

**TOPSAIL ISLAND
SHORELINE PROTECTION COMMISSION**

March 26, 2015 - 2:00 p.m.

Topsail Beach Town Hall

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Mike Curley called the meeting to order at 2:02 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
Hiram Williams –Surf City
Julian Bone- Topsail Beach
Million Williams - Onslow County Commissioner

Liaisons:

Stuart Turille- North Topsail Beach

Others Attending:

Mayor Braxton – Topsail Beach
Grier Fleischhauer - Topsail Beach
Morton Blanchard- Topsail Beach
Tom Eggleston- Topsail Beach
Steve Smith – Topsail Beach
Jerry Patton
John Goller
Michael Moore

II Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Williams made the motion to approve the February 27, 2015 minutes.
Mr. Peters seconded the motion and it was carried.

III. Old Business:

- Marlowe & Company now Warwick Group Consultants, LLC:

Mr. Curley stated that after having to make a few phone calls, he was able to get ahold of Howard. The new phone number for Warwick is 202-787-5770. He also stated that Howard has published a new "Water Wise" and will send them the information.

Mr. Eggleston stated that for what Topsail Beach pays for his services, he doesn't think that much gets done.

Mr. Curley stated that we were the first to get WRDA approval.

Mr. Eggleston asked how many communities he represents.

Mr. Curley stated a bunch.

Mr. Eggleston asked how he could effectively represent us.

Mr. Curley stated that he personally feels that they have done a great job getting us WRDA approval and we need their help to get funding.

Mr. Leonard stated was not impressed with Marlowe's efforts during the town's recent visit to DC. It appears Howard has removed himself from the day to day operations. Mr. Leonard stated he had to get assertive with Daniel Green to get Mr. Green to set up a meeting with Senator Tillis, vice Tillis's staff.

Mr. Williams stated that when they went up last March for a meeting he felt they had excellent representation. Daniel Green was there and did a great job. He would rather have 25 he's working on then just one.

Mr. Leonard stated that he feels that Howard has removed himself to our detriment.

Mr. Bone stated that we are better off with them then without them.

Mr. Curley stated that he feels that we need to stick with them for now.

Mr. Smith stated that we may need to relook at what we want him to do for us. Let him define what he can do for us to get funding.

Mr. Curley stated that he feels that Howard would like to do that.

Mr. Bone stated that North Topsail Beach could also use help with Cobra Zones. He will ask the Board.

Mr. Turille asked why they changed the name to Warwick. He is concerned there may be some kind of debt or liability.

Mr. Curley stated that he asked and that his final conclusion was it was primarily for financial and tax purposes.

Mr. Peters stated that the new name is Warwick Group Consultants.

Mr. Curley stated that he assumed that another individual was involved but Howard stated that everything will stay the same.

Mr. Peters stated that he agrees with Mr. Smith that we may need to reorganize our goals.

At this time Mr. Curley introduced Commissioner Million Williams, our new Onslow County representative.

- Connie Wilson:

Mr. Curley stated that Connie is working on two incidences in North Carolina and will probably be here until September. One is that insurance companies are going to ask us to change the rates but if we don't sign, they can't do it. Also, the sales tax bill. They will be distributing sales tax by population, not by the needs that a particular area generates.

Mr. Leonard stated that the state will be controlling the distribution of sales tax that is collected locally, at local levels.

Mr. Bone asked about the Shallow Draft Inlet Bill. How will this affect the funds in an emergency?

Mr. Bone stated that they are trying to get funding for inlets but he is concerned about not having a 50% match.

Mr. Fleischhauer stated that you are supposed to get a 50/50 match if you put sand on the beach. We may want to tap the funds for the Oregon Inlet.

Mr. Bone stated that if the Shallow Draft does not require a 50/50 match, the Oregon Inlet can take it all. He knows that Harry Brown and Michael Lee want to sponsor this.

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to get Connie involved in this.

Mr. Turille stated that he would like to see what she can do for us.

Mr. Bone stated that we really need to look at this. It needs to be that you have to put sand on the beach

Mr. Combs stated that we want her to help us with the impact on the shallow draft and keeping sand on the beach.

Mayor Braxton stated that Chris Millis can help with the working on that.

Mr. Bone stated that Michael Lee said that the Oregon Inlet will not get the money but we need to see it on paper.

- Towns' Local Projects:

1. North Topsail Beach:

Mr. Turille stated the sand bags on the north end will help mitigate flooding and halt erosion. They have authorization to design a crossover north of the Topsail Reef restricting access to the sand bags. The parking area is now complete. This adds 314 additional spaces. They still need two crossovers. Phase 5 of the nourishment project is approaching the halfway point. They have had excessive limestone rocks and have hired a crew to pick down to 3 inches as required. The project is moving on. They got behind due to the weather. They are managing the rock situation and should have a nice beach when it's done. The project expires April 30th but they have requested an extension. He was disappointed with the preliminary sand vs rock percentage and this needs to be factored into dredging costs. County support has been critical.

Several members thanked Commissioner Williams for the county support.

Commissioner Williams stated that she can personally make some calls and she would like to come down and get to know the area and see for herself the asset we have.

2. Topsail Beach:

Mr. Combs stated that they have shifted the dredge to a new source and are back to pumping sand. The project is close to completion. They are pumping Queens Grant now which is close to the Catherine Ave. access. The sand quality is unbelievable.

Mr. Bone stated that it is nice white sand that is staying in place. The inlet is holding and he hopes to get 2-3 years before it fills back in.

3. Surf City:

Mrs. Reece stated that the beach push is complete and they will start planting the dunes next week.

Mr. Broadhurst asked how much we were paying to plant the dunes and what types of grasses were we planting.

Mrs. Reece stated that she did not have that information but would find out.

- Status of Existing Corps Projects

Mr. Curley stated that there was a meeting with the Corp last Friday on reevaluation of project costs and asked if there were any comments. He stated that he is disappointed that we have not seen more in dollars and cents but our figures look good.

Mr. Smith stated that the WRDA has a time limit of seven years to obtain funds.

Mr. Goller stated that he thought we would get a report with the numbers on paper.

Mr. Curley stated that Corp is required to update every seven years and we are waiting for a new report. They do have the figures but the reports are not ready yet. Topsail Beach and Surf City are two different projects.

Mr. Patton stated that the Corp does have all the numbers and it was presented. Pam Castens promised to provide them and answer all questions.

Mr. Turille stated that Pam Castens has a power point presentation.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Combs stated that we need to look at and lobby the commission on wind and hail insurance.

Mr. Williams stated that if it is passed, they will take out some of the reinsurance and use bonds. The insurance industry will have to release more information than they ever had before.

Mr. Leonard stated Pedro, the MARINE CORPS Search and Rescue helicopter located at Cherry Point, NC will be deactivated next year. Pedro has responded 40 times to North Topsail's requests for assistance within the last 10 years. When this capability is no longer available, Search and Rescue helicopter support will be provided by the US Coast Guard. The Coast Guard's closest helicopters that perform this service are located at USCG Station Elizabeth City. The difference in response times to our island between Cherry Point and Elizabeth City is 25 minutes from Cherry Point and 2-1/2 hours from Elizabeth City. The subject of PEDRO was discussed at the recent NCBIWA meeting March 16-17 in Pine Knoll Shores. One of the other attendees suggested that having the USCG place a detachment of helicopters at MCAS Cherry Point. Mr. Leonard recently met with Major General Cornell Wilson, USMC (Retired) who is Governor McCrory's Military Advisor and suggested that the USCG station a Search and Rescue Helicopter detachment at either Cherry Point or MCAS New River, and provided Gen Wilson with a PowerPoint presentation on the issue. Gen Wilson is planning to brief the Governor on this subject.

V. OPEN FORUM:

Mr. Peters asked Michael Moore, who has been appointed to the CRAC, if he had any information to share.

Mr. Moore stated that he was just reappointed in February. After the next meeting, he will pass on all literature and feel free to contact him with any questions.

Mr. Fleischhauer stated that what he heard in regards to Warwick is that

1. We propose that they lobby for full nourishment funding.
2. They work on finding for all three towns.
3. They lobby the controlled waterway bill.

In regards to the State:

1. We need to protect the Shallow Draft revenue source.
2. Rally against the Sales Tax Bill. The bill would eliminate the ad valorem method. They are trying to make it a sales tax where the state determines where the tax goes.

Mr. Bone stated that he would like to add mapping the Cobra Zones in North Topsail Beach.

Mr. Fleischhauer stated that they had a very successful dredge. The Federal Government cannot give out funds if in a Cobra Zone but can spend money to dredge shallow draft inlets in Cobra Zones. We need Warwick to get the legislation redefined.

Mr. Broadhurst stated that the Corp has been dredging for over 50 years. They can dredge in a Cobra Zone as long as the sand goes back in the ocean. They cannot put sand back on the beach. He thinks that with support from Rouzer and Tillis that a law could get passed to get the sand on the beach.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting will be April 23rd at 2pm at North Topsail Beach.

There being no further business to come before the Commission Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn at 3:41 pm. It was seconded by Mr. Peters and the motion carried.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 2013.

Michael Curley, TISPC Chairman

Donna Reece, TISPC Recorder