

Commission Members Present

Steve Smith, Chairman
Mike Benson, Vice Chairman
Teresa Batts
Ed Broadhurst
Larry Combs
Tom Leonard
Connie Pletl
David Ward

Public Present

Jack Solak
Robert Sprouse

TISPC Associates

Lexi Arthur, Connie Wilson Consulting
Kyle Breuer, Town Manager, Surf City
Christina Burke, Asst Manager, Topsail Beach
John Gunter, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Stephanie Hobbs, Town Clerk, Surf City
Bob Keistler, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jade Litcher, vice-chair, TB-BIS Committee
Mike McIntyre, Poyner Spruill Attorneys
Kathleen Riley, NCBIWA
Mike Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
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

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

4. Approval of Minutes for June 25, 2020

Vice Chairman Benson made a motion to approve the minutes. Alderman Leonard seconded the motion, and it was carried.

5. Consultant & Partners Reviews

a. Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Report Provided

Mr. McIntyre reported that the congressional visit went very well and maximized time efficiently. He thanked the communities and said Congressmen Rouzer and Murphy were pleased with the schedule. Mr. McIntyre said he will be following up with their staff. He also reported that the U.S. House of Representatives agreed on a resolution to avoid a government shutdown until after the election. He is hoping to meet with the National Association of Realtors in October for the endorsement of the CBRA

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legislation. There are also good signs from the Army of Engineers on the CBRA sand-borrowing issue. Chairman Smith asked to confirm that there will be no in-person meetings at the Capitol this calendar year. Mr. McIntyre confirmed that virtual meetings will continue until next year.

b. Connie Wilson Consulting –

Lexi Arthur reported that the state allocated funds for COVID-19 in a special session in September and will not come back this year. The Topsail Island delegation are in safe seats. Kevin Hart at the Division of Water Resources seems interested in touring the island. She also requested the 2021 priorities from TISPC. Chairman Smith encouraged support for the local delegation. Alderman Leonard and Vice Chairman Benson endorsed Michael Lazzara for state senate.

c. North Carolina Coastal Federation –

Vice Chairman Benson reported that he attended a virtual meeting on Tuesday for the NC Coastal Federation's marine debris removal grant, which has been very successful. The group plans to focus on education and developing guidelines for marine construction to prevent future debris.

d. North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association –

Ms. Riley reported that they received a grant for tidal gauges, with some sent to Surf City and Topsail Beach. Each gauge costs \$500 with the grant, rather than \$2500 without it. For the November conference, they are planning to hold a small in-person event at Pine Knoll Shores with a virtual option if the state moves to Phase 3.

e. United States Army Corps of Engineering (USACE) –

Mr. Keistler reported that the New River Inlet will be dredged between November and April. He will pass on a specific schedule once he receives it. He plans to hear in October the results of the bids for the dredging contracts. For the NTB/SC project, the Corps is working to coordinate year-round sand placement. He said they were also waiting on a decision from NTB and will send a letter to NTB and SC to summarize progress on the project. They would like to have the initial construction completed by 2023. Mr. Broadhurst asked if there would be a Corps project in TB this fall. Mr. Keistler said there was dredging planned at the south end this fall.

6. Old Business

a. CRC Sep. 9th Meeting

i. Development Line vs. Static Vegetation Line Rules

ii. Beach Fill Rules

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- iii. Public Crossovers & Mats Rules
- iv. Interactive Shellfish Leases Map
- v. Public Access Grant Rules

Chairman Smith summarized the CRC meeting. Without a static vegetation line, crossovers are not allowed but ropes and posts are. This change in wording will go before the public for comment. The shellfish leases map was created to help the Division of Marine Fisheries visualize where the leases are. There are several around Topsail Island. The public access grant is an old program, but they are updating the rules to add additional accesses to beaches. Chairman Smith expects the CRC will review the Inlet Hazard Area boundaries at the next meeting.

7. Town's Local Projects/Direction –

a. North Topsail Beach – Dave Gilbride

Vice Chairman Benson wished Town Manager Gilbride a speedy recovery. He reported that an engineer has developed a design to restore the sandbag revetment. The committee approved the design and a contract is being drawn up. The Town Park was restored this summer while the county beach access was not, so overwash has come over the road. It has been two years since Town Hall was damaged in Hurricane Florence, and the town is still in the engineering process. March will be the earliest Town Hall will be restored. Vice Chairman Benson also said the Board of Aldermen wants to figure out the best way to participate in the federal project and is taking the time to do so.

b. Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Mr. Breuer remarked that Mr. Keistler covered everything on the federal project. Chairman Smith asked about road flooding. Mr. Breuer replied that they have submitted a Golden Leaf Foundation grant application to install high water warning signs. DOT funding is still at a standstill, so he is waiting on them. Mr. Ward asked if they considered raising the road. Mr. Breuer said they have not had those conversations, but it is a long-term solution.

c. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose reported that they are wrapping up the first phase of beach planting on top of the dunes and will come back to do the sides in April, a total of 900,000 sea oats. He also reported that the post and rope extensions at public accesses have been completed. It looks like the CRC may allow beach mats at public accesses as well. They will also be starting the next phase of their private project around November 16th, including dredging in the back channels. The Corps

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will dredge other areas. Mr. Rose said the NC Coastal Federation has helped them identify a few sites for living shorelines. Chairman Smith remarked that the inlet is in good shape, with a depth of 15 feet at low tide.

8. New Items

a. Congressman McIntyre Contract

Chairman Smith reported that Mr. McIntyre has moved to a new firm, Ward and Smith. The options for the TISPC were as follows: 1) Stay with Mr. McIntyre, 2) Stay with Poyner Spruill Attorneys, or 3) Find someone new. Chairman Smith suggested staying with Mr. McIntyre with no changes in the contract. Alderman Leonard made a motion to stay with Mr. McIntyre. Vice Chairman Benson seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

b. Reporting Projects – Resilience and Cleanup

Chairman Smith asked that if the towns had a cleanup or resiliency project to send him a short paragraph to submit to a resiliency group.

9. Meetings & Conferences

a. USACE/State Long Term Inlet MOA – Oct. 7

Chairman Smith said at this quarterly meeting the Corps goes through the dredging schedule for shallow draft inlets. Vice Chairman Benson added that the Corps also gives an update on their vision for the fund.

b. NCBIWA's Conference – Nov 9 & 10 –

c. Coastal Resource Commission – Nov. 18-19 – Islander Hotel, Emerald Isle

10. Public/Commission Comments

None were made.

11. Next Meeting – October 22, 2020

Chairman Smith said whether the meeting will be virtual is pending.

12. Adjournment

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