



DATE: December 15, 2025

TO: Indigo on the Ashley Homeowners Association Homeowners

FROM: Indigo on the Ashley Homeowners Association Board of Directors

RE: Update on Retention Pond Dredging Costs and Communication with Neighboring HOA Boards

As you may know from the community discussion at our July 2025 meeting, the Indigo on the Ashley (IOA) Board initiated a review of stormwater pond maintenance requirements to ensure we meet our fiduciary duty and maintain compliance with city and state guidance. Documents are on our website from SCDHEC and Clemson University that indicate that stormwater ponds must be dredged typically when 25% of their permanent pool has filled with sediment—to prevent flooding, sediment pollution, and reduced drainage performance.

The Board commissioned a Bathymetric Survey and a Reserve Study. Initial findings (Spring 2025) estimated 395 cubic yards of sediment to remove, with dredging projected at \$59,650 plus \$7,250 for disposal.

Shortly after our community meeting, a City of N. Charleston Stormwater Engineer conducted an on-site inspection and confirmed two key issues:

1. Stormwater runoff from surrounding neighborhoods flows into IOA's pond, increasing sediment accumulation.
2. A Weir wall, not included in the original plans, was installed at the outflow structure has raised the water level by twenty-one inches, reducing the pond's storage capacity beyond its original design.

After confirming these findings with our consultant, the sediment dredging estimate increased dramatically — from 395 cubic yards to approximately 1,900 cubic yards. This adjustment reflects a 56% loss of water storage capacity.

Cost estimates have been updated since our meeting, based on the above, and will be what we use in communications with the other Indigo Boards of Directors: \$155,800 for dredging and \$34,900 for sediment disposal. Additionally, shoreline erosion mitigation — recommended immediately — remains estimated at \$12,700.

Previous IOA Board members reported an understanding among all five HOAs in the Indigo subdivision that dredging costs would be shared proportionally, since IOA's pond predates nearby development and receives runoff from all neighborhoods.

In accordance with that understanding, and per the approved motion to do so in our July membership meeting, the IOA Board has drafted and will distribute formal communication to the Boards of: Indigo Fields HOA, Indigo Point HOA, Oaks at Indigo HOA, Indigo Terrace HOA, and Indigo Subdivision Committee.

This letter will inform them of the updated dredging scope and costs and request their fair-share contributions based on the existing subdivision allocation model. The request outlines anticipated funding needs of approximately \$12,700 in 2026 (shoreline work) and \$191,000 in 2030 (dredging), subject to actual invoiced costs at the time of work.

Neighboring Boards will be asked to respond with their decisions by January 5, 2026.

Summary of Next Steps:

- IOA HOA distributes letters to neighboring Indigo HOAs
- IOA HOA awaits confirmations and questions from all recipient Boards.
- Responses and funding commitments will be reported back to IOA HOA residents.
- Shoreline erosion mitigation is expected in 2026, with dredging targeted for completion by 2030, pending approval and funding.

If you have questions about the process, cost estimates, or inter-HOA communication, please contact the IOA HOA Board.

Thank you.