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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Thursday, February 24, 2021, 2:00 PM

### **Commission Members Present**

Steve Smith, Chair  
Mike Benson, Vice Chair  
Teresa Batts  
Ed Broadhurst  
Fred Fontana  
Jade Litcher  
Mark Price  
**Virtual**  
Don Harte  
David Ward

### **Associates Present**

Morton Blanchard, TB Commissioner  
Kyle Breuer, Town Manager, Surf City  
Deborah Coltrane, NTB-BISAC  
Alice Derian, Town Manager, N. Topsail Beach  
Scott Franko, Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce  
John Gardner, NTB-BISAC  
Rick Grant, NTB Alderman, BISAC  
John Gunter, Commissioner, Topsail Beach  
Tammie Parris, Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce  
Tammy Proctor, PIO, Pender County  
Mike Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach  
**Virtual**  
Mike McIntyre, TISPC Federal Advocate  
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk  
Stephanie Missert, TISPC Federal Advocate  
Kathleen Riely, NCBIWA  
Connie Wilson, TISPC State Advocate

### I. Call to Order & Greetings

Chairman Smith called the meeting at order at 2:00 p.m.

### II. Public Comments

None were made

### III. Approval of Agenda

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

#### IV. Approval of Minutes for January 27, 2021

Mr. Broadhurst made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Batts seconded the motion, and it was carried.

#### V. Consultant & Partners Reviews

##### A. Ward and Smith Attorneys – See report

Mr. McIntyre reported that the federal government is still operating under last year's budget. A package is being considered that would unlock some money from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The White House has also released a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law guidebook. About 40% of funds will be distributed through competitive grants. There is an excel spreadsheet available that can better help communities understand these funds. The Build Back Better Act is currently stalled. Parts of it related to universal kindergarten and clean energy incentives may pass. NCDEQ has finalized its plan to administer over \$1 billion in ARPA funds, which includes funds for stormwater and wastewater. NC DWI will offer a virtual training for applying for the wastewater funding. He urged the Commission to look at his monthly report for more information on resources. The National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act outlines a desire for more coordination and accountability between federal agencies and state, local, and tribal governments. The CBRA mapping correction has still not occurred. The SHORRE Act has been filed, which would allow CBRA sand borrowing. It has bipartisan support. They are also coordinating a meeting with FEMA for disaster recovery on Topsail Island. Once Congress settles on a long-term solution for the NFIP, they will be in a better position to move forward with the Community Rating System issue. Mr. McIntyre's monthly report also includes an additional report on the funding included in the IJJA.

##### B. Connie Wilson Consulting – See report

Ms. Wilson reported that Raleigh has been focused on redistricting. There has been no date set for the short session for the General Assembly to start. In the meantime, study commissions are meeting, including environmental, agriculture, and Medicaid expansion. Overall, legislators are focused on running for reelection. The GA may come back periodically to pass legislation. Ms. Wilson said she is willing to answer more questions and do more research on any grants. She has reached out to organizations to help with grant writing.

C. North Carolina Coastal Federation –  
No report

D. North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association –

Ms. Riely reported that she is putting together a session on ARPA funding for local governments.

E. United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE)  
No report

F. Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center

Ms. Zagzebski thanked the Commission for the workshop, saying it was a great meeting. She also reported that cold stun season appears to be over, with 19 cold stuns total this year, which is average. They will be open to the public starting March 4<sup>th</sup> with tickets available online and masks required.

## VI. Old Business

A. NC-RCCP Topsail Island – Kyle Breuer/Mike Rose

Mr. Breuer reported that the contractor is trying to revise the open house meeting format with the state and will set a new date soon. All three towns have submitted projects for the project portfolio, which will prioritize 5 projects for each town. After the community meeting, they should bring a list of projects to the Commission for additional public input. He thanked his colleagues for getting the project list together.

B. Island Waste Management Project – Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon – Mike Benson

Vice Chairman Benson reported that the meeting was well-attended and included both government and citizen interest. Discussions included the 'Beach Clean Initiative.' NTB wants to share the beach clean logo island wide to spread awareness. There was a lot of support for preventing polystyrene from getting into the environment. Above 60 people attended. An educational phase is needed for stakeholders and citizens. Chairman Smith said the state would support ordinance changes in response to polystyrene.

C. CRC Meetings Review – Steve Smith

Chairman Smith said the Commission needs to understand the upcoming changes to the National Flood Insurance Plan, Risk Rating 2.0. He said the use of straw bales on sand dunes may be better than fencing environmentally while

doing a good job at retaining sand. A variance from the CRC is still required to place bales and similar standards as sand fencing will apply. He said he is in favor of oyster leases but is wary of potential user conflict. A shellfish association has challenged the CRC's power to regulate oyster leases. The CRC also wants to promote marsh sills over hardened structures. All beach communities will also need a beach management plan eventually. The next meeting will host a visitor from Virginia to talk about their resilience program.

## VII. Town's Local Projects/Direction –

### A. North Topsail Beach – Alice Derian

Ms. Derian reported that the town hall open house last week was well attended. She thanks the NC Coastal Federation and the Karen Beasley Turtle Hospital for providing education at the event. A capital and beach projects special meeting is scheduled for this Saturday while the beach nourishment project will start again on Monday, going through April. The Gray Street beach access will be closed during this time. The Board of Alderman also appointed members to the new Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee, which will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

### B. Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Mr. Breuer reported that they are still working with the Corps to get a validation report to Atlanta. A finalized cost estimate is completing internal review. The Corps asked for operation and maintenance information for the beach crossovers and signage. The beach grass planting project has been completed.

### C. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose reported that the town is updating its flood damage prevention ordinance with public input from the March meeting. Last week was the budget retreat, which set priorities such as stormwater and nuisance flooding. He thanked Ms. Hill, Mr. Breuer, and Ms. Burke for taking on the bulk of the RCCP work. The town is also preparing an all-hazards emergency plan and advised that all the towns should coordinate. The Corps is also scheduled to dredge in the area, and TI Coastal is doing a soundside survey to gather data for flood planning.

## VIII. New Items

### A. King Tides – Impact with Climate Change



# *Topsail Island* *Shoreline Protection Commission*



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Chairman Smith said the towns need to make sure that citizens are aware when king tides are coming. May through July will be active months.

IX. Meetings & Conferences

- A. ASPBA – Mar. 29-31 – Virtual
- B. CRC – April 27 & 28
- C. NCBIWA – May 5 & 6 – Government Conference – The Islander Hotel, Emerald Isle, NC

X. Public/Commission Comments

XI. Next Meeting – March 24, 2022

XII. Adjournment