

**Dewey Beach Climate Change Committee**  
Sub-committee work to procure a feasibility study  
Progress Report  
June 30, 2025

The sub-committee is working to develop a list of viable contractors with experience designing and implementing feasibility studies for Delaware coastal communities.

In May, 2025, a preliminary list of questions for potential contractors was developed. The questions were as follows:

1. Have you worked with other coastal municipalities conducting studies and/or performing work with regard to climate change resiliency?
  - Which municipalities have you worked with and when?
2. What types of information would you need in order to conduct an initial study and report on Dewey Beach's climate change/resiliency needs?
3. Can you briefly describe the process, including the sequence and steps you will take to research and complete a study as well as a final project report?
4. Using your experience with other municipalities as a guide, can you estimate the time requirements and the cost for completing an initial study?
5. If we selected your firm to do the work, will you be using the same staff members who previously did similar work with other municipalities?
6. What sources of funding are you aware of for this type of project?

We initially targeted four firms with previous experience working with other Delaware coastal communities:

GMB (architects and engineers)  
Beacon Engineering  
JMT Engineering  
AECOM (engineering and construction)

The above list of questions was emailed to representatives at each of the companies listed above, with a request to complete the questionnaire and return it to us by June 6, 2025.

To date, GMB is the only respondent indicating a strong interest in working with us to develop a feasibility study. (Their written response to our questions is available for inspection upon request.)

Beacon Engineering responded to us via email, explaining that their expertise is on the implementation side of projects, and they would be happy to work with us once we have approved projects.

We did not initially receive a response from JMT, but are expecting a response from them this week.

We were unable to reach anyone at AECOM.

Additional updates will be provided to the committee as work continues.

### **Potential Funding Sources**

BRIC - FEMA: officially ended 4/8/25 and awarded grants were cancelled. No further information available at this time.

US Army Corps of Engineers: Typically funds studies and small scale projects. As of 5/2/25, Milton is pursuing \$200,000 in grant funds for flood damage, erosion control and waterway erosion. (Unclear as to whether or not funding is available.)

DNREC: Resilient Communities Grant Program through NOAA. DNREC is currently assisting the Town of South Bethany, to apply for \$75,000 in grant funds. Despite South Bethany's grant application, a check of the website indicates "no open funding opportunities at this time".

NFWF: NFWF NCRF (National Coastal Reliency Fund) grant program is currently closed.

Delaware Sea Grant assists in identifying and procuring grant funds for **projects**.

*According to the contractor GMB, they are not anticipating a federal Notice of Funding Opportunities for this fiscal year or next. They are, however, checking for additional (non-federal) sources until things open up again.*

