

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, August 23, 2018, 2:00 PM

Topsail Beach

Commission Members:

Mike Benson
Ed Broadhurst
David Ward
Richard Peters

Hiram Williams
Jerry Heid
Jerry Patton

Public Present:

Brian Chadwick, Manager, North Topsail Beach
Michael Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Linda Stipe, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Jade Litcher, BIS Member, Topsail Beach
John Goller, Topsail Beach Resident
Charles & Jeannine Meyers
Christina Burke, Recording Clerk
Kathleen Riley, NCBIWA
Pam Castens, US Army Corps of Engineers
Craig Harris, Floodplain Administrator, Pender County
Chris Gibson, TI Coastal

1. Call to Order & Greetings

Vice-Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Public Comments

No comments were made.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Peters made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Broadhurst seconded the motion and it was carried.

4. Approval of the June 28, 2018 Minutes

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

5. Consultant/Lobbyist/Partners – Information & Contact Review/Update

Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Mike McIntyre

Mr. Benson spoke about Mike McIntyre's report focusing on the topics of National Flood Insurance Extension Act, the establishment of a pilot program which could streamline the environmental review and project financing, the establishment of budgetary mechanism to allow revenue from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to be used for maintenance dredging and the increase of the gas tax.

Mr. Ward spoke about a proposal to remove CBRS information from FEMA mapping products, including Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS). FEMA is accepting comments through September 5th. Mr. Benson asked the Committee Members if they felt a response from the Committee was warranted. The Committee Members thought it was a good idea to comment. Mr. Ward volunteered to draft a response and share with the Committee members before submitting.

Discussion took place about the resignation of Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director of the Fish & Wildlife Service, and the effect it could have on Topsail Island.

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Mr. Benson updated the Committee Members on the proposed changes to the CBRA Maps. Mr. Benson stated that there was communication between Senator Burr and Secretary Zinke about the issue in North Topsail Beach. He added that the discussion was positive and that Secretary Zinke agreed to further look into the issue. In addition to that, Senator Burr's staff is currently following up with the Secretary's staff and working with Senator Tillis' office on coordinating efforts and facilitating further discussion.

Chris Gibson spoke about Topsail Beach use of sand in the CBRA Zone. He said there has not been much movement with that, probably because the Town of Topsail Beach is moving forward with its own private project.

Discussion took place about a pre-meeting for the presentation to the South Atlantic Division of the Army Corps in Atlanta that took place between Pam Castens and representatives of North Topsail Beach and Surf City federal project.

Connie Wilson Consulting

Mr. Benson stated that he spoke to Connie Wilson by phone. He said they discussed funding for the Coastal Storm Mitigation Fund. Mrs. Wilson said there has been a one-time transfer of 5 million dollars into the fund, but there is hope for a more permanent funding source.

6. United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE) Update– Pam Castens

Mrs. Castens said both projects (NTB/SC project and the TB project) are on hold as we wait for new start construction funding. She noted that Topsail Beach is not ready and will not be considered for funding at this time. Mrs. Castens stated that the cost updates will be due in the spring and will probably cost each Town (SC and NTB) \$20,000 each.

7. NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRAC & CRC) Update

Mr. Moore was not in attendance to update the Committee.

8. North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association (NCBIWA) Review – Kathleen Riely

Kathleen Riley spoke about the upcoming Annual NCBIWA conference. She said she has sent an email to the Town's asking them to be a sponsor of the event. Mrs. Riley spoke about the special Guest Speaker from the Netherlands. She spoke about how the Dutch view water infrastructure in a totally different way than the United States. She said it will be very different and interesting and encouraged everyone to attend.

9. Old Business

a. Resource Institute

Mr. Benson talked about a demonstration reefmaker project taking place in Brunswick County that representatives from North Topsail Beach will be visiting during an Open House. Mr. Gibson explained that the reefmaker project is essentially a series of concrete trays with embedded rocks that are stacked up on fiberglass pilings to reduce the wave intensity striking an inland shoreline after large ships have passed.

b. State Funding of Beach Maintenance Fund

This topic was already discussed in earlier conversation.

10. Towns' Local Project

a. Topsail Beach – Michael Rose

Town Manager, Michael Rose, said there isn't any new information on the Topsail Beach Local Storm Damage Reduction (SDR) project. He stated that the Town is expecting to request two bid prices, one to complete the project this year and one to complete the project next year. Mr. Rose said that the Town has decided to postpone the Community Forum until the permit for the project has been issued.

Mr. Rose stated that the Town has hired an Engineer to address storm water issues. He added that the Town had the storm drains cleaned out as part of an effort to relieve some of the run off issues.

b. Surf City – Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson spoke on behalf of Surf City. He stated that the Surf City project is moving forward. TI Coastal has completed the geotechnical data and have a design for the project. The permit application has been completed but won't be submitted until after Topsail Beach Biological Opinion has been reviewed. He noted that it is important to keep the two projects separate. Mr. Ward asked if Topsail Beach pushes their Local SDR project to next year, how would it effect the Surf City project. Mr. Gibson said it would actually help with mobilization costs if the two projects were done in the same year.

c. North Topsail Beach – Brian Chadwick

Town Manager, Brian Chadwick, stated that the Town has chosen Gary Greene Engineers to design some engineering options for the sandbag revetment restoration at the north end. He stated that Mr. Greene has come up with some out of the box options but not sure they will be approved by CAMA. The Town will be moving forward and exploring Mr. Greene's options.

11. New Business

a. Sea Level Rise – Chris Gibson

Mr. Gibson spoke about Sea Level Rise. He stated that the news paints a doom and gloom situation with Sea Level Rise. The Sea Level in North Carolina is expected to rise less than 1 foot during the century. We have seen a 1.5-inch rise in sea level based on the 19.8 yr. tidal epochs when all combinations of moon, earth, and sun orbits has been considered. He said when his company does Beach Management, they base their design on the wrack line and not the 100-year storm data that the US Army Corps of Engineers uses. He talked a little about the sound side. He said if water gets too high it is going to come over the seawall. So, we deal with it by building smart. Mr. Gibson said based on what we see today with Sea Level Rise, we won't have to deal with the Island being flooded in the next few decades.

12. Open Forum

13. Next Meeting – North Topsail Beach Town Hall, 2 PM, September 27, 2018

14. Adjournment - Mr. Benson made a motion to adjourn at 3:27 p.m.