

Commission Members Present

Steve Smith, Chairman
Mike Benson, Vice Chairman
Ed Broadhurst
Larry Combs
Tom Leonard
Chad McEwen
Jerry Patton
Hiram Williams

Public Present

Kerri Allen, NC Coastal Federation
Pam Castens, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dave Gilbride, Town Manager, North Topsail Beach
Stephanie Hobbs, Town Clerk, Surf City
Mike McIntyre, Poyner Spruill Attorneys
Kathleen Riley, NCBIWA
Mike Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Connie Wilson, Connie Wilson Consulting
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk

1) Call to Order & Greetings

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2) Public Comments

No public comments were made.

3) Approval of Agenda

Alderman Leonard made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, and it was carried.

4) Approval of Minutes for May 28, 2020

Alderman Leonard made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Broadhurst seconded the motion, and it was carried.

5) Consultant & Partners Reviews

a) Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Report Provided

Mr. McIntyre reported that the congressional schedule has drastically changed due to the pandemic, but they are still at work. The annual appropriations bills were delayed because of COVID-19, but the subcommittees are working on them with a goal of a July 4th deadline. The House markup will be done after July 4th with a vote on the bills at the end of July. There will be a fourth COVID-19 bill with additional funding for state and local governments with more details to come. The Army Corps of Engineers will markup a bill at the end of July. Mr. McIntyre said they were monitoring the water bill and its effect on the Corps project. The House infrastructure spending bill will include funding for

harbors, ports, and channels alongside projects to strengthen the coast. Mr. McIntyre said they are monitoring that bill. FEMA has outlined additional guidance for hurricane season in light of the pandemic but will continue using its current model for incident response. The ASBPA conference was cancelled, but the organization sent a letter to House and Senate leadership advocating for coastal consideration in the COVID-19 response. They asked for direct funding, coastal resilience grants, a 100% federal cost share from FEMA, and reduced or waived local cost share for federal projects. Mr. McIntyre said this was ambitious, but there will be a strong push to include these items. The congressional August recess is still on the schedule, so a calendar crunch is in full force. A virtual meeting day may be scheduled on July 22nd between TISPC and congressional delegations. Mr. McIntyre also suggested that on August 20th, TISPC should host an island visit from the federal delegation, if safe to do so. He has received a positive response from Senator Tillis and Rep. Rouzer. Mr. McIntyre reported they are also working to make the flood insurance maps in Topsail Beach right with a consultation with the flood maps group before the appeal process. They have also reminded Senator Tillis, Senator Burr, Rep. Rouzer, and Rep. Murphy about the CBRA bill. They are looking for another bill to attach it to before the end of the session. The NC Association of Realtors has endorsed the CBRA bill and has recommended the national organization to endorse it as well. Mr. McIntyre is also working for a legislative fix to the CBRA sand borrowing issue. Chairman Smith stated that the dates for a federal delegation meeting takes precedent over the TISPC meeting schedule, so the Commission will work with the dates given to it. Alderman Leonard thanked Mr. McIntyre for the report and asked to reach out to him about the CBRA bill. Chairman Smith granted permission.

b) Connie Wilson Consulting –

Ms. Wilson reported that it has been a fast session, ending today. They will be coming back at the end of July for up to two weeks to look at additional COVID-19 legislation and using the CARES Act for lost revenue. HB 1023 was ratified, which allocated \$300 million to local governments. Counties must share 25% with municipalities. The transportation bill passed, which rewrote governance at DOT and balanced the budget in DOT. Only \$3.5 million was taken from the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund. It was an uneventful, short session, because they were focusing on uncontroversial single appropriation items. Chairman Smith said he would like to follow up on occupancy taxes.

c) North Carolina Coastal Federation –

Ms. Allen reported that in the marine debris removal efforts, funding is also focused on prevention efforts through exploring best management practices and regulatory action for docks and piers. She asked for anyone who would like to participate in the stakeholders meeting to let her know. She also said that their educators have created great resources for students and just made a living shoreline video and encouraged the Commission to share with property owners as a resource. Chairman Smith said he attended the last marine debris conference call and reported they would like to hear more about town activities such as clean sweeps. He also said that Topsail Beach had recently completed another clean up that removed 20 tons of marine debris, and the town has recently signed contracts to

move forward with a living shoreline project. Vice Chairman Benson said he would like to join the stakeholder group.

d) North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association –

Ms. Riley said they were moving forward with the November 9th conference, but the location may change to accommodate 100 people and a virtual option. Everyone who registered for the spring conference will be automatically registered for the November conference. Ms. Riley commented that it's great to get the realtors involved in advocacy going forward.

e) United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE) –

Ms. Castens said they are working hard to get contracts for the federal project signed in the fall. Headquarters is deciding on the cost share. They have completed the specs for contract one and are holding biweekly meetings with the towns. An environmental scoping meeting will take place soon to obtain year-round permits for dredging and construction. She said there is a lot going on, but everyone is moving forward to try and get a construction contract in place this year.

6) Old Business

a) CRC Video Conference Recap

Chairman Smith said the CRC met and discussed two variance requests, one of which they granted. They also looked at the materials for the 30 ft setback line while the Inlet Hazard Area discussion has been pushed to the September meeting.

b) Virtual meeting in July with Congressional Staff/Committees

Chairman Smith said that Mr. McIntyre covered this item. We'll be confirming who will participate while Stephanie Missert works on documents for the meetings.

c) Consider Invite to Topsail Island for August 17 to 20

Chairman Smith said he will keep everyone informed on this item.

d) Island BIS Coordinator Discussion

Mr. Gilbride said that the job description is with the town attorney for review, and he hopes to have it back for the July meeting.

7) Town's Local Projects/Direction –

a) North Topsail Beach – Dave Gilbride

Mr. Gilbride said he is looking forward to the July 7th meeting for the federal project. The town park will be open after July 4th. He is also expecting engineer plans any day for the north end sand bag revetment.

b) Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Ms. Hobbs reported that the easements have been sent out for the federal project. The soundside park has also been decorated for July 4th, but there will be no fireworks this year.

c) Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose said dredging will resume in late November. For the flood mapping issue, TI Coastal has been looking at surveys to help strengthen the town's argument. The town also passed the budget and is looking forward to the next couple of months. Chairman Smith also said sea oats will be planted at the end of July on the new dune system.

8) New Items

9) Public Comments

Chairman Smith thanked Vice Chairman Benson for keeping up the website. He also thanked those involved in keeping the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund intact.

10) Next Meeting –

a) No Regular meeting in July

Chairman Smith said there will be no meeting.

b) Video Conference in July – will communicate

c) Regular Meeting - 2 PM, Thursday, August 27, 2020, TBD

Chairman Smith said he will leave it open on what format will be used for this meeting. Vice Chairman Benson recommended always having an online option moving forward.

11) Adjournment