

Commission Members Present:

Steve Smith, Chairman
Mike Benson, Vice Chairman
Jerry Patton
Hiram Williams
Susan Meyer
Mark Price
Teresa Batts
Ed Broadhurst
Chad McEwen

Public Officials Present:

Mike Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Bryan Chadwick, Town Manager, North
Topsail Beach
Pam Castens, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kerrie Allen, NC Coastal Federation
Doug Medlin, Mayor, Surf City
Stephanie Hobbs, Town Clerk, Surf City
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk

1) Call to Order & Greetings

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

2) Public Comments

No public comments were made.

3) Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Mr. Broadhurst made a motion to elect Steve Smith as chairman. Vice Chairman Benson seconded the motion, and it was carried. During discussion, Vice Chairman Benson said his appreciation for the work Chairman Smith has done with the commission, saying that he is the big reason for the commission's accomplishments. Mr. Williams made a motion to elect Mike Benson as vice chairman. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion, and it was carried. Mr. Broadhurst said that Vice Chairman Benson is also appreciated. Chairman Smith said he can count on him to catch all the details.

4) Approval of Agenda

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion, and it was carried.

5) Approval of Minutes for Dec. 5, 2019

Councilwoman Batts made a motion to approve the minutes for the last meeting. Mr. Patton seconded the motion, and it was carried.

6) Consultant & Partners Reviews

a) Poyner Spruill Attorneys –

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 2:00 PM

Surf City Welcome Center

102 North Short Drive, Surf City, NC 28445

Chairman Smith said the report was self-explanatory, highlighting two big events. First, for the sand issue, there has been an administrative change, but there is still work to be done. Second, the federal project was approved with \$237 million. Other bills have been passed in the meantime, and the commission will need to see how Topsail Island qualifies for that funding.

b) Connie Wilson Consulting –

Chairman Smith said that the state legislature is in recess but will come back in mid-April for a short session. Ms. Wilson is already talking to representatives on the commission's goals. There are also plans to invite representatives down to Topsail Beach for the dredge project.

c) North Carolina Coastal Federation

Ms. Allen reported that almost 30 tons of debris in Surf City waterways have been removed. She expressed her appreciation for town cooperation in helping put together stakeholder groups to put in place better practices to prevent marine debris. Mr. Broadhurst asked how much longer the project will be in Surf City. Ms. Allen said Surf City will be finished in a week or two, after which they will continue down to the Cape Fear River. Mr. Rose mentioned Topsail Beach's offer of support to the project. Ms. Allen also reported that they have received funds for crab pot removal from the General Assembly in the past, but not this year. However, the program continues to remove what they can.

d) United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE)

i) Surf City/North Topsail Beach Federal Project

Ms. Castens highlighted the success in receiving \$237 million for initial construction from supplemental bill funds. The funds will come with an aggressive timeline and implementation guidance. She is still awaiting that guidance while headquarters puts together a group for partnership agreements. She said she will set meetings with both towns as soon as possible and that a real estate expert should be available next week. The Corps has not yet received the funding, but expect to at any time, so there's no reason to not get started immediately. Mr. Williams asked if there are benefits because it is emergency funding. Ms. Castens replied that special rules apply. Initial funding may be 100% federal. Ms. Castens thanked everyone and expressed her excitement to finally begin the project.

7) Old Business

a) Meeting Schedule

Chairman Smith said the meeting schedule is for the fourth Thursday most months, expect for conflicts such as the ASBPA conference and holidays. Chairman Smith noted that the CRC meetings have moved to the second week, so he will not be able to go on Wednesday. Mr. Patton will go in his place. Chairman Smith said Topsail Beach is trying to hold a CRC meeting in the Assembly Building in town.



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 2:00 PM

Surf City Welcome Center

102 North Short Drive, Surf City, NC 28445

Vice Chairman Benson asked to review the state and federal representative meeting planned as part of the ongoing storm reduction project in Topsail Beach. Chairman Smith said it was pushed to the week of March 16th to include the Raleigh legislature and D.C. representatives. He is leaning toward March 19th in the Assembly Building to say thank you and show what is going on in town.

b) 2020 Legislative Goals & Contracts

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the contracts. Vice Chairman Benson seconded the motion, and it was carried. Vice Chairman Benson asked about the overall increase in fees. Chairman Smith said for Poyner Spruill Attorneys it would be an additional \$1,500 a month, which includes new goals, but there may also be some adjustment in the future. Chairman Smith said he had been advised to be cautious on how to approach people and to make sure that people understand what we were really asking. Ms. Wilson did not change her rate. Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve the goals. Councilwoman Batts seconded the motion, and it was carried.

8) Town's Local Projects/Direction – Please include projects dates

a) North Topsail Beach – Bryan Chadwick

Mr. Chadwick confirmed that he is still the town manager for North Topsail Beach, saying it was good to still be here. He said there is a meeting on the 3rd with engineers to rebuild town hall as is in one year or less. For the town park, the third round of bids are out now with the specs altered to elicit more bids. Mr. Chadwick said the truck haul was going well and had reached Ocean Vista Dr. The town will be using one-time state funding to extend the project to the St. Moritz. The Corps is still on target for dredging the Intracoastal Waterway in mid-February, which will put 200,000 cy on the north end. Dial Cordy has also presented a timeline for the EIS and permit for the terminal groin, which the Corps is now reviewing. Mr. Chadwick expressed his thanks to all involved with the federal project.

b) Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Ms. Hobbs reported that town hall construction is moving along. The town will be using the one-time state funding for dune restoration from Charlotte Ave. to the sandbag revetment. A town retreat is scheduled for February. The private beach project will begin November 15th this year. Ms. Hobbs expressed her thanks for the federal project. Mayor Medlin welcomed the new town manager, Kyle Breuer.

c) Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose expressed his excitement for the Surf City and North Topsail Beach federal project. He reported that all equipment is in transit for the Topsail Beach dredging project, which is still on track for an April 30th deadline. They will be having weekly meetings with TI Coastal to keep citizens informed. Once the project is in place, they will invite legislative groups down to see it. The BIS committee is taking on soundside issues and has been working with the Coastal Federation to identify seven areas with possibilities for stormwater solutions and living

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 2:00 PM

Surf City Welcome Center

102 North Short Drive, Surf City, NC 28445

shorelines. Mr. Rose also said the town retreat will take place in mid-February, where they will discuss long term improvements. Mr. Rose said they are also beginning to organize hurricane preparedness information. Mr. Williams said that the dune structure design should be worked out. Mr. Rose said that TI Coastal is prepping ideas and that the town has put together a list of contractors.

9) New Items

a) CRC 2020 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Smith said the next CRC meeting is February 12-13. The CRC is also extending the IHA public comment period to March 2nd. There have also been small issues on the wording regarding setbacks in legislation.

b) Invitation to Topsail Beach Project – Tentative week of March 16, 2020

Chairman Smith summarized the expectations for inviting members of the Raleigh legislature and D.C. representatives, along with coastal state officials to view the ongoing storm reduction project in town and how all groups have worked together to achieve this success.

c) Washington Trip – Week of March 22, 2020

Chairman Smith said that Tuesday, March 23rd, will be the day to visit the congressional delegation, FEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers. They plan to pull together specific topics like CBRA and a legislative fix for the use of sand from CBRA with prepared talking points. Chairman Smith also said that February 19th will be the long-term, shallow draft inlet MOA meeting with the Corps on dredging in New Bern. Chairman Smith also remarked on the growing role of sustainability, bringing it up as a future long-term goal with more to follow. He has been talking to one grocery store chain who will be giving more information about straws and single-use plastic. He will be inviting them to investigate waste in our communities.

10) Next Meeting – 2 PM, Thursday, February 27, 2020, Topsail Beach Town Hall

Vice Chairman Benson volunteered to write up all the 2019 accomplishments. Mr. Williams said that the only way to get the message across about climate change and sea level rise is to work with Mike McIntyre to make it a goal for next year. He said that the commission won't make change at a national level without him, and that while the commission has been fighting for themselves, it may be time to help the rest of the world. Chairman Smith remarked that over 25 years, the water level has risen six inches at his home. He also said that the commission was getting off to a good start in 2020, and he is looking forward to a great year.

11) Adjournment

Vice Chairman Benson made a motion to adjourn, and it was carried.