

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday January 25, 2024, 2:00 PM
Surf City Town Hall, Surf City, NC

Commission Members Present

Steve Smith, Chair
Mike Benson, Vice Chair
Larry Strother
Ed Broadhurst
Larry Strother
David Ward
Larry Combs (alt.)
Hiram Williams
Brad George

Associates Present

Kathleen Riley, NCBIWA (vir.)
Kyle Breuer, SC Manager
Carla Citarelli, Surf City Town Clerk
Doug Shipley, TB Manager
Rochelle Jagst, TB Clerk (vir.)
Alice Derian, NTB Manager

Guests

Doug Miskew (PubicServiceGroup)
David Ferrell (MaynardNexsen PC)
John Kolonski, SC Councilman
John Gunter, TB Commissioner
Tom Staker, TB BIS

I. [Call to Order & Greetings](#)

Chairman Smith called the meeting at order at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Smith welcomed the commission members, associates, and special guests (Doug Miskew and David Ferrell) in the audience and online. Chairman Smith then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

II. [Public Comments](#)

None were made.

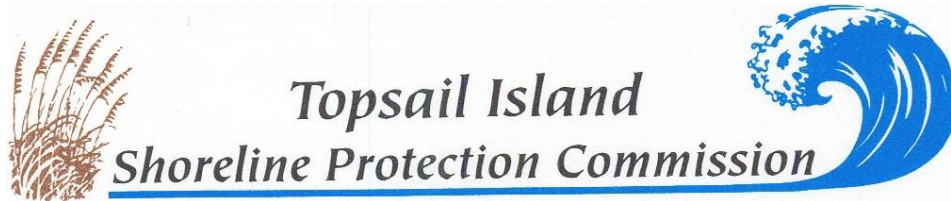
III. [Approval of Agenda](#)

Larry Combs made a motion to approve the agenda. David Ward seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

IV. [Approval of Minutes for December 2023](#)

Hiram Williams made a motion to approve the minutes. David Ward seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

V. [Presentations: none scheduled](#)



VI. Consultant & Partner's Reviews

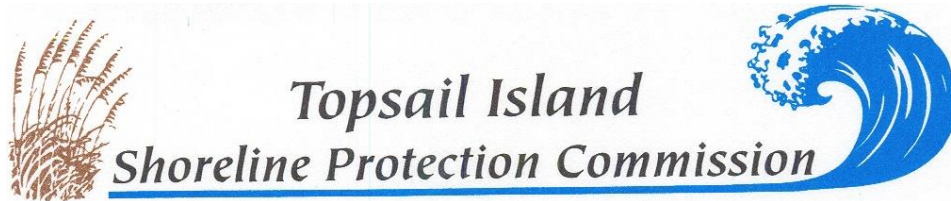
None scheduled. However, Chairman Smith asked for any comments on the Ward Smith January summary by Fmr. Congressman McIntyre and none were given. No state update. He received a note from Kathy Zagzebski at the Turtle Hospital that 103 cold stunned turtles are under care – mostly likely from the Labrador Current moving further South displacing the warm Gulf Stream current to the east. Feb 17th will be re-opening day for the hospital, plus information on a community day will follow. Kathleen Riley, NCBIWAs is requesting ideas, topics, or legislative issues for the spring conference meeting. No USACE update. No NCCF update, but Chairman Smith noted that Braxton Davis will be the new Director of NCCF, and that Tancred Miller will assume Davis's responsibilities at the NC Division of Coastal Management. There is also some re-organization within the Coastal Resources Commission as this commission moves forward with new issues.

VII. Old Business & Updates

a. Accomplishments for 2023

Chairman Smith thanked the sub-committee of Larry Strother, Ed Broadhurst, William Synder and Mike Benson for preparing a draft of the 2023 accomplishments. He then asked Mike to discuss the draft and the highlights of the accomplishments. Chairman Smith noted several state goal accomplishments stating that the CSDM and Shallow Draft Fund were preserved. Also, with cooperation from the NCCF, state legislation was passed to ban non-encapsulated polystyrene and derelict vessels. Island-wide resiliency projects through the NCRCCP also moved forward particularly in Surf City. The Surf City federal project continues to move forward. Terminal groin legislation did not move forward in 2023 and may be a difficult goal in the near future.

On the federal side, Chairman Smith noted that money was included for two federal projects, one for Topsail Inlet and the other for New River Inlet. The issue of CBRA sand being used for beach nourishment in non-CBRA zones was addressed by Congressman Rouzers' House Bill 524, but additional help will be needed for situations not covered by the congressman's bill. However, if local non-CBRA sand is not available, the President signed the WRDA act with language that federal funds could be used to cover the excess cost of non-CBRA sand. Mike commented that a CBRA Map Unit L06 amendment has proceeded further than ever before with legislation that has passed House sub-committee. We are still asking for one island-wide FEMA team using the last technology to deal with beach recovery and providing an appeals process for FEMA decisions.

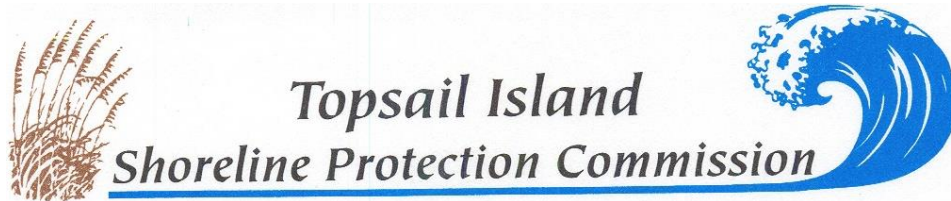


Mike reviewed our Local Commission goals. The Beach Clean initiative is moving forward with Tammy Proctor, Pender Tourism Director, who worked to place 'Leave No Trace' placards in several hundred rental units on the island. Our effort to ban non-encapsulated polystyrene in docks and piers and the ban on derelict vessels went beyond local goals as state legislation was passed to achieve these two goals. Manager Breuer was asked to comment on a derelict vessel in Surf City waters. He responded that town enforcement ability is welcomed but budget restraints precluded cost of removal. Chairman Smith added that the Coastal Federation received state funds for removal of debris and vessels along the entire NC coast. Manager Derian commented that in North Topsail Beach the Board approved an ordinance to ban derelict vessels. Although it has not been an issue so far, the Coastal Federal helped us with removal of the rigging from the abandoned shrimp boat grounded in the inlet. Mike continued the local accomplishments with note that good cooperation has developed with environmental groups (NCCF) on several environmental issues as already mentioned above. The Vitex eradication goal has been coordinated by the three town managers such that an island-wide grant application will be made to the CSDM fund. Manager Bruer noted that Coastal Transplants will do another assessment to get a clearer picture of Vitex dune distribution on Topsail Island. Eradication will take 4-5 years followed by replanting with desirable beach grasses after eradication. We will need ordinances to ban Vitex in dunes in all three towns so all property owners will be compelled to participate in the eradication program. Mike continued with the use of beach mats instead of wooden structures to minimize debris problems after storms as a CRC general allowance rather than special permit requests. The joint NCRCCP project was completed last year through phase 3, but only Surf City was selected to move to construction in phase 4. Sea level rise continues to be a major issue, so strategic planning is needed. Efforts to find disposal sites for non-federal dredge materials is still an issue of concern for our island.

Chairman Smith asked for a motion to accept the 2023 Accomplishments report with the minor change of 'no' to 'minimal environmental' impact under Local Goal 'E.' David Ward made the motion seconded by Ed Broadhurst and it carried unanimously.

b. Goals for 2024

Chairman Smith suggested that we move forward with five or so goals to avoid diluting our advocates' efforts. He then asked Ed Broadhurst to discuss the state goals. They are a) Advocate for recurring funding for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund, b) Continue to ensure funding for the Shallow Draft Inlet Dredging Fund, c) Advocate for 3-5 years of funding for Vitex removal in dunes and beach grass replanting, d) Protect state match reserve for local costs of the Surf City



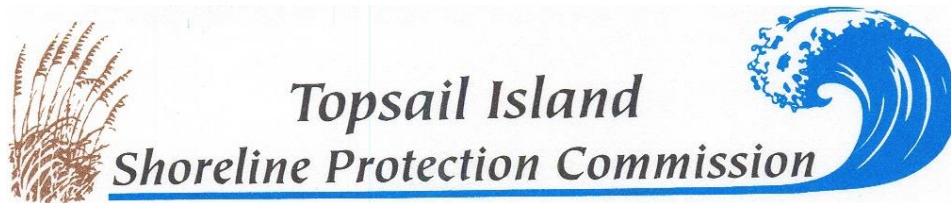
Federal 50-Year Project, e) Advocate for Shellfish lease management that provides public access to state waters, f) Work to keep home insurance rates at an affordable cost, and g) Notify TISPC of pending legislation, regulations and administration rulings that impacts Topsail Island

Chairman Smith asked David Ward to present the federal goals. They are a) Obtain legislation to allow use of sand from CBRA zones for non-CBRA zone beach nourishment when federal funds are involved, b) Continue to pursue legislation to amend the NTB CBRA Map Unit L06, c) Continue to support the 50-yr Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, d) Support an island-wide FEMA team who uses the latest technology to determine losses when making disaster recovery recommendations, and e) Notify TISPC of pending legislation, regulations, and administrative rulings that impacts Topsail Island.

Chairman Smith then asked for a motion to accept the state and federal goals. The motion was made by Ed Broadhurst and seconded by David Ward, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith then asked Larry Strother to cover the Local Goals for the commission. They are a) Promote adoption of the 'Beach Clean' initiative by businesses and educate the public, b) Promote a public Vitex education and eradication program for Topsail Island, c) Work to increase understanding and cooperation between TISPC and environmental groups locally as well as regionally, d) Network through NC BIWAYS and other groups to promote minimal environmental impact for inlet maintenance projects that complement beach nourishment, e) Move to use of mats versus permanent structures over new dune systems, f) Stay abreast of studies on sea-level rise particularly as it relates to coastal and sound-side flooding then integrate into state and federal goals as appropriate, g) Understand and monitor CRC regulations and proposed rulemaking for integration into state and federal goals as appropriate, and h) Be involved with efforts to find solutions for the disposal of non-federal dredge materials.

Larry Combs was concerned that studies on sea-level rise have yet to provide solutions for local communities. Manager Breuer was also concerned about this issue but mentioned a proposed solution of thin-layer placement of dredge materials in the salt marsh to gradually build up marsh elevation. He also suggested that a 'list' is needed of where prioritized resiliency projects could be done such as where to place a living shoreline for maximum benefit i.e. sediment management.



Chairman Smith mentioned a cooperative project between the Army Corps and CRC to determine where flooding issues should be addressed.

Chairman Smith then asked for a motion to accept the local goals. Motion was made by Larry Combs and seconded by David Ward, and it was carried unanimously.

c. State Lobbyist for 2024

There are two candidates here today and will be interviewed by a TISPC sub-committee.

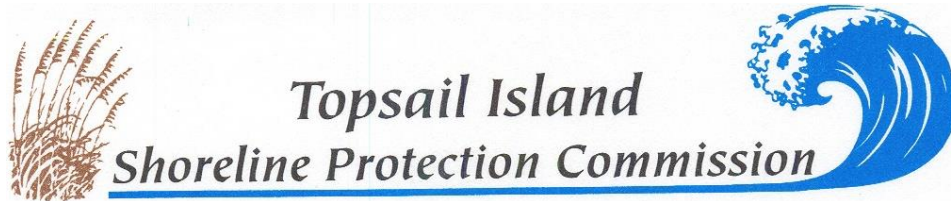
VIII. [New Items](#)

- a. Revised 2-year contract for Mike McIntyre (Ward & Smith) – Federal Lobbyist
In discussions that Chairman Smith had with Mr. McIntyre on his proposed contract they agreed to a yearly contract price of \$9,225 per month which would be split three ways between each municipality.

Chairman Smith then asked for a motion to accept the local goals. The motion was made by Ed Broadhurst and seconded by Hiram Williams, and it carried unanimously.

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

- a. North Topsail Beach – Alice Derian Manager Derian reported that beach projects continue. There was a slowdown in the Phase 5 FEMA project due to a delayed permitting issue at the 421 Sand Mine. The current project is 290,000 cubic yards. This should be placed within the environmental window ending by April 30. Our BISAC committee recommended that a five-year beach plan be presented to the Board of Alderman for the February board meeting. We continue to work on our beach Vitex plan as discussed previously. With the slowdown in Phase 5 our Phase 4 will not start until fall.
- b. Surf City – Kyle Breuer
Manager Breuer reported that our stormwater project is ongoing with DOT waiting on contractor to deliver materials for the infiltration chamber. Mayor Batts' testimony on the Federal Project in Washington last month was successful. Colonel Morgan, USACE has signed off on documents to re-evaluate the project and continue funding for the work toward our Federal Project.
- c. Topsail Beach – Doug Shipley
Manager Shipley acknowledged Brad George, Pender County Commissioner in the audience today. He reported that the Topsail Beach Planning Board had discussion on zoning for the controversial development project in the south end of town that has now been withdrawn. The Council did discuss the ban on derelict vessels but did not take action over concerns on enforcement and costs to remove vessels. Our beach nourishment project continues with about 30,000 cy pumped per day. The



project should be completed over the next 24 days plus about 15 days to demobilize with a total of 1.9 million cy borrowed from the inlet and connecting creeks for placement on the beach.

X. Upcoming Meetings & Conference

- a. CRC Meeting – February 21 & 22, 2024 – Aloft at Coastline Central, 501 Nutt Street, Wilmington
- b. Washington, DC – Legislative Reviews – April 15-17, 2024
- c. Raleigh, NC – Legislative Reviews – March-April (not established)
- d. WATERS Conference in Greenville yesterday with nice attendance from Surf City, Topsail Beach, and Pender County.

XI. Public/Commission Comments

- a. None made.

XII. Next Meeting – Friday, February 23, 2024 – Surf City Town Hall

This meeting date is to avoid conflict with the CRC meeting on February 21 and 22.

XIII. Adjournment

Chairman Smith called for a vote to adjourn, and it passed unanimously.