

# 2021 COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## **State Goal Followed by Accomplishment**

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

Despite changes in budget priorities, funding for the Shallow Draft Inlets has remained intact.

### **Advocate for permanent funding for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund**

Although permanent funding has not been attained, the next State Budget does include a one-time appropriation of \$40,000,000.00 for the mitigation fund.

### **Facilitate legislation to allow Topsail Island towns to increase the occupancy tax**

Support for this issue has been obtained from some coastal legislators, but no legislation to allow for an increase has been enacted as of now.

### **Work to increase funding and scope of coastal resilience projects for Topsail Island**

Efforts have resulted in funding in the next State Budget for the development of a statewide Flood Resiliency Blueprint. In addition, a NC Resilience Coastal Communities fund of \$1,150,000.00 was established to provide local planning and management grants.

The Commission was a successful applicant to the NC Resilience Coastal Communities Program. A Community Action Team (CAT) has been formed with the guidance of our assigned environment engineering firm (Kleinfelder). We are in the Phase 1 and 2 planning phases.

### **Advocate to reduce the excess burden of coastal insurance plans**

Efforts to educate regulators and the insurance industry on the difficulties to coastal home owners and businesses caused by unfairly excessive premiums continue.

### **Modify state bidding requirements for ocean-certified dredge projects**

With the help of coastal legislators a bill was passed into law that modified the bidding process for dredge projects and eliminates the costly and unnecessary requirement to rebid projects that do not initially obtain three bids.

### **Find assistance in obtaining funding for water and sewer projects**

The Town of Surf City has received a \$4,000,000.00 grant from the State for its Water and Wastewater project.

### **Work to change state funding and local financing guidelines for terminal groins**

Efforts are ongoing to find support for this item.

### **Pursue an increased share of state funding for USACE Storm Damage Reduction Projects**

The next State Budget contains three years of state match appropriations for the North Topsail/Surf City 50 year project in both the adopted budget: \$12,500,000.00 from a

2020 appropriation and \$14,537,000.00 for 2021-2022/2022-2023 for a total of \$41,574,000.00.

**Request state support for the non-federal owners obligation under the USACE Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Fund (PL 84-99) following storm damage**

More work remains to be done, but we have had success in getting state officials to listen to our needs.

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

As in past years, Connie Wilson Consulting has done an excellent job of keeping the Commission informed of developments in Raleigh.

**Federal Goals Followed by Accomplishment**

**Continue with legislation to change NTB CBRA Map Unit L06**

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.

**Obtain legislation to allow the continued use of sand from the New Topsail Inlet CBRA zone for non-CBRA zone beach nourishment when federal funds are involved**

The state's senators and some of its congressional representatives are willing to sponsor this legislation and we have found other coastal states which support this legislation for their state.

**Work to obtain funding to keep the federal channels of Topsail Island navigable**

Discussions have been held with our lobbyists and with our Senators and Congressmen. Although proposals to increase the USACE's budget they do not include specific allocation of funds for channel dredging

**Continue to provide assistance for the adjustment to Topsail Beach's Flood Maps**

The review process for the town's appeal of revisions made to the National Flood Insurance Program for flood maps continues with no findings as yet.

**Advocate to promote Community Rating System discounts for flood insurance**

Requirements for obtaining Community Rating System discounts continue to be made more stringent while insurance premiums increase. We will continue our efforts in lobbying for relief from the burden of extremely high flood insurance premiums.

**Work to seek insights on ways to support the Federal Flood Insurance Program**

We continue efforts to have congress look at ways to make comprehensive reforms to the program to make more sustainable and affordable. Flood Risk 2.0 may or may not address our concerns

### **Look for funding avenues for water and sewer projects**

We and our lobbyists have had talks with our Senators and Congressman about the need to insure these funds are made available but current political conditions make legislative solutions difficult. Lobbying efforts will continue.

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

As in past years, former Congressman Mike McIntyre has done an excellent job of keeping the Commission informed of developments in Congress.

## **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. Commission members have participated in the NCCF Marine Debris outreach program and plans are underway to support the NCCF microplastics initiative and the styrofoam encapsulation initiative.

In addition we have been joined at our meetings by the Topsail Island Turtle Project and the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital. 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,