



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**THURSDAY, January 25, 2018, 2:00 PM
Topsail Beach Town Hall**

Commission Members Present:

Steve Smith
David Ward
Jerry Heid
Dick Peters
Jerry Patton
Mike Benson
Mark Price
Teresa Batts
Ed Broadhurst
Hiram Williams
Randall Woodruff

Public Present:

Kathleen Riley
Steve Foster
Mike Rose
Linda Stipe
Larry Combs
Andrea Carter
Larry Bergman
Bob Loy
Walter Yurek

1. Call to Order & Greetings

2. Election of Chair & Vice Chair for 2018

Mr. Ward made a motion to elect Steve Smith as Chair. Mr. Broadhurst seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Broadhurst made a motion to elect Mike Benson as Vice Chair. Mr. Peters seconded the motion and it was carried.

3. Public Comments - none

4. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Peters made a motion to approval the agenda as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion and it was carried.

5. Approval of the December 5, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Peters made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Patton seconded the motion and it was carried.

6. Approval of consultants contracts

Mr. Ward made a motion to approve Connie Wilson's contract. Mr. Peters seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Patton made a motion to accept the contract with Poynter & Spruill. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Mr. Peters stated that this board has made significant success with McIntyre. He suggested the renewal of the contract.

Mr. Price stated it was advantageous to lock them in for two years.



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Mr. Williams stated that at the end of two years it could be a major price hike.

The motion was carried.

- 7. Consultant/Lobbyist/Partners – Information & Contact Review/Update
 - a. Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Mike McIntyre

Mr. Smith discussed the possible funding of the newly created infrastructure fund and how the funds would be spent.

Mr. Peters asked if there should be a future agenda item in regards to the infrastructure fund.

Mr. Smith suggested getting the three town managers together so that we can move forward together.

- b. Connie Wilson Consulting – Connie Wilson

Mr. Williams discussed changes to the CRS system and issues with the NFIP system. The flood program is broken and our senators and congressman need to get together to unify the program. He suggested having the commission speaking with David Rouzer’s office.

- 8. United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE) Update– Pam Castens
 - a. Financial Cost Benefit Review – Status of reviews with each town.

No updates

- 9. NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRAC & CRC) Update – Mike Moore

No Updates

- 10. North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association (NCBIWA) Review – Kathleen Riely
 - a. Update of NCBIWA’s activities

Mrs. Riley discussed that the finance committee met and they will raise the rates by 10%. They are also working to hire a lobbyist. The new chairman is Rick Patton. They are working on past Army Corps projects and the distribution of those funds. She urged everyone to come to the next meeting at Pine Knoll Shores. The disaster-spending bill just passed the house and is currently waiting to see if it will pass the senate. There is a chance the infrastructure bill could be funded in the short session.

Mr. Peters questioned where the funds for the infrastructure bill could come from.

CRC Commission	
Feb. 13-14	Sea Trail Convention Center 75A Clubhouse Road Sunset Beach, NC 28468
April 10-11	Dare County
July 11-12	Beaufort, NC
Sept. 19-20	New Hanover County



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Mrs. Riley stated as of now that is still up in the air. Options include occupancy tax or realty taxes.

Mr. Benson stated the BIMP report recommended 25 million a year in funding.

Mrs. Riley stated those are projected figures from trends from about 2-5 years ago. The figure could be higher, it all depends on the weather. The argument is that the coast is the barrier from storms for the rest of the state.

Mrs. Riley stated that ASPCA and NCBIWAYS do not take a stance on offshore drilling. There are too many questions left unanswered, and too many tests that have still not been conducted.

11. Old Business

- a. Community Rating System (CRS) Rate Discount
- b. Agree & publish 2017 TISPC Accomplishments

Mr. Benson discussed the 2017 accomplishments and that no revisions to the documents have been received. He ask the commission for comments and/or concerns.

Mr. Smith stated the webpage upgrade and additions needed to be added.

Mr. Benson gave a report of the TISPC webpage; 462 visitors, looking at an average of 2.5 pages per visit. The site has the availability to show that the visitors came mainly from the Surf City town website, then Topsail Beach, North Topsail Beach, Pender County, Onslow County & NCBIWAYS. The goal of communicating the commission's activities have been highly successful.

- c. Agree & publish 2018 TISPC Goals & Consultant Work List

Mr. Benson reviewed the goals set out for our State Advocate (Connie Wilson) and our Federal Advocate (Poyner & Spruill) for 2018:

State Advocate:

- Island Wide - Protect funding and explore the expand use of the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund
- The Shallow Draft Inlet Fund moves sand out of inlets where shoaling occurs just like snowplows and salt brine remove snow from highways.
- Surf City - a possible sand source for Surf City.
- Island Wide - Help find permanent sources of funding for the authorized NC Coastal Storm Mitigation Fund that will allow beach nourishment for municipalities such as Surf City that do not qualify for Shallow Draft Funds as well as provide an additional funding source for other Topsail Island towns.
- Educate NC Legislators on the importance of coastal storm mitigation in relation to protecting property values and shorelines.
- Island Wide - Work on passage of property insurance legislation to reduce and control the high property and flood insurance rates for Topsail property owners.



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- Educate NC Legislators and the NC Insurance Commissioner that the proposed drastic increases in homeowners insurance in coastal areas is unwarranted since risk for this type of protection is no greater than any other area of the state.
- Coordinate with the NC Homebuilders Association to educate the NC Congressional Delegation about downstream effects on the loss of Community Rating System (CRS) discounts for flood insurance and hence higher rates.
- Island Wide - Assist with needed legislation and funding for hardened structures.
- North Topsail Beach – Funding for terminal groin.
- Topsail Beach – Funding for the investigation of the possible use at New Topsail Inlet of a harden structure to reduce the rate of shoaling in the inlet.
- Island Wide – Encourage the NC Division of Coastal Management to develop a management plan for sound-side flooding as the rise in sea level will adversely affect salt marsh environments, utility infrastructure, and roads along with property damage to low-lying structures.
- Island Wide – Notify TISPC of any legislation that could impact Topsail Island activities on the ocean, inlet and sound.
- Topsail Beach – Provide insight regarding dune protection regulations
- Regulatory Reform Act of 2016 - Encourage the Coastal Resources Commission to amend the sediment criteria rule to exempt sediment from cape shoal systems.
- Without this amendment, fine-grain sand particles less than 0.21 inches could be used from cape shoals for beach nourishment with the likelihood of only short-term beach preservation.

Federal Advocate:

- North Topsail Beach – Continue to facilitate the changes to CRBA mapping as Congressional bills move through sub-committee hearings.
- Topsail Beach – Seek support from our Congressional Delegation as well as other coastal states, congressional delegations for legislation that would allow the use of sand from inlet CRBA areas for beach nourishment.
- Island Wide – Obtain federal funding and/or removal of 7-year sunset clause from approved federal beach nourishment projects (Surf City/North Topsail Beach & Topsail Beach).
 - Our federal advocate has made our case to the USACE Administration Officials in Washington and the good cost benefit ratio in putting our federal projects forward. Our projects were ranked in the top five in the Southeastern district. Secondly, one in five new construction starts by USACE has been designation for coastal storm mitigation, thus there is some optimism that one or both of our island federal projects will be funded in 2018 so continued work on this goal should be emphasized.
- Island Wide – We need total NC congressional delegations committed to supporting programs for coastal management – We believe we are responsible for a national park; as we have visitors from all states using our coast. It is important that both NC Senators and NC Representatives are seen supporting NC coastal programs.
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- Island Wide – Investigate and promote the idea that the shallow draft inlets, the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway and beach shorelines are major infrastructure components of our national transportation system and storm mitigation barrier that should be maintained when legislation is written for the National Infrastructure Restoration bill.
- Assist with education of NC congressional delegation on the impact of current Community Rating System (CRS) is having on flood insurance cost and possible impact in other areas.
- Island Wide: Notify TISPC of any legislation that could impact Topsail Island activities on the ocean, inlet and sound.

12. Town's Local Projects

a. North Topsail Beach – Steve Foster

Mr. Foster stated the mayor and one board member plan to attend the ASPCA meeting. NTB received FEMA funding to restore sections of the phase 5 project damaged in 2016 by Hurricane Matthew, a funding of a little over \$7.5 million. This should start next winter. The revetment restoration project is now at a phase of getting together a committee. The town had received a \$1.5 million for phase 2, and they are working on getting that rolled over since they will not be able to use it.

b. Surf City – Larry Bergman

Mr. Bergman stated that Surf City has gone into contact with Chris Gibson with TI Coastal. We had a formal report of the Surf City survey work and this should be to print very soon. The town is now underway with financial review for a private beach project.

c. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose stated that the town has received FEMA funding from Hurricane Matthew. TI Coastal has worked toward submitting the permits for the next private beach project, this includes adding a new dune in front of the existing dunes. Hope is to start this upcoming winter. The BIS committee has been working on alternative crossovers once the project proceeds. The town has been working on parking issues and looking at a comprehensive parking plan. They are starting their budget gear up and the retreat will start in late February.

13. New Business

No new business items

14. Open Forum

Mr. Peters stated that the NC Insurance Commission is holding a hearing in regards to the new proposed insurance hike.

Bob Loy from Topsail Beach asked if the commission is taking a position on the proposed offshore drilling permits.

Mr. Smith stated it is up to the town boards to take a position, if they so choose.

Mr. Combs asked if the Army Corps is actively lobbying to get something done about the 7-yr sunset clause in the Federal Project.

Mr. Smith stated that is not something he currently knows of now.



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15. Next Meeting – North Topsail Beach

Town Hall, 2 PM, February 22, 2018

16. Adjournment

Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Patton seconded the motion and it was carried.