



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 26, 2022, 2:00 PM

Commission Members Present

Mike Benson, Vice Chair
Teresa Batts
Ed Broadhurst
David Ward
Hiram Williams
Don Harte
Mark Price
William Snyder

Associates Present

Kyle Breuer, Town Manager, Surf City
Mike Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Carla Citarelli, Town Clerk, Surf City
Kathy Zagzebski
Tom Staker

Virtual

Keaton Browder, Office of Rep. Murphy
Christina Burke, Asst. Town Manager, Topsail Beach
John Gunter, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Mike McIntyre, TISPC Federal Advocate
Stephanie Missert, TISPC Federal Advocate
Tammy Proctor, Pender Tourism
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order & Greetings

Vice Chairman Benson called the meeting at order at 2:01 p.m.

II. Public Comments

None were made.

III. Approval of Agenda

Alderman Harte 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. Snyder made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Williams second the motion, and it was carried

V. **Consultant & Partners Reviews**

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

Mr. McIntyre reported that congressional meeting coordination is going well. He said he was glad to attend the NCBIWA meeting. On May 4th, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved the Bipartisan Water Resources Development Act, which authorized 36 new feasibility studies and modified 21 projects for construction. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved its own version two weeks later, which includes 72 feasibility studies. The WRDA bills contain language from the SHORRE bill, which focuses on protecting and restoring shorelines and contains provisions favorable to the TISPC. The Department of Treasury is releasing the second wave of ARPA funding and has updated their FAQs on ARPA online. It is also working to improve their assistance for local communities. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is accepting feasibility study proposals from non-federal entities. The Biden Administration released an action plan to accelerate the delivery of infrastructure projects and funding. NCDEQ is accepting comments on its administration of funding for stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater. These funds will be released through a competitive process, the guidelines of which may be released in July. The NC Division of Water Resources is accepting applications for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund by July 8th. For the upcoming meetings in Washington, there will be a preparatory phone call next week. Mr. McIntyre continues to monitor CBRA corrections for important dates. On the sand borrowing issue, the WRDA bills included wording from the SHORRE Act, which allows the federal government to cover the extra costs from borrowing sand from farther away. They have run into a delay on discussing issues with FEMA. The National Flood Insurance Program is set to expire at the end of September, so they are seeing serious consideration on improvements. Mr. Broadhurst raised a question about funding for dredging, to which Ms. Missert said they should bring that point up in the congressional discussions. Mr. McIntyre emphasized the benefits of CBRA sand borrowing for communities.

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

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

Vice Chairman Benson reported that Topsail Beach passed an ordinance banning nonencapsulated polystyrene docs and North Topsail Beach is in the process of doing the same.

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

Vice Chairman Benson reported the presence of turtle nests in North Topsail Beach. Ms. Zagzebski reported that the hospital was named a coastal entrepreneur of the year. She thanked those who participated in their ocean-friendly after-hours event, where they received their ocean friendly establishment certification. There will be a sea turtle release in about two weeks. There are five turtle nests on the island. They have gotten several hooked turtles lately. They commended the Surf City Pier for following the correct guidance for what to do when a turtle is hooked. She thanked the towns for their continued support and partnership.

VI. Old Business

A. NC-RCCP Topsail Island

Mr. Brewer reported that they are gearing up to apply to Phase 3 of the program. The result of Phases 1 and 2 is being developed into a final report by the contractor. They will submit a joint application with all three towns for the design and engineering for a stormwater project. He said he will push for a template at the end of the project to use for future projects.

B. Beach Clean Project

Vice Chairman Benson reported that they are deciding on the information for the webpage. The logo will have a QR code so visitors can easily visit the website. The Kiwanis Builders Club at Dixon Middle School and the Kiwanis Key Club at Dixon High School worked jointly on a display for the sea turtle hospital about the initiative.

C. NCBIWA Conference

Vice Chairman Benson said it was a productive meeting. The congressional delegation was supportive of the coast. Resiliency seems to be an important topic. Mr. Snyder said the meeting helped him get up to speed on coastal issues. Mr. Broadhurst said it was a comprehensive meeting.



Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission



D. DC Virtual Meeting

Vice Chairman Benson said there will be a workshop next week to go over the visit.

VII. Town's Local Projects/Direction –

A. North Topsail Beach – Alice Derian

Vice Chairman Benson reported that the FEMA Phase 5 project has been completed for the season. It will be completed in the fall and winter. The town also completed the FEMA Category B dune restoration project. They have resumed sea oats planting. The Board of Alderman put into their budget an item to develop a beach management plan. The Corps issued a new timeline on the New River Inlet Management Master Plan.

B. Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Mr. Breuer reported that they are in the final days of the Corps notification on the federal project. The last delivery of sea oats will be in the first week of June. The beach grass has done well this year. They are hosting a FEMA training for board members. Town Council has given staff direction to draft a ban on nonencapsulated polystyrene. They are also working on a watershed restoration plan. They are working on a shoreline stabilization project in Soundside Park.

C. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose reported that their last living shoreline project will be completed by the end of June. They are starting more dune planting in late summer to compliment the sea oats. They have warning level thresholds established for the tide gauges, which will alert citizens in the event of high water. They are looking into a grant for a new emergency operations center and fire station. Mr. Rose thanked the Commission for their time and effort in his six years with Topsail Beach. Doug Shipley will be taking his place as town manager. Mr. Broadhurst said the Commission will miss him and that he was an asset to the island. The Commission thanked him.

VIII. New Items



Topsail Island

Shoreline Protection Commission



A. HURREVAC webinar series, which will run from Monday, June 6th to Friday, June 10th

Mr. Breuer explained that HURREVAC is a modeling program to promote emergency preparedness for hurricanes. It gives a visual representation of the track of a hurricane.

B. Blue Flag - <https://blueflag.us/> - Mike Benson

Vice Chairman Benson reported that the ASBPA is encouraging towns to become Blue Flag certified. He attended an educational workshop on how to engage with the public on these issues.

C. Microplastics Sampling - contact Georgia Busch, Coastal Specialist at georgiab@nccoast.org or (910) 509-2838 ext. 206

Mr. Breuer reported that the NC Coastal Federation is looking for citizen volunteers to do microplastic sampling.

IX. Public/Commission Comments

Mr. Williams discussed the Rodanthe houses collapsing, stating we need to place sand in front of homes to keep them from collapsing.

X. Next Meeting – Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 2PM in Topsail Beach

XI. Adjournment

David Williams made a motion to adjourn. Ed Broadhurst seconded the motion, and it was carried.