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COBURN and COASTAL GROUP FIND COMMON GROUND

Two interests that usually do not agree have found some common ground. Leaders of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association met with Senator Tom Coburn on Wednesday. Coburn has criticized federal funding for coastal restoration as having nothing to do with the role of the federal government. Nevertheless, he and the coastal group agreed to work together on legislation that would create a trust fund for coastal projects. “We may not agree on the role of the federal government in coastal restoration, but we have agreed to cooperate on getting a bill introduced that establishes a separate fund,” said ASBPA President Mayor Harry Simmons of Caswell Beach, NC. A vocal opponent of earmarks, Coburn feels that “walling off” coastal funds will establish a funding mechanism that is not dependent on earmarks.

Coburn also complained that Congress makes no attempt to prioritize water resources projects. The Senator and ASBPA agreed to cooperate on developing a prioritization method for all federal water resource projects.

“There is more disagreement between us than there is agreement,” said Simmons. “However the Senator was gracious to invite us to discuss our differences. The more we talked, the more we found at least two areas of common ground that are important to our organization. We look forward to working with the Senator and his staff in the days ahead. .

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ABOUT ASBPA: Founded in 1926, the ASBPA promotes the integration of science, policies and actions that maintain, protect and enhance the coasts of America. For more information on ASBPA, go to www.asbpa.org, [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/asbpa) or www.twitter.com/asbpa.

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