



# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 2:00 PM

Surf City Welcome Center

102 North Shore Drive, Surf City, NC 28445

**Members Present:**

Steve Smith, Chair  
Mike Benson, Co-Chair  
David Ward  
Hiram Williams  
Jerry Patton  
Ed Broadhurst

**Members cont.**

Jerry Heid  
Richard Peters  
Teresa Batts  
Mark Price

**Liaisons and Guests:**

Pam Castens, Army Corps  
Kerri Allen, NC Coastal Federation  
John Goller  
Robert Creel

1) Call to Order & Greetings

Meeting called to order at 2 PM by Chairman Smith.

2) Public Comments

No one made a public comment.

3) Approval of Agenda

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

4) Approval of Minutes for March 1, 2019

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

5) Consultant/Lobbyist/Partners –

a) Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Mike McIntyre

Chairman Smith discussed the monthly update that was emailed out.

b) Connie Wilson Consulting – Connie Wilson

There was discussion on House Bill 95 regarding allocations to Topsail Island from the state of NC, In addition, House Bill 296 would add one staff member to help manage and the newly created positions-with the Dept. of Environmental Quality that would be funded from the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund. The Commission came to the consensus to watch House Bill 296.

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

Ms. Castens stated they are wrapping up their budget request for 2021. Currently, there are no changes in funding for Topsail Island projects although our cost:benefit ratio ranks high.

Ms. Castens followed up with information about the South Atlantic Coastal Study and an upcoming webinar to look at risks under various climate change strategies. Identifying risks can lead to reducing risk impact. A \$60 million federal grant was awarded over a 4-year period to look at this issue.

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

Mr. Benson gave an update from Ms. Riely's Washington DC trip regarding the disposal of private dredge materials in federal disposal sites (ie spoil islands). She had a positive meeting with Congressman Rouzer and found support for finding a solution to the dredge spoil problem. The Coastal Caucus is set to meet informally in Raleigh next week. He reminded everyone of the NCBIWA local government conference April 29-30 in Emerald Isle.

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

Next meeting is April 17 and 18, in Manteo, NC

7) Old Business

a) Dune Repair Workshop – March 9, 2019 – Recap

There was discussion on the success of the Dune Repair Workshop and the large number of people (about 100) in attendance. Spencer Rogers presents extension material, in this case dune repair and how dune form, in an entertaining manner that keeps his audience engaged. He answered numerous questions following his presentation.

b) Resource Institute Topsail Island Task Force Update

Chairman Smith discussed a meeting in Surf City this past Monday where the RI Taskforce went through the combined project ratings. The RI chair stated that Topsail Beach could use the monies towards their need for a new waterline from the mainland. RI had previously stated that no monies could be used for putting sand on the beach. N. Topsail Beach projects were removed from the project list since

other funds may become available, although the taskforce member from NTB was allowed to vote and discuss each project in the remaining list of projects. Taskforce members from both Topsail Beach and Surf City were then charged with informing their respective town boards of the top projects to see if the boards had any questions prior to RI taking the list to Raleigh (Division of Water Resources).

- 8) Town's Local Projects/Direction  
a) North Topsail Beach – Mike Benson

Mr. Benson discussed that most of the NTB crossovers have been re-constructed. The Town park is currently being worked on for the summer season. The New River Inlet was dredged to remove 27,000 cubic yards of sand by the Dredge Murden during the first 2 weeks of March. They are expecting the first check from FEMA anytime from Category B reimbursements. North Topsail Beach is proceeding with a Hurricane Matthew project in hopes to do a truck haul sand project for the Phase 5 area this winter.

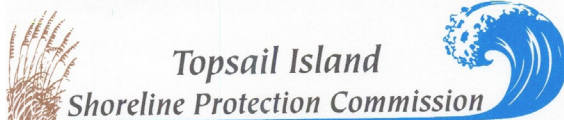
- b) Surf City – Stephanie Hobbs

Mrs. Hobbs discussed that the Town has contracted out the repair of beach accesses and about 75% are completed. Surf City will host an after-action hurricane meeting Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> with department heads. Staff has met with the Golden Leaf Foundation regarding grant funding for Town Hall and the Nelva Albury Park. The Sand Haul continues, and contractors are screening all sand before it is placed on the beach. Budget kickoff has begun, and management is meeting with department heads.

- c) Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose stated they are working with FEMA and their Category A&B has been obligated. They have received one check thus far. Topsail Beach has received their state permit for their next nourishment project. The Topsail Beach BIS Committee is holding a community informational meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Their current dredge project is underway and is moving a little slower than anticipated, it should be completed by the first of May.

- 9) New Items  
a) FEMA Beach Recovery Timing Discussion  
b) NC Senate Bill 95 Change



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- c) Long-Term MOA Shallow Draft Meeting: March 27<sup>th</sup>, New Bern

### **State Update**

Mr. Benson stated that Pender and Onslow are both Tier 2 Counties and there are still monies left in the fund to be used for new Shallow Draft Inlet projects. Currently there is \$29 million in the fund and \$11 million worth of obligated projects.

There was discussion on the disposal of spoil materials in federal easements from public projects by speakers representing the public (NCBIWA), the state, and the Army Corps. All want a solution to the problem, but little progress has been made to date.

### **Army Corps Update.**

In addition to New River Inlet maintenance dredging this year, the Army Corps has a budget of \$3.5 million dollars for a pipeline dredging project in the NRI and Channel to Jacksonville that will put sand on the beach near the inlet this fall or winter.

A second project to dredge the ICW at inlet crossings along the coast has a budget of \$5.5 million dollars but there are up to 10 inlet crossings eligible. Hopefully, the NRI ICW crossing will be chosen this year based on contract bids and combined with the inlet and channel to Jacksonville project for even more sand on the beach.

Due to scheduled and unscheduled maintenance the hourly charge for Army Corps dredges is rising in 2019

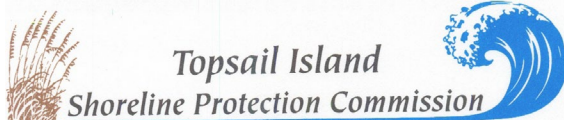
- d) TISPC - Public Meetings

Chairman Smith reminded everyone in the audience that the commission meetings are public meetings open to all stakeholders.

- e) TISPC Raleigh Trip

Chairman Smith recommended that Chris Gibson, Bryan Chadwick and he go to Raleigh to meet with state delegates regarding disaster recovery at a faster rate, Senate Bill 95, and insurance rate increases.

Mr. Peters made a motion to approve sending Chris Gibson, Bryan Chadwick & Steve Smith to Raleigh. Mrs. Batts seconded the motion, and it was carried.



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## 10) Open Forum

Mr. Robert Creel questioned if Topsail Island had thought about geo-synthetic materials to extend the life of dune projects and protect the coastline. He stated Bald Head and Eagle Island have both used geo-synthetic materials.

Mr. Williams stated the state does not encourage beach towns to go in this direction.

Mr. Robert Creel stated for a long time it was a color issue with the materials, as they previously didn't blend well. The list of geo-synthetic materials used through the US is very long. He asked for time to give a further presentation and show the commission what all the materials could do.

Chairman Smith stated the commission was open to a presentation and he would arrange a TISPC meeting date were Mr. Creel could return and present his story on geo-synthetics.

## 11) Next Meeting – Topsail Beach Town Hall, 2 PM, April 25, 2019

## 12) Adjournment

Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn.