



50¢

Walkers Needed To Help Fight Infant Mortality Page 54

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2005

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

Published On Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays In The Interest Of The Water Region: Coastal and Outer Banks Areas  
VOLUME LXX, NUMBER 92  
MANITO, NC 27954 TEL: 252-473-2105 FAX: 252-473-2105  
KILL DEVIL HILLS, NC 27949 TEL: 252-411-2222

## Conflict resolution for beach driving proposed

By MARY HELEN GOODJOE-MURPHY

For the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the long-awaited first step in resolving the beach driving issue has been taken.

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution has circulated a Request for Statements of Interest in implementing the first phase of Negotiated Rulemaking. The request was forwarded to conflict resolution practitioners along the East Coast.

The Phase I scope of work calls for assessing the feasibility of using the new process to develop a consensus-based recommendation for an off-road

vehicle management plan and proposed rule.

"Of particular importance," states the request, "will be whether there is broadly based stakeholder support for such an effort, as well as the degree of commitment of various key interest groups to participate in a good faith effort to work together to seek agreement on a feasible and implementable ORV Management Plan and proposed rule."

Michael Eng, senior program manager for the institute assigned to this project, anticipates that five or six teams or firms will submit proposals by the Feb. 11 deadline. Eng has

See RESOLUTION, Page 13A

### RESOLUTION

(Continued from Page 1A)

invited individuals and/or group representatives to participate in interviews with the final candidates. Those interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, March 1

The contractor will participate in an organizational meeting with the Institute and National Park Service, review background information, draft a letter for Superintendent Lawrence A. Bell's signature introducing the rulemaking process, develop a interview protocol for an article published in the magazine, and prepare a final assessment report which will be

posted on the institute's and seashore's websites and plan and schedule a public meeting to review the assessment findings.

The anticipated schedule calls for final selection of the contractor, or third-party neutral, by March 8 and conclusion of contract negotiations by March 11. Assessment interviews will be held March through April with a final report due in May and a public meeting anticipated in June. If a decision to proceed with negotiated rulemaking is forthcoming, a committee would convene in November 2005. The request anticipates that

300-350 hours of professional services will be required to complete the first phase.

Negotiated rulemaking, says Eng, requires a very strong commitment from the National Park Service. "It's not just a process," he says. "If the rulemaking process proceeds, it will require and be incorporated in the familiar National Environmental Policy Act process." Negotiated rulemaking agreements are included in the Environmental Impact Statement, usually as the preferred alternative. Eng anticipates that the request anticipates that

challenges for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore will be developed from the more general beach driving plan.

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution was created by Congress in the 1998 Environmental Policy and Conflict Resolution Act, located in Tucson, Ariz., the institute operates under aegis of the Morris K. Udall Foundation. It receives funding directly from Congress as well as fees paid by public and private-sector clients.

Article Incomplete - 2/7/05

