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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Thursday, March 24, 2022, 2:00 PM

### **Commission Members Present**

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

### **Associates Present**

Christina Burke, Asst. Town Manager, Topsail Beach  
Carla Citarelli, Town Clerk, Surf City  
Alice Derian, Town Manager, N. Topsail Beach  
Deb Hill, Planning Director, N. Topsail Beach  
**Virtual**  
Ray Celeste, Office of Rep, Greg Murphy  
Billy Christ, Office of Rep. David Rouzer  
John Gunter, Commissioner, Topsail Beach  
Mike McIntyre, TISPC Federal Advocate  
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk  
Stephanie Missert, TISPC Federal Advocate  
Tammy Proctor, Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce  
Kathleen Riely, NCBIWA  
Connie Wilson, TISPC State Advocate

### I. **Call to Order & Greetings**

Chairman Smith called the meeting at order at 2:03 p.m.

### II. **Public Comments**

None were made.

### III. **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda by David Ward and seconded by Mike Benson. The vote was unanimous.

### IV. **Approval of Minutes for Feb. 24, 2022**

A motion was made by Hiram Williams and seconded by Ed Broadhurst to approve the February minutes. The vote was unanimous.

V. **Consultant & Partners Reviews**

A. **Ward and Smith Attorneys – Mike McIntyre**

Mr. McIntyre reported that Congress finally passed a federal budget for FY 2022. Congress passed a \$1.5 trillion omnibus bill. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, US EPA released guidance on clean and drinking water funding in the IJJA. \$48 billion will flow through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Flexibility is up to the states, including determining priorities and selection of projects. The state will also have the flexibility to address emerging contaminants. It may take the State of North Carolina weeks or months to determine guidance in implementing the funding based on the EPA memo. The Build Back Better Act may pass in a scaled-down version, which signals additional funding that would strengthen the IJJA. The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers will also be holding regional roundtables to discuss the “Waters of the United States” role. Some representatives would like to halt these rulemaking activities until a US Supreme Court case has been ruled. Congress approved \$390,000 for the New River Inlet maintenance. They are working with Rep. Murphy and Rep. Rouzer on the CBRA mapping issue. On the sand borrowing issue, they expect the SHORRE Act will include provisions addressing the issue. It has bipartisan support. A conference call discussed disaster recovery coordination. The NFIP was extended through September 30, 2022. Risk Rating 2.0 will go into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. There is bipartisan support to cap the rate increases. Vice Chairman Benson asked where to direct letters of support on the CBRA mapping issue. Mr. McIntyre said congressional officials should always been written to. Ms. Missert said USFW approved the technical corrections, so the appropriate committees need to move forward on the bill. Chairman Smith asked about more information on the red knot. Ms. Missert said USFW has agreed to reopen the public comment period. She said technical corrections are typically approved, and it is just a matter of timing.

B. **Connie Wilson Consulting – Connie Wilson**

Ms. Wilson reported that the General Assembly finished their longest session ever in March. In the upcoming short sessions, they want to keep it short and avoid controversial bills. Excess funds have accumulated across revenues. There will be a budget surplus of about \$2.4 billion. Bills must be drafted by May 9<sup>th</sup>. DWI organized a meeting for Surf City and Topsail Beach to discuss utility grant funding available. In terms of redistricting, there will be one representative for all of Topsail Island. For senate, Pender County is now grouped with Duplin and other counties. Ms. Wilson has invited Sen. Jackson down to see the district. For grant writing help, Ms. Wilson identified the Cape Fear COG.

C. [North Carolina Coastal Federation – Kerri Allen](#)

Ms. Allen reported that for the living shoreline cost share program, 50-75% of the cost for private property owners can be covered. They have \$2 million for that program. For local governments, up to 100% of the cost share may be covered. A meeting on the Stump Sound restoration will take place in the next 3-6 months. There will be public meetings as well. On the encapsulated polystyrene issue, for a 16 ft x 2 ft float for the traditional unencapsulated with filter cloth and cap nails option is \$150. For the encapsulated doc for the same size, it is \$123 and in some areas up to \$400. She will share these numbers and suppliers. They are finishing up a public fact sheet on the issue. Two other towns have reached out expressing interest. There was also a brief discussion on PFAS.

D. [North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association – Kathleen Riely](#)

Ms. Riely reported that for the spring meeting, they have Mike McIntyre presenting on federal funding available. There is a happy hour and field trip planned. Rep. Rouzer will be attending in person. She encouraged the Commission to register.

E. [United States Army Corp of Engineering \(USACE\)](#)

No report was given.

F. [Turtle Hospital – Kathy Zagzebski](#)

Ms. Zagzebski reported that there are 28 patients in the hospital. Public tours have resumed through online ticketing and mask requirements. They are preparing for nesting season, but there are no public volunteer spots available. They are interviewing for their summer college internship program. Unpaid junior internship experiences are open to local high school students with a minimum age of 14. There is room for about 24 students.

VI. [Old Business](#)

A. [NC-RCCP Topsail Island](#)

Ms. Citarelli reported that they are in Phase 2 of the project. Michaels Hicks will be scheduling the next CAT meeting.

B. [Island Waste Management Project](#)

Chairman Smith reported that the North Carolina Coastal Federation has approved the use of the beach clean image.

VII. [Town's Local Projects/Direction –](#)

A. [North Topsail Beach – Alice Derian](#)

Ms. Derian reported that the Phase 5 Truck Haul project is still in progress. To date they have placed 34k cy of sand. The Cat B dune restoration project will resume as well in areas that were not reached last winter. She thanked Connie Wilson for helping eliminate a local match requirement. The Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory committee has a member from each phase represented. The committee reviewed a sample ordinance for the encapsulated polystyrene and will be making a recommendation to the Board in May.

B. [Surf City – Kyle Breuer](#)

Ms. Citarelli reported that Manager Breuer is talking weekly with the Corps on the Federal Project economic re-evaluation. However, there are no updates to report. They are working on a sea oats cost share program as well. Residents can order sea oats online.

C. [Topsail Beach – Mike Rose](#)

Chairman Smith reported that they will be adding new plant species to their dune system. They are also working on their emergency operations plan, which will be more comprehensive than past plans. The hiring process to replace Mike Rose is underway. Property owners can use sand fencing and hay bales to trap sand.

VIII. [New Items](#)

Chairman Smith said he wants to move the next TISPC meeting to May 2<sup>nd</sup> due to the CRC meeting and environmental plastics meeting.



*Topsail Island*  
*Shoreline Protection Commission*



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IX. Public/Commission Comments

Mr. Williams apologized for not being able to attend many meetings this spring.

X. Next Meeting – Monday, May 2, 2022 at 2PM in Topsail Beach

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Teresa Batts and seconded by Ed Broadhurst. Chairman Smith adjourn the meeting after the unanimous vote.