

Commission Members:

Steve Smith
Mike Benson
David Ward
Richard Peters
Larry Combs
Teresa Batts
Jerry Heid
Mark Price
Hiram Williams

Public Present:

Dan Tuman, Mayor, N. Topsail Beach
Michael Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Stephanie Hobbs, Assistant Manager, Surf City
Bryan Chadwick, Manager, North Topsail Beach
Linda Stipe, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Kerri Allen, NC Coastal Federation
Trista Talton, Coastal Review Online
Betsy Johnson, Citizen, Topsail Beach
John Goller, Citizen, Topsail Beach
Tom Leonard, Alderman, North Topsail Beach
Jeff Benson, Property Owner, Surf City
Connie Wilson, via telephone
Kate Winzler, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order & Greetings

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Public Comments

No comments were made.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Heid seconded the motion and it was carried.

4. Review Impact of Hurricane Florence

a. Beach Assessments - Spenser Rogers, NC Sea Grant

Mr. Rogers spoke about the roles of Sea Grant, as well as the initial, current and future impacts of Hurricane Florence on the beach. He discussed matching the different types of erosion with appropriate solutions, and discussed recommendations including public disaster assistance and requesting additional options, such as avoiding burying collapsing dune grass and different vehicle access ramps. Mr. Rogers also suggested mapping the Division of Coastal Management's long-term erosion rates, replanting new wide dune fill, and not wasting new plants and sand fence in areas of high erosion. He mentioned investigating reroofing incentives for residents and contractors which may result in wind insurance discounts.

Discussion took place regarding reroofing scenarios and potential changes to the building code of the towns.

b. North Topsail Beach – Bryan Chadwick

Mr. Chadwick discussed the damages to structures, beach accesses, parks and roads in North Topsail Beach related to Hurricane Florence. He reviewed roadside and beach debris removal. Mr. Chadwick spoke about estimated dune repair, requested FEMA assistance and the upcoming PDMG meeting.

c. Surf City – Stephanie Hobbs

Ms. Hobbs discussed Surf City's debris removal, upcoming Beach Cleanup, damages to Town Hall and the Police Department, as well as sand collection and sifting efforts. She also mentioned that some beach accesses are open.

d. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose discussed Topsail Beach's beach cleanup, FEMA assessment and assistance, emergency berm management and associated nourishment, ongoing debris removal and property adjustment, estimated sand loss as well as loss of revenue. He also discussed several open crossovers, and that some still require repair.

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

a. Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Mike McIntyre

Mr. McIntyre was not in attendance. Mr. Smith referred to report provided by Congressman McIntyre and discussed the mapping changes for North Topsail Beach and the approach being taken by our congressional delegation. There were no other comments.

b. Connie Wilson Consulting – Lu Ann Perryman

Ms. Wilson was not in attendance. Mr. Smith said they are seeking out their next steps as it related to pending legislation. He spoke on current needs, such as Town Manager supplying information, deciding on a financial manager to manage money within new shoreline mitigation fund, and a new inlet fund director. Mr. Smith mentioned there has been a loss of money from the shallow draft inlet dredging fund.

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

Mrs. Castens thanked everyone for help with photo documentation after the storm and requested the Town Managers send her numbers. She mentioned the participation of Surf City and North Topsail Beach officials at the meeting in Atlanta two days before Hurricane Florence.

Mr. Benson stated that Gen. Holland was aware of the 2019 projects and budget.

Mr. Smith mentioned issues of sand sourcing and to keep the awareness of that need moving.

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

Mike Moore was not in attendance. Mr. Smith mentioned the meeting had been cancelled due to the storm and may be rescheduled to November 28, 29 & 30; the location could change as well.

a. CRC proposed rule for dune maintenance and vehicle access ramps

It was discussed that the CRAC and CRC wish to help grow the community in the right way.

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

Kathy Riely was not in attendance. Mr. Smith mentioned the NCBIWA meeting at the Marriott in Carolina Beach November 13 & 14.

9. Old Business

a. State funding of Beach Maintenance Funding

Mr. Smith asked how does the state find money for the new Storm Damage Mitigation Fund? Do they reroute part of the transfer tax to fund beach maintenance?

b. Increase levels of flooding – Sea Level Rise

Mr. Smith asked how do we reduce storm flooding? Where do you put the flood water? He mentioned hardened infrastructure issues, flooding of sewer system pumps, maintenance and infrastructure challenges moving forward.

10. Town's Local Projects/Direction

a. North Topsail Beach – Bryan Chadwick

Town Manager, Bryan Chadwick, stated that everything for the hardened structure project is on board in North Topsail Beach, with no changes moving forward.

b. Surf City – Stephanie Hobbs

Assistant Town Manager Stephanie Hobbs spoke on behalf of Surf City. She stated that Surf City is securing permitting for private beach project easements, mentioned land acquisition for the new Town, and reiterated the Surf City Strong Street Sweep this Saturday with lunch provided.

c. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Town Manager, Michael Rose, discussed continuing work on the Topsail Beach project and that the permit is close to being in hand. He mentioned that the town is reviewing options of potential spring/summer action, as well as combining the emergency berm with restorations and management. Mr. Rose mentioned the public and private crossovers that are located higher in elevation and presented the challenge of how to fix those that are not, as well as the emergency vehicle crossovers.

Mr. Smith also offered that Autumn with Topsail netted \$50-60,000 this year.

11. New Items:

a. Agree on secretarial support for Commission

There was discussion and agreement from all three towns that secretarial support would be provided by the meeting location host town, the financial role would be maintained by Surf City, and that negotiations and state requirements would go with the chairman.

b. Discussion & agreement of role of TISPC during the recovery from Hurricane Florence

Mr. Peters suggested incorporating and discussing individual town's efforts and economics in order to efficiently share with other towns and seek out the advantages of combining efforts. He suggested that all three towns have a relationship with TI Coastal, and could start considering an island-wide effort to see what could be developed, and that TISPC needs to initiate that endeavor.

Mr. Chadwick mentioned having a stronger voice to approach the legislature with the unison of the three towns as Topsail Island.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, October 25, 2018, 2:00 PM

North Topsail Beach

Mr. Smith suggested making a trip to Raleigh together and illustrate that all three towns are making efforts together.

Mr. Hiram Williams added taking the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. to participate in the statewide and national arena.

Mr. Smith added that Doug Medlin, Mayor of Surf City is going to D.C. to discuss infrastructure needs. He mentioned the need to navigate incongruous rules and regulations to arrive at solutions, regarding EOC's, communications, long-term water and septic resulting in storm resiliency, and addressing housing issues locally and considerably inland as well. Mr. Combs requested centralized data estimates of damage to bring to Raleigh.

Mr. Williams suggested pooling estimated potential losses, such as sales tax, etc.

Mr. Smith mentioned that all budgets are affected, that he will talk to all three towns and pool the information and will show what is working to gain additional support.

Mr. Ward expressed concern that Hurricane Florence will be eclipsed by Hurricane Michael.

Mr. Smith countered that the Mayor of Wilmington has a goal to keep Hurricane Florence in the forefront with a trip to Washington D.C. next week.

Mayor Tuman discussed the effect of the hurricane on the dunes and the sand bag revetment. He recalled the American Beach Shoreline Protection Meeting presentation 3-4 years ago regarding how to make the shorelines more resilient. Mr. Tuman suggested perhaps NC should reevaluate seawalls on the coast but buried in sand.

c. NC State Hurricane Recovery Support

There was discussion that the follow through of Lu Ann Perryman and Connie Wilson of Connie Wilson Consulting in the legislature was important, as well as the need for housing recovery, EOC's, reviewing recovery issues, and fund matching.

12. Open Forum

Mr. Price brought up the Federal Disaster Grant through the NC Works Career Center in Jacksonville has access to a \$2,000,000 grant to hire folks to help with disaster recovery.

Mr. Smith mentioned the Municipal League Grant of up to \$500 for municipal employees who suffered a hurricane related loss.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, October 25, 2018, 2:00 PM

North Topsail Beach

Mr. Williams suggested looking at Topsail Beach's helpful recovery efforts.

Mr. Smith mentioned that there were 2 concerning areas of over-wash, including grandfathered homes and accesses. The rest of the beach held up, and some are stronger now. The inlet changed in the storm allowing easier movement in and out.

Mr. Combs said that TI Coastal's philosophy is not just to build dunes up, but to create shallow water, giving the waves a longer distance to dissipate before arrival, and that Topsail Beach's success during the storm is attributable to that approach.

13. Next Meeting – Surf City, location TBD, 2 PM, December 6, 2018

14. Adjournment - Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Price seconded the motion and it was carried.