



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 8th, 2022, 2:00 PM
Topsail Beach, NC

Commission Members Present

Steve Smith, Chair
Mike Benson, Vice Chair
Larry Combs
Fred Fontana
William Snyder
John Koloski

Virtual

Hiram Williams

Associates Present

Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach Town Manager
Kyle Breuer, Surf City Town Manager
Connie Wilson, TISPC State Advocate
Kerri Allen, NC Coastal Federation

Virtual

Billy Christ, Office of Rep. Rouzer
Tammy Proctor, Pender County Tourism
Mike McIntyre, TISPC Federal Advocate
Joonsoo Yi, TISPC Federal Advocate
Kathy Zagzebski, Karen Beasley Turtle Hospital

Guests

John Gardner, NTB BISAC

I. Call to Order & Greetings

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

II. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

III. Approval of Agenda

William Snyder made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Benson seconded the motion, and it was carried.

IV. Approval of Agenda

William Snyder made a motion to approve the October 2022 minutes, and it was seconded by Fred Fontana. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consultant & Partners Reviews

a. Federal Legislation Activities



Topsail Island

Shoreline Protection Commission



Mr. McIntyre reported that Congress returned after the midterms to wrap up work for the end of the year. The National Defense Authorization Act and WRDA would approve U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work. Congress may pass a continuing resolution to extend time to approve the federal budget. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has been in place for over one year with money for over 4,000 communities across the nation. These programs are well underway. The National Flood Insurance Program has made over \$437 million in payments this year in five states. The Department of Homeland Security is concerned about security for utilities. FEMA also continues to work on guidance for towns to access federal programs. A minor technical correction to CBRA maps will be made. Next year, they will be working with the congressional delegation on the NTB and CBRA issue. Language for the CBRA sand-borrowing issue is included in WRDA. The Senate version would cover the excess cost of using sand from a farther source. NFIP reauthorization continues to be delayed. An in-person visit to Capitol Hill may be possible in the spring.

b. NC State Legislation Activities.

Ms. Wilson reported that the General Assembly will start with the long session in January, so bill drafting deadlines will be coming up. Legislators are meeting with stakeholder groups right now. A meeting on Hurricane Matthew and Florence funding will be held soon. The Division of Water Resources had a meeting to adopt temporary rules for several important funds, which the Commission should look through. On January 18th, there will be a meeting for MOAs. The General Assembly has \$6 billion in their rainy-day fund and revenues tracking ahead of projections.

c. North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Ms. Allen reported that they are wrapping up review of the Stump Sound watershed plan. She reviewed the permitting process, standards, and resources for oyster aquaculture leases to address use conflict concerns.

d. North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association.

Ms. Riely was not able to attend but Chairman Smith gave her update. He advised referring to their website for more information.

e. Turtle Hospital.

Ms. Zagzebski reported that the hospital renovations are mostly complete with energy efficient lighting installed. The hospital is re-opened on a limited basis with reservations required. There are 29 patients under care now with turtles from New England. There have been several cases of plastic debris ingestion, highlighting need for beach cleanup efforts.

V. **Old Business & Updates**

a. NC-RCCP Topsail Island – Kyle Breuer/Christina Burke

Mr. Breuer reported that the initial survey work is upcoming, including establishing the seasonal highwater table. The treatments the consultants are recommending are replicable by public works staff. Eighteen different sites throughout the island are being evaluated, and engineered site plans will be developed as a deliverable for the program. After the program wraps up, the individual towns may pursue their own projects with collaboration as needed. Permitting will be responsible by each town. He also feels the Commission has good partners at NCDOT.

b. BEACH CLEAN Project

Chairman Smith said this project will get started back up in the new year. He would like to connect with various organizations and businesses.

c. Need to have Non encapsulated dock floats ordinance adoption by Pender & Onslow Counties

Chairman Smith said this item is moving along.

d. Development of Derelict Marine Vessels Ordinance for Towns & Counties

Chairman Smith said this project will be revisited in the new year.

e. Blue Flag Programs

Chairman Smith decided this program was not appropriate for Topsail Beach. Vice Chairman Benson said there is not support from other towns due to stricter requirements.

f. Clean Water Conference - Watershed Restoration Plan

Chairman Smith said communities need support for their watershed plans.

g. Island wide control of Vitex – invasive shrub dune systems –

i. video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBIRt365As0>

Chairman Smith said all three towns will be working together. The Town of Topsail Beach received a grant for this project. Mr. Breuer said they are also working with Coastal Transplants on this issue. The Commission reiterated it is an island-wide issue.

h. NCBIWA Fall Conference – Nov. 3 & 4 – Wilmington, The Terraces on Sir Tyler

Chairman Smith said several Commission members were in attendance. Commission members commended the information and networking available.

i. CRC Meeting – Nov. 16 & 17 – Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort, NC

Chairman Smith reported rules for beach mats going to the next phase of review, which is an increasing alternative to hardened beach crossovers on the coast.

j. 2022 Accomplishments

Vice Chairman Benson reviewed suggested changes to the accomplishment list, including adding the polystyrene ordinances. Chairman Smith reflected that working with the state this year has gone smoothly, whereas there are more roadblocks on the federal side. He also set a deadline for any further suggestions for changes to the accomplishments.

k. 2023 Goals

Ms. Wilson said she would further investigate state goals, Item D. Mr. Breuer said he feels strongly that the item on the NCRCCP should stay. Further discussion continued on building national support for beach nourishment and flooding solutions. Chairman Smith also said we should educate the public on Vitex and find funding to address the issue. He also set a deadline for any further suggestions for changes to the goals.

l. 2023 Calendar - Discuss moving to 6 meetings per year

Chairman Smith presented a proposal to move to meetings to every other month, especially in the context of information accessibility and ease of digital communications. Chairman Smith and Vice Chairman Benson also requested that Surf City host the Commission meetings this year, which Mr. Breuer will take to the mayor. Mr. Breuer said the off months would be opportunities for subcommittees to meet on Commission issues.

VI. Town's Local Projects/Direction

a. North Topsail Beach.

Manager Alice Derian's report was given by Mike Benson. The Phase 5 project has been ongoing since November, putting 500,000 cy of sand on the beach. The Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation grant contracts are in process, which will be part of the Fall 2023 FEMA Phase 5 project. The Corps has several dredging projects in place, including in the ICW, which will use NTB beaches as a sand disposal area. The EIS notice of intent has yet to be published for the New River Inlet Management Plan but is incoming. A post-hurricane beach survey documented losses but FEMA likely will not declare a disaster for Onslow County for Hurricane Ian.



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b. **Surf City.**

Manager Kyle Breuer noted that he maintains regular communications with the Corps. They will be submitting grant funds to create a beach management plan. The Cape Fear RISE program is wrapping up. Resources developed include a coastal stormwater management tool will help facilitate development application, outreach programs for HOAs and other stormwater permit holders, and a regional resilience position to help with coordination and grants.

c. **Topsail Beach.**

Manager Doug Shipley reported that the RISE program offers exciting resources. He also requested clarification for details on Vitex treatments. Their FEMA arbitration has also made progress.

VI. **New Items**

a. **Meetings & Conferences**

- a. CRC Meeting – February 22-23, 2023

VII. **Public/ Commission Comments**

No comments made.

VIII. **Next Meeting**

February 24, 2023 – Surf City Town Hall

IX. **Adjournment**

- a. Larry Combs made the motion to adjourn. Fred Fontana seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

-----End of Minutes -----