



July 3, 2019

Dear Fellow Property Owners,

Much has happened since my last letters to you in January and February. At its Annual Meeting in May, the SAISSA Board of Trustees agreed on a target date for our next beach renourishment project and on a proposed 2019-2020 maintenance budget. The State of Florida appropriated significant grants to assist SAISSA property owners in paying for the next beach renourishment. SAISSA efforts to ensure we receive Federal and State disaster funds related to sand lost to Hurricanes Matthew and Irma are on-going. SAISSA is a partner in the first island-wide beach monitoring study in almost twenty years. Three new Trustees have joined the SAISSA Board. And, because important decisions by SAISSA property owners are on the horizon, the Trustees have created a new committee to help ensure our communications are factual, timely and useful to property owners.

More details about these topics and others are summarized below.

❖ **Target Date for Next Beach Renourishment**

To continue to retain our healthy and beautiful beach, the SAISSA Trustees voted to target May 2021 to begin our third beach renourishment project. Before we can begin the renourishment, a majority of the property owners must approve the project, and we must receive the required State and Federal coastal construction permits. We are in the process of completing the permit application process.

❖ **Proposed 2019-2020 Maintenance Budget**

The total proposed budget for FY20 is **\$1,160,562**. This includes an operating budget of **\$716,416** and reserves of **\$444,146**. The proposed maintenance assessment is **\$378,993**, which is **35 percent less** than last year's assessment. While the total budget for FY20 is approximately the same as FY19, these significant savings are the result of permitting delays that moved \$338,000 from FY19 to FY20, providing 47 percent of the operating budget for FY20. The full budget is available at [http://saissa.com/document\\_view.asp?id=390](http://saissa.com/document_view.asp?id=390).

### ❖ **State of Florida Appropriates SAISSA Reimbursement Grants**

The Florida Legislature has appropriated up to **\$7,906,466** in two grants to assist SAISSA property owners pay for the next beach renourishment, which is estimated to cost **\$20.8** million. These grants include construction, construction observation, permit compliance, contract management and the Year-1 Post-Construction and Shorebird Monitoring. The 2019 Legislature also appropriated up to **\$56,538** to cost-share our Year-9 Post-Construction Physical and Shorebird Monitoring related to SAISSA's second beach renourishment in 2011. It is important to note that actual reimbursements from grants will depend on actual expenditures and typically are received either during or after project completion.

### ❖ **Category G Federal and State Disaster Funds**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Division of Emergency Management (DEM) together are expected to reimburse SAISSA up to **\$3,114,755** to replace beach sand lost to Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Irma in 2017. SAISSA continues to work through the Federal process needed to secure a "Project Worksheet" that will guarantee reimbursement.

### ❖ **Island-Wide Physical Monitoring Study Underway**

SAISSA is partnering with the City of Fernandina Beach and the Amelia Island Tourist Development Council (TDC) to complete an island-wide evaluation of beach conditions. This is the first such island-wide evaluation since 1999.

### ❖ **SAISSA Relinquishes Sponsorship of Fort George Inlet Study**

Three years ago, SAISSA agreed to sponsor a Federal Study of the Fort George Inlet, anticipating that we could have access to any sand removed from the inlet and use it for future beach renourishment. In April, however, the Florida Park Service (FPS) stepped forward and offered to sponsor the study. Because FPS property is the northern boundary of the Fort George Inlet, FPS is much more likely to receive any sand dredged from the inlet. Therefore, the SAISSA Board has relinquished our sponsorship role to the Florida Park Service.

### ❖ **AIPCA Appoints Three New SAISSA Trustees**

Seven members of SAISSA's 11-member Board of Trustees are appointed by the Amelia Island Plantation Community Association (AIPCA). AIPCA recently appointed three new Trustees to replace retiring members.

Mary Axetell joined the SAISSA Board in March replacing Annette Stocker. Jim Raycraft and Kelli Allen joined the Board in May replacing Sue Braddock and Mary O'Donnell. We sincerely appreciate the leadership and contributions to SAISSA and our community that Annette, Sue and Mary provided over their combined eight years of service as SAISSA Trustees. Many thanks to each of them.

❖ **SAISAA Officers Re-elected for 2019-2020**

The current officers -- President Drew Wallace, Vice President Peter Kelley, Treasurer Steve Kaye and Secretary George de Tarnowsky -- were re-elected. Steve Kaye also continues as chair of the Contracts Committee.

❖ **SAISSA Creates Communications Committee**

Recognizing that plans for beach renourishment in 2021 can only move forward with the support of a majority of SAISSA property owners, the Trustees want to ensure that owners have the information they need to make an informed decision. Through the newly created Communications Committee, led by Mary Axetell, the Trustees will focus on providing property owners with accurate, fact-based, timely information about what SAISSA does; why, when and how we do it; and the role of owners in critical decisions related to beach renourishment. During her three-year term on the AIPCA Board of Directors, Mary helped improve AIPCA's outreach and information program. The Trustees also appointed Norm Ledwin to serve in a non-board member position on the Communications Committee.

While a lot has happened since the first of 2019, SAISSA activities will only intensify in the coming months and years. Expect to see and hear more communications about these activities. Protecting and preserving our healthy and beautiful beach is ultimately up to all of us, so please do not hesitate to ask questions. My email address is [drewwallace2@gmail.com](mailto:drewwallace2@gmail.com).

Best regards,

*Drew Wallace*

President, Board of Trustees