speaker but was unable to attend and Kevin Roche presented Lori’s slides and then led a panel discussion. Scott Bartkowski, President of

Living Shorelines Solutions, provided information on Wave Attenuation Devices (WADs) that have become a very popular potential solution. He was very well received. Other presenters were Abbie Sherwin, Senior Planner and Coastal Resilience Coordinator Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission, whose current initiative is a climate ready coast; Hannah Baranes, a research specialist at the Gulf of Maine Maritime Center, who provided data on sea level rise; and Pete Hanrahan provided his vision of the 2050 Maine coast. All the presentations are on the SOS website. We are already planning the second annual conference and expect this to be a mainstay on the SOS calendar.



Part of the audience at the Coast Conference in September.

Accomplishments

Our biggest accomplishment was culminated in October when the York County Commissioners voted 3-2 to purchase a hydraulic dredge. Kevin Roche led this effort with plenty of assistance from Saco Shoreline Commission Chairman Rick Milliard, Saco Harbormaster Dan Chadbourne, and SOS VP David Plavin. We worked tirelessly to get support from other coastal communities and included Scarborough even though it is not in York County. In the end, our County Commissioner Al Sicard, with an assist from State Senator Donna Bailey, convinced a majority of the Commission a dredge would have great benefit. In addition, the City of Saco approved \$170,000 to get a dredging program started.

After the vote, a group that includes Roche, Plavin, Milliard, and Chadbourne, along with the Saco Public Works Director, Patrick Fox, and Saco City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath, began meeting regularly to prepare for delivery of the equipment in the Spring/Summer of 2023. The realistic plan is to begin dredging in the 2024 season (November-April).



Ward 4 Councilor Michael Burman signs the Letter of Support authorizing the Army Corps to proceed to providing a PPA.

There is still much work to get done. The Southern Maine Dredge Authority is registered and has draft bylaws. It will manage and oversee the entire operation. SOS may keep a seat on the board but will not be the managing body.

Much progress was made on the effort to have the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers remediate the power of the waves caused by the jetty. US Senator Susan Collins led the effort to get \$45 million in the Federal Budget for Camp Ellis. Immediately thereafter, SOS led an effort to have the Saco City Council authorize a Letter of Support to the Corps to deliver a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) in an effort to prevent more idle time. The vote was unanimous and the City Council is a strong supporter for action. (The vote to fund year one of the dredge was also unanimous.) At year's end, we are still awaiting the Corps' response. The Corps has undergone some internal personnel changes,

but our Federal delegation is satisfied that they will deliver in the first quarter of 2023. SOS leadership remains very focused and will continue to press for action.

The City of Saco cited SOS on Extra Mile Day in October. The focus of Extra Mile Day is based upon:

- a special vibrancy exists within the entire community when its individual citizens collectively “go the extra mile” in personal effort, volunteerism and and service ..
- giving of themselves wholeheartedly and with total effort, commitment, and conviction to their individual ambitions, family, friends and community ..
- shine a light on and celebrate organizations within the community who “go the extra mile” in order to make a difference ...

Saco Mayor William Doyle said in his proclamation, “Save Our Shores brought together elected officials from all levels of government to fight for the cause. They have been crucial in educating the public about these issues, setting up symposiums and conferences that have included many subject matter experts and elected officials. The group demands that changes be made to better one of the most valuable natural resources in our community. With their help, progress has been made in forming a plan for remediation. The communities of Saco Bay are grateful for your unyielding dedication to our shores.”

SOS thanks Mayor Doyle and City of Saco for this recognition.

2023 Goals

The top action we are seeking is a signed PPA in the calendar year. There is a push for urgency and the City and Federal delegation continue to press for tighter deadlines and swifter action. The Corps is not known for either of those and has constantly stalled. Nothing short of a signed agreement will be deemed a success.

SOS continues to promote Living Shorelines. We believe that WADs will provide better protection than a solid breakwater. If Living Shorelines’ proposal presents the best alternative, we will push for it in place of the rock wall breakwater in Plan 6, but stop short of doing nothing.

Turning the dredge over to the Southern Maine Dredge Authority is critical to starting the dredge program. We will participate in dredge activities until the Authority is operational.

Our annual Symposium, co-sponsored by the City of Saco, is scheduled for March and we will invite scientists, government officials, educators and leaders in resilience and

sustainability. We will be meeting in person at Saco City Hall and the event will be streamed. The date is March 24.

The success of the Coastal Conference at Ferry Beach has given birth to an annual event. We are looking to expand the offerings to include a track for students. Twenty students from colleges and high schools attended last fall and we are looking to make this an educational event for them. The event will be held on September 27.

We continue to expand our relationships with other environmental action groups. We have attended and spoken at events and in schools. This past year we spoke at the Saco Watershed Collaborative, attended an event at the Gulf of Maine Maritime Center and spoke at Saco Middle School.

We have also been active in getting more publicity through the local media for any news related to our objectives. We have been highlighted in the *Maine Monitor*, *Downeast Magazine*, *Working Waterfront*, local newspapers and appeared on local TV newscasts. We must keep this issue in the spotlight.



Our Mission

For the past 100 years Saco Bay (Biddeford Pool to Scarborough) has experienced catastrophic erosion where over 30 homes and hundreds of feet of beach have been lost. This loss has been caused by the erection of the Camp Ellis Jetty (“Jetty”), built by the United States Army Corp. of Engineers (“ACOE”). Saco Bay has been victimized by the construction of the Jetty and minimal relief has been offered by the ACOE to remediate or rectify this devastating loss to homeowners, the municipalities involved or the State of Maine. Had these losses occurred by a single storm, as opposed to a hundred years of losses, by a manmade structure, there would have been immediate relief offered by the federal government to make all parties whole. This has not been the case, even when the ACOE admitted the erosion was their fault, caused by the Jetty built by the ACOE (Section 111 Study 2007).

SOS Saco Bay is working with private citizens, as well as local, state and federal governments to bring the plight of Saco Bay to light and ensure this issue gets the attention it deserves. SOS Saco Bay is providing a unified message taking into account all communities involved, this is all our beach, it is all our bay. By banding together we will have a greater impact; there is power in numbers. We want all parties made whole, and that starts with replenishing the beach. We do not want the municipalities affected to pay for the harm caused, we want the beach brought back so all parties can benefit from and enjoy it.

In addition to a unified message, SOS Saco Bay wants to provide a single, comprehensive location where all interested parties can go for information including studies performed as well as how we are moving forward to get our beach replenished and maintained. There is a plethora of information from city, state and federal governments if you know where to look, regarding the erosion in Saco Bay, we want anyone who is interested to have access to it in a centralized location.

At this time we understand that this problem is bigger than individuals, or just one community, we want to consolidate all interested parties and have a unified voice and message working with the state, local and federal governments. Getting our beach back is not just a legal issue, it is a political one as well. It is our belief that by coming together we have a larger voice with the power of all our members behind us.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

Our donors and supporters.

Susie Otazo who designs, maintains and provides the technical expertise for our webpage and marketing efforts.

State Senator Donna Bailey

Saco City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath

Saco Ward 4 Councilor Mike Burman

Alan Shepard

The City of Saco for co-hosting our annual symposium and working with us.

Brian Johnson and Cathy Stackpole at Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center for hosting our Coastal Conference and providing their assistance.

The owners of Huot's Restaurant for hosting our annual meeting and being a partner.

Alain and Elizabeth Clot

This report was prepared by David Plavin, VP SOS Saco Bay, Inc.

Contact Us

E-mail:

info@sosacobay.com

Follow Us

Website:



<https://sossacobay.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SOSSacoBay/>

Appendix A: SOS Saco Bay Financials 2022

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
1/1/2022	Opening Balance		\$3026.82
1/03/2022	Donation	\$40.00	
1/31/2022	Interest	\$0.13	
2/28/2022	Interest	\$0.12	
3/31/2022	Interest	\$0.13	
4/29/2022	Interest	\$0.12	
5/3/2022	Interest	\$0.13	
6/09/2022	Donation	\$193.73	
6/27/2022	Donation	\$96.62	
6/29/2022	Expenses	-\$90.00	
6/30/2022	Interest	\$0.13	
7/18/2022	Expenses	-\$103.00	
7/29/2022	Interest	\$0.13	
8/12/2022	Expenses	-\$317.98	
8/23/2022	Domain Registration	-\$250.00	
8/26/2022	Donation	\$970.61	
8/31/2022	Interest	\$0.10	
9/07/2022	Interest	\$0.10	
9/19/2022	Donation	\$500.00	
9/30/2022	Interest	\$0.15	
10/03/2022	Deposit (Coastal Conf. Fee)	\$75.00	
10/03/2022	Deposit (Coast Conf. Fees)	\$823.95	
10/04/2022	Deposit (Coast Conf. Fees)	\$4656.58	
10/12/2022	Payment (Conference Hosting)	-\$3600.00	
10/17/2022	Payment (Conference Organizer)	-\$2455.53	
10/31/2022	Interest	\$0.24	
11/22/2022	Donation	\$50.00	
11/30/2022	Interest	\$0.15	
12/30/2022	Interest	\$0.15	
	Closing Balance		\$3618.66

Appendix B

Mike Burman update, August 2022

Dear SOS Saco Bay,

I'm sorry I cannot be there in person. Thank you to David for passing along my well wishes.

As you are no doubt aware, it's an exciting time to be on the coast in Saco. Camp Ellis is busy. The new owners of Huot's have made changes including live music that create a surge of activity nightly. Chevy's BBQ has also made a huge impact on the culture and viability of the community. The General Store is open again too. These are great additions and I look forward to learning how the city can support these businesses and similar initiatives in the future.

Environmentally it's also a critical moment. While the situation is critical, we are making tremendous progress. We have gotten further with the Army Corps than ever before. We expect a draft PPA soon. With the help of the congressional delegation and increased federal funding, the whole process should cost Saco only \$660,000. This is an incredible advance and will greatly reduce any local opposition. Even if it only benefits a few houses, the amount in sand savings and erosion control alone will pay for itself. I will certainly treat this as urgent and do everything I can to advance this process.

In addition, it seems almost inevitable that Saco will house York County's new dredge. This will not only product our shoreline by moving sand to where it's needed most, but may also serve as a revenue generator, bringing in additional funding to help protect our shoreline. This has been a dream of many for a long time. It's an incredible achievement that it's almost here.

The very moment we finish with these initiatives, it will be time to shift gears and start finding funding to engage with the living shorelines solutions (LSS) to allow them to place their wave attenuating devices further along our coast, offering additional protections to our beaches and homes.

While I'm not there in person today, I'm happy to engage with any of you in the future. Let me know how I can assist.

Yours,
Mike