

# 2020 TISPC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## **State Goal Followed by Accomplishment**

### **Protect the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund**

Despite budget shortfalls due to COVID-19 restrictions, funding for the Shallow Draft Inlets has remained intact, although a portion of the fund balance was used to provide some of the state's share for construction of the new the Dare County dredge. Kevin Hart, Shallow Draft Manager from DWR visited the Island in October to discuss island-wide issues with representative from each of the three municipalities.

### **Work to obtain permanent funding source and distribution method for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund**

Lobbying efforts continue through our contacts with State Senators and Representatives as well as through the efforts of our paid lobbyist in Raleigh. Surf City was one the recipients of the \$11.5 million in funding distributed this year.

### **Advocate for regulations to upgrade marina environmental requirement**

We continue to bring these issues to the attention of regulators and legislators and to partner with others such as NCBIWAs and the NC Coastal Federation in this effort.

### **Work to educate the insurance industry and NC Insurance Commission about coastal risk factors and cost control measures for residential insurance**

Efforts to improve awareness of coastal issues and reduce premiums continue.

### **Seek funding to construct marsh sills, living shorelines and other structures that minimize sound side flooding**

Some minimal funding has been obtained and experimentation with sills and living shorelines is underway in Topsail Beach. Additional efforts to obtain funding will continue.

### **Seek increased funding and assistance from NCDOT in dealing with street flooding from rains including storm water removal systems and upgrading using funding from storm resilience programs**

A lack of funding for NCDOT projects has hampered these efforts, but NCDOT has recognized the need for these projects. Lobbying efforts continue to define the term "resilience" and to expand how these funds can be used.

### **Explore ways for state agencies to assist municipalities and counties in dealing with FEMA and to expedite the disbursement of funds**

Discussions have been held with other coastal entities and with state agencies. The need to improve coordination between FEMA, state government and coastal communities has been acknowledged by all concerned.

### **Explore land purchases for environmental and flood control purposes with the state and conservation groups**

This goal has yet to be fully explored. Preliminary efforts are underway to look for possibilities for land use and funding.

## **Eliminate the requirement after the bidding process for receiving three bids for dredging projects which require ocean certified dredges**

Other than recognizing that a limited number of companies are able to bid on such projects and that the requirement to rebid projects increases costs, little progress has been made.

## **Provide assistance in obtaining Emergency Services Buildings**

Exploration continues in an effort to find funding sources.

## **Provide assistance to determine what the term resilience will be defined as for Beach community**

Contact has been made with both legislators and regulators in an effort to put a broad interpretation on this term so as to allow for the maximum possible utilization of funding for municipal needs.

## **Notify TISPC of pending legislation that impacts Topsail Island**

## **Federal Goals Followed by Accomplishment**

### **Continue with legislation to change NTB CBRA maps**

Senators Burr and Tillis as well as Congressmen Murphy and Rouzer continue to be committed to the passage of this legislation and our lobbying efforts continue. Both Congressman Murphy and Congressman Rouzer visited Topsail Island in August to get a first-hand look at the CBRA zone and other coastal issues on the island

### **Lobby for funding to allow a new start for the Surf City/N. Topsail Beach Federal Shoreline Protection Project**

**Success!!!!** Funding has been obtained and both towns have agreed to sign the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) so that the project can proceed.

### **Work to finalize the revised legal opinion that allows federal dollars to move sand from a CBRA zone for beach nourishment**

Discussions have been held with our lobbyists and with our Senators and Congressmen.

### **Lobby for revisions to Federal Flood Maps**

Contacts have been made and discussions held about the importance of these revisions particularly as they impact the Federal Flood Insurance Program.

### **Work to stop recent practice by USACE requiring new easement agreements for each project**

Discussions have been held with the Corps of Engineers, but little progress has been made. Efforts are continuing.

### **Develop an island-wide consistency between FEMA teams to assist towns in dealing with disaster recovery**

We continue efforts to have FEMA deal with disaster recovery on an island-wide basis.

## **Find ways to obtain Federal funding for routine inlet maintenance and clearing of sand in federal authorized navigation channels**

We and our lobbyists have had talks with our Senators and Congressman about the need to insure these funds are made available and are not used for other purposes.

## **Continue to promote Community Rating System discounts for flood insurance.**

Our communities continue to have success in utilizing this system to assist our residents in obtaining discounts on all important flood insurance policies.

## **Notify TISPC of pending legislation that impacts Topsail Island**

## **Other Goals Followed by Accomplishment**

### **Work to increase understanding and cooperation between TISPC and environmental groups**

TISPC is pleased to have had participation from the NC Coastal Federation at its meetings. In addition we have reached out to the Topsail Island Turtle Project and the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital with favorable responses. We hope to establish a rapport with the local Audubon Society as well.

### **Stay abreast of studies on sea level rise particularly as it relates to coastal and sound side flooding**

We continue to have representatives present at National, State and Regional conferences on all coastal issues as well as monitoring various published articles.

### **Understand and monitor CRC regulations and proposed rule making**

TISPC has a presence at all CRC meetings and continues to make regular discussions of CRC activities a part of our meetings.

### **Be involved with efforts to find solutions for the disposal of non-federal dredge materials**

We are seeking state help in identifying disposal sites,