

**TOPSAIL ISLAND
SHORELINE PROTECTION COMMISSION**

April 23, 2015 - 2:00 p.m.
North Topsail Beach Town Hall

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Mike Curley called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Chairman Michael Curley - Surf City
Ed Broadhurst - Topsail Beach
David Ward – Surf City
Tom Leonard- North Topsail Beach
Larry Combs - Topsail Beach
Richard Peters – North Topsail Beach
Julian Bone- Topsail Beach

Liaisons:

Stuart Turille- North Topsail Beach

Others Attending:

Grier Fleischhauer - Topsail Beach
Steve Smith – Topsail Beach
Dave Stipe – Topsail Beach
Carin Faulkner – North Topsail Beach

II. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Broadhurst made the motion to approve the March 26, 2015 minutes.
Mr. Ward seconded the motion and it was carried.

III. Old Business:

A. Warwick Group Consultants:

Mr. Curley stated that he distributed a copy of Howard Marlowe's "WaterWise" communication and one other communication from Daniel Greene. WaterWise has to do with a study being done by UNCW, Duke and Ohio State. The study says that if the Federal Government stops funding

beach re-nourishment it will come at a cost to shoreline residents. It will de-value their property. In the communication from Daniel Greene, he said that we do not have to have another feasibility study to be approved by WRRDA. It states “neither the Surf City and North Topsail Beach Shoreline Protection Project nor the West Onslow and New River Inlet Shoreline Protection Project need a new feasibility study. The projects have completed the study phase and are ready for construction.”

In the 2016 budget, the House Appropriations Committee has approved a funding bill for the Corp that is almost \$150 million more than the current year and 900 million more than the President requested. That is a half billion in construction money but there is wording that no money can be used for new starts. Senate Committee action is not expected until next month, however, Warwick said that we have a good shot at getting money for constructions. He also had a conversation with Daniel Greene. He would like to have a meeting by telephone regarding funding. If they were to come here, we would have to cover the travel costs.

Mr. Smith stated that we could do a video conference at the new Cape Fear Community College. They have offered this service at no charge.

There was discussion about whether or not to have the video conference at the next TISPC meeting. Consensus was that Mr. Smith would check with CFCC to see if the room is available. Mr. Curley would contact Mr. Green to see if they would be available on May 28th. The location of the next meeting is to be determined.

B. Connie Wilson:

Mr. Curley stated that Connie is in the middle of legislature that is looking to reduce fees for boaters.

Mr. Turille stated that this is House Bill 663 which is “An act to repeal the increases to certificate of number fees and certificate of title fees for boats enacted in the 2013 Appropriations Act”. This also has to do with the Shallow Draft Inlet. It was filed April 13, passed April 16 and the current status is it’s in the House Finance Committee.

Mr. Curley stated this was to be resolved by April 30.

Mr. Smith stated that it was the opinion of our Representatives that this is dead. We need to make sure it dies.

Mr. Combs stated that it may not get out of committee.

Mr. Smith stated that there is not enough support.

Mr. Leonard stated that there is opposition.

Mr. Smith stated that commercial boaters have to pay for commercial licenses but not for registration fees or fuel tax. They do not contribute to inlet funding.

Mr. Bone stated that there is nothing for documented vessels. They get a free ride.

Mr. Broadhurst stated that the Board at Topsail Beach changed the structure of the BIS, the Beach, Inlet, & Sound Committee. It has changed from all commissioners to two commissioners and three citizens. Steve Smith is now the head of that committee. He wanted that to be recognized.

Mr. Bone asked if we should talk to Connie for next year about how to raise the sales tax to collect funds for beach nourishment.

Mr. Curley stated that he thought the county controlled that.

Mr. Ward stated that it would have to pass State Legislature.

Mr. Turille stated that the ultimate solution for the future would be funding from a dedicated source. Either a sales tax for beach nourishment or money from the state.

Mr. Fleishhauer stated that the most logical tax is the accommodation tax. We should enact a 2% increase for beach nourishment. Mecklenburg County has an 8% accommodation tax. They added 2% for a NASCAR Museum.

Mr. Curley asked if we should talk to Connie about the state tax.

Mr. Fleishhauer stated maybe the county.

Mr. Leonard stated that it would be hard to get people to accept it on a county level.

Mr. Broadhurst stated that he felt that the accommodation tax is the way to go.

Mr. Fleishhauer stated that it would take a local act to change the accommodation tax. We could add 2% to the 6% for an 8% tax.

Mr. Smith stated that we should talk to Connie about securing funds for the long term.

C. Town Local Projects:

1. North Topsail Beach:

Mr. Turille gave an update on their projects.

1. The sandbags are working as hoped.
2. He has a design for a crossover north of Topsail Reef.
3. FEMA Pre-Mitigation Grant

He is talking to FEMA about a pre-mitigation grant. He has asked them to come to see if there are any grants to assist with flooding. This is the first time that FEMA is looking at disaster pre-mitigation. They may also have something for the sand bags or putting sand on the beach.

Mr. Turille also stated that Phase 5 is at 9700 feet or 1.8 miles. They are at about 7500 linear feet north of Surf City. The project was set to expire on April 30th but he was able to get an extension until May 10th. He is looking into an extension until June 20th. He has the ok with US Fish & Wildlife but there are conditions with the turtles. He still needs approval from National Marine Fisheries before getting the extension to June 20th.

Mr. Leonard stated that with the extension to May 10th, they are able to pump sand until April 30th and will have to have all equipment off the beach by May 11th.

Mr. Turille stated that beach access parking is now available. There is a new crossover across from Town Hall and one more crossover coming. It should be done within two weeks.

Mr. Ward asked if there was only one crossover at the sand bags.

Mr. Turille stated there was only one for safety reasons.

Mr. Leonard stated that they were only allowed to have one per CAMA for safety reasons.

2. Topsail Beach:

Mr. Bone stated their project is now complete and they are hauling equipment away. The channel and inlet are holding up. Everyone is very happy with the project.

Mr. Broadhurst stated that in the Warwick letter it states “Coastal Barrier Resources Act – Town of Topsail Beach. Per the Town of Topsail Beach’s request, Warwick Group Consultants assessed the prospects of securing federal legislation to allow Topsail Beach to use federal funding to dredge New Topsail Inlet. Warwick Group comprehensively reviewed the Coastal

Barrier Resources Act, inspected the Fish and Wildlife Services regulations, and consulted with congressional and agency staffers to develop recommendations for the Town. Warwick Group has sent our recommendations to the Town and looks forward to collaborating with Topsail Beach to overcome this CBRA challenge.” He asked if someone spoke to them about CRBA.

Mr. Bone stated that Mayor Howard Braxton spoke with them.

Mr. Broadhurst stated that he was happy to hear that but questioned it because it does not say anything about putting sand on the beach.

3. Surf City

Mrs. Reece stated that, per Mr. Bergman, we are halfway done planting the dunes. Steve Mercer, with Coastal Transplants, will also be planting a demonstration at the Surf City Welcome Center where the public can view the different types of dune plants and how they grow. Surf City is also looking at their parking areas and talking with the Corp. There is nothing in the works at this time, we are just looking at our options.

Mr. Broadhurst asked to be notified when we are done planting the dunes as well as the cost to plant. He is also interested in the dune demonstration and when it will be complete.

D. Status of Existing Corps Projects:

Mr. Curley stated that Pam Castens was unable to attend the meeting due to personal reasons. It was his understanding that the Corp was refiguring our cost project and they would be getting us a new report. However, per Jan Barmuckle, they have all the information they need but the Corp does not want to publish it. He feels that they are trying to control what the cost of the project is. He spoke to Pam Castens and she is working on it.

E. CRC Update:

Mr. Moore was unable to attend. There was no update.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no discussion.

V. OPEN FORUM:

There was no discussion.

VI. Next Meeting:

Mr. Curley stated that the next meeting will be May 28th at 2pm at either the Town of Surf City or at Cape Fear Community College. The location is to be determined.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn at 3:08 pm. It was seconded by Mr. Bone and the motion carried.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 2015.

Michael Curley, TISPC Chairman

Donna Reece, TISPC Recorder