



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 2:00 PM
Surf City, NC

Commission Members Present

Steve Smith, Chair
Mike Benson, Vice Chair
Teresa Batts
Ed Broadhurst
Larry Combs
Fred Fontana
David Ward
William Snyder

Associates Present

Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach Town Manager
Kyle Breuer, Surf City Town Manager
Carla Citarelli, Surf City Town Clerk
Alice Derian, North Topsail Beach Town Manager
Mike McIntyre, TISPC Federal Advocate
Kerri Allen, NC Coastal Federation
John Koloski, Surf City Councilman
John Gunter, TB Commissioner
Jamie Pratt, TI Coastal
Jade Litcher, TB BIS
Tom Staker, TB BIS
Nicholas Tormala, Publix

Virtual

Christina Burke, TB Asst. Town Manager,
Topsail Beach
Stephanie Missert, TISPC Federal Advocate
Tammy Proctor, Pender County Tourism
Tim Zizack, Surf City Councilman
Kathleen Riely, NCBIWA
Connie Wilson, TISPC State Advocate
Joonsoo Yi, TISPC Federal Advocate
Salem Clarke, Onslow County Tourism
India Mackinson, Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order & Greetings

Chairman Smith called the meeting at order at 2:02 p.m.

II. Public Comments

None were made.



III. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Smith added the 2023 calendar to “New Items.” Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Batts seconded the motion, and it was carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes for August 25, 2022

Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fontana seconded the motion, and it was carried.

V. Consultant & Partners Reviews

A. Ward and Smith Attorneys – Mike McIntyre

Mr. McIntyre reported that Stephanie Missert is leaving the Ferguson Group. Chairman Smith thanked Ms. Missert for her contributions to the Commission. He also welcomed Joonsoo Yi from the Ferguson Group. Ms. Missert expressed her appreciation to the Commission. Mr. Yi expressed his excitement to work with the Commission. Mr. McIntyre reported that the midterm elections are coming up. Congress will not pass a fiscal year budget and will instead pass a continuing resolution until December 16th, which may be extended. In person meetings on Capitol Hill may resume in the spring. In August, Congress passed its largest investment in climate and clean energy, the Inflation Reduction Act. FEMA has discontinued releasing records on flood insurance policy numbers due to inaccuracies. The NFIP will likely be extended into next year. FEMA will launch a new program with revolving loans to make capital improvement loans available to states. Applications for funding may be available in the spring. The case on WOTUS is pending in the Supreme Court, which may make a decision in the next few weeks. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued the validation report for the Surf City federal project. The CBRA technical corrections map is coming forward, which will take 2.5 acres in North Topsail Beach out of CBRS. WRDA passed the House and is moving through the Senate, which has language barring CBRA sand removal.

B. Connie Wilson Consulting – Connie Wilson

Ms. Wilson reported that the General Assembly will be coming back briefly every month for a day or two, so nothing has occurred. Medicaid expansion might bring them back before January. Subcommittees and commissions, such as those on hurricane recovery, have met since July. Ms. Wilson asked the Commission to consider any recommendations to send to them. The NC Planning and

Management Program grant due in October offers \$150,000 from DCM for local projects. DEQ also is offering stormwater grants from ARPA funds. DEQ drinking water and wastewater infrastructure grants are also available. The Golden LEAF Foundation also is offering grant funding relevant to the Commission. A Land and Water Fund may be available for grant applications.

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

Ms. Allen reported that they have received calls from private homeowners for living shorelines. The event in Soundside Park was well attended. Hopefully the North Topsail Beach living shoreline project will come through CAMA soon. The Marine Debris program has received continued funding. They are working on a more responsive vessel removal program post-storm. The microplastics sampling program report is ongoing and will be shared at the Marine Debris Symposium. A water quality conference is coming up on October 19th, focused on coastal habitat protection plan.

D. **North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association – Kathleen Riely**

Chairman Smith reported that the conference will occur in early November.

E. **United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE)**

F. **Turtle Hospital – Kathy Zagzebski**

Chairman Smith reported that 110 sea turtle nests were recorded on the island this year. The facility will be closing October 15th for repairs and maintenance.

VI. **Old Business**

A. **Website**

Vice Chairman Benson said the transition of ownership to Surf City went smoothly.

B. **NC-RCCP**

Mr. Breuer reported that the request for qualifications will be prepared soon for contractors. The three towns were collectively awarded \$135,000 for Phase 3 for design and engineering. There will be one more round for construction. There will be a final product presentation for the Commission to review.



Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission



C. Beach Clean

Chairman Smith reported the steering committee will be put together soon.

D. CRC Meeting

Chairman Smith reported that the inlet hazard boundaries were approved, so people should pay attention and understand how it affects their communities. For shellfish leasing, DEQ does have the right to regulate leasing structures and towns have the right to regulate development. He said we all need to work together to ensure there is no user conflict on the soundside. The CRC also approved the beach mat regulations, which only towns can apply for. There are size limits. A public hearing will be held on beach mat permitting. For dune planting, a minimum of two years since planting and maturity akin to native plants translates to the first line of static vegetation. Chairman Smith also reminded attendees that there is no grass cutting on the dunes. There will likely be a new rule banning septic systems on the ocean side and assigning some responsibilities to owners of homes at risk of dangerous erosion.

E. Encapsulated Polystyrene Ordinance

Chairman Smith reported that Onslow and Pender Counties have voted on the need for encapsulated polystyrene for docs.

F. Derelict Marine Vessel Ordinance

Chairman Smith said the goal would be for all three towns and counties to pass an ordinance together. Jurisdictions to the north and south have already passed ordinances. We should do it before storms, so the towns have a mechanism in place for dealing with vessels.

G. Blue Flag Program

Vice Chairman Benson said that the program promotes ecologically friendly establishments and beaches. ASBPA is the coordinator for the program, and they are coming up with guidelines for marinas. There are 33 criteria for beaches to participate. The criteria are aimed at environmentally friendly processes and procedures. Tourists can look for those flags so they can support ocean friendly activities. The BEach Clean website has a page on the Blue Flag program.



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H. Offshore Wind

Chairman Smith pointed to a survey for offshore wind. He said the Commission needs to be looking at how that power is brought to shore. There are five sites along the North Carolina coast that will be leased, with two already underway in the leasing process.

VII. Town's Local Projects/Direction –

A. North Topsail Beach – Alice Derian

Ms. Derian reported that the Phase 5 project was awarded to CM Mitchell. The Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund grant application is still pending. Coastal Transplants wrapped up the Phase 2-5 sea oats planting in August. The permit application for the living shorelines project at Richard C. Peters Park is still pending. About 173,000 cubic yards of beneficial dredge materials from the upcoming USACE ICW-Channel to Jacksonville project will be placed on the Phase 1 beach.

B. Surf City – Kyle Breuer

Mr. Breuer reported on his presentation at the NC Planning Conference on NC-RCCP, which focused on the collaboration of the three towns and the Commission. Council has approved a contract with WK Dixon on the South Shore stormwater project. A larger stormwater plan is also being developed. The town is seeking additional funds from ARPA. For the federal project, they are waiting on the general revaluation report from the Corps.

C. Topsail Beach – Christina Burke

Mr. Shipley reported that the TI Coastal has completed LiDAR data collection. The new dune system is doing well. About 70% of the sand from the last beach nourishment project remains. Topsail Beach requested a grant to address invasive dune plant species.

VIII. New Items

A. Water System Requirement

Chairman Smith said the federal government has required that all water systems must do an inventory to analyze lead and copper contamination within the next two years. There will be funding available.



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B. Meeting Calendar

Chairman Smith said three CRC meeting dates interfere with commission meetings next year, so we will have to move meetings by a day or two.

IX. Conferences and Meetings

- A. NCDOT Regional Board of Directors – Topsail Beach
- B. Congressional Water Summit
- C. NCBIWA Conference – Nov. 3-4

X. Public/Commission Comments

None were made.

XI. Next Meeting – Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 2PM in North Topsail Beach

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Combs made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Batts seconded the motion, and it was carried.