



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 2, 2022, 2:00 PM

Commission Members Present

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

Associates Present

Christina Burke, Asst. Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Mike Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Rochelle Jagst, Deputy Town Clerk, Topsail Beach
Carla Citarelli, Town Clerk, Surf City
Alice Derian, Town Manager, N. Topsail Beach
Carson Smith, Representative, NC House
Virtual
Mike McIntyre, TISPC Federal Advocate
Stephanie Missert, TISPC Federal Advocate
Billy Christ (for Rep David Rouzer)
Connie Wilson, TISPC State Advocate
Scott Franko

I. Call to Order & Greetings

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

II. Public Comments

Chairman Smith relayed a public comment from Barbara Wesselman, a Surf City resident who had concerns about a secondary dune system protecting her neighborhood. Vice Chairman Benson introduced North Topsail Beach Alderman Don Harte.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Broadhurst second the motion, and it was carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes for March. 24, 2022

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Batts second the motion, and it was carried

V. **Consultant & Partners Reviews**

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

Mr. McIntyre reported that President Biden submitted his budget request to Congress. Most agencies received increases except for the US Army Corps of Engineers, which received a 15% decrease. The expectation is that Congress will provide additional funding for the USACE. The Flood Insurance Pricing Transparency Act was introduced in Congress to help estimate the cost of insurance for new construction under Risk Rating 2.0. A study shows that under Risk Rating 2.0, there could be a 20% drop in policies in the National Flood Insurance Program. Another new bill would provide relief to the restaurant industry. A bill for supplemental funding for the president’s Covid-19 response would provide expanded uses of ARPA funds for local governments, including infrastructure activities. The Championing Local Efforts to Advance Resilience Act is a bipartisan bill with a grant program to allow states to have resilience offices. The Office of Management and Budget has issued additional guidance for the EPA under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which will affect the use of construction materials in projects funded under the law. A new rule playbook was also released to help local governments better understand the funding in the BIL. Briefs have been submitted in the court case regarding the definition of the “waters of the US.” He would also like to begin scheduling meetings with congressional offices in June. He has requested an update on the CBRA map corrections. On the CBRA sand borrowing issue, the Congressional Research Service published a report on beach nourishment. At the end of the report, they cover the sand borrowing issue and the multiple changes in interpretations of the rule. Committees are also looking to find a compromise and officially reauthorize the NFIP.

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

Ms. Wilson reported that in the interim between sessions, study commissions are examining multiple issues such as retaining state employees. The upcoming session will have mainly non-controversial bills with bipartisan support. She asked the towns to get back to her soon on any local bills. The upcoming fall elections may result in a change in dynamics if the Republican Party gains a supermajority. Chairman Smith said he would like to look into legislation on abandoned vessels for an upcoming session.

C. **North Carolina Coastal Federation – Kerri Allen**

- D. North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association – Kathleen Riely
- E. United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE)
- F. Turtle Hospital – Kathy Zagzebski

VI. Old Business

A. NC-RCCP Topsail Island

Ms. Burke reported that Phases 1 and 2 are wrapping up. The towns received feedback from the state and citizens. There is now a portfolio of potential projects for each town. A joint project on water infiltration systems on roads will be submitted in the Phase 3 grant application for \$135,000 for engineering and design.

B. Beach Clean Project

Mr. Franko reported an upcoming event for an education for ocean-friendly establishments. He said he will also be speaking with the Topsail Island Association of Realtors. Treasure Realty is now a certified ocean-friendly establishment. Vice Chairman Benson noted a student collaboration to create a visual for the project for the upcoming turtle season. He also requested feedback on the BEach Clean website. Chairman Smith noted that any business can receive the ocean-friendly establishment certification.

VII. Town's Local Projects/Direction –

A. North Topsail Beach – Alice Derian

Ms. Derian reported on two active beach projects, including the ongoing Phase 5 project. The contractor may have a two-week extension on that project. The Category B dune restoration project has resumed and will be finished by the end of the week.

B. Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Ms. Citarelli reported that the Corps has given positive feedback on the beach nourishment project.

C. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose reported that South Topsail Elementary has done a video on plastics that would be good for the BEach Clean website. The town has also received its final FEMA payments for Hurricane Florence and Dorian, amounting to \$4.5 million. The last living shoreline project on Ward Street will begin and will be completed by the end of the month. TI Coastal completed their quarterly survey of the inlet, showing no significant shoaling. TI Coastal has also completed a soundside shoreline survey to identify hotspots for flooding. The town has a grant application in with the state to address stormwater mitigation near Rocky Mount Ave.

VIII. New Items

A. CRC Meeting

Chairman Smith reported that the CRC is looking into extending the permits for a weather antenna system used in the event of hurricanes to gather data. Radio Island is looking into using land for offshore energy support. There are two lease areas off the coast, which authorize site development plans, though no construction currently. Carteret County has requested a variance to limit permanent shellfish farming structures. They are also looking for nominations to the CRAC. Kure Beach requested a beach mat variance. The CRC continues to look at development and vegetation lines. The coastal access grant program will be open in the fall. Regulations for boat houses were examined as well. Beach bulldozing may be allowed in certain areas. Communities will be asked to assess major CAMA permits and their adherence to CAMA land use plans.

B. State Plastic Marine Debris Meeting

Vice Chairman Benson said he was impressed in the amount of interest in banning single use plastics. He and Chairman Smith emphasized the importance of educating the consumer, especially summer visitors.

C. DC virtual Meeting – June 7

Chairman Smith requested that the towns think about their two representatives for the meetings.

IX. Public/Commission Comments

Chairman Smith shared positive feedback from citizens on the BEach Clean Project.

X. Next Meeting – Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 2PM in Surf City



Topsail Island
Shoreline Protection Commission



XI. Adjournment

Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Benson seconded the motion, and it was carried.