

**TOPSAIL ISLAND  
SHORELINE PROTECTION COMMISSION**

March 27, 2014 - 2:00 p.m.

Town of Topsail Beach

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Commission Members:

Chairman Michael Curley - Surf City  
Julian Bone- Topsail Beach  
David Ward- Surf City  
Larry Combs- Topsail Beach  
Suzanne Gray- North Topsail Beach  
Tom Leonard- North Topsail Beach  
Richard Peters \_North Topsail Beach

Liaisons:

Stuart Turille- North Topsail Beach  
Laurence Bergman- Surf City  
Tim Holloman- Topsail Beach

Others Attending:

Steve Smith - Topsail Beach  
Jean Beasley- Karen Beasley Turtle Hospital  
Pete Benjamin- Field Supervisor Fish & Wildlife  
Pam Casten- Army Corps

**I Call to Order:**

Chairman Mike Curley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**II Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Bone made the motion to approve the January 23, 2014 minutes. Mr. Peters seconded the motion and it was carried.

**III. Old Business:**

- Marlowe & Co.:

Mr. Curley stated that they are planning to meet with Senator Burr while in Washington DC in May. Hiram Williams, Dick Peters, Larry Combs, Ed Braodhurst, and he will all be attending the D.C. trip.

Mr. Curley stated that Marlowe is still expecting the WRDA to be passed in April. They are expecting about a 60/40 chance for approval. Funding will still be to be approved by the Army Corps.

- Connie Wilson:

Connie continues to follow up on Homeower and Flood Insurance problems for the Coastal Communities.

- Towns' Local Projects:

1. North Topsail Beach:

Mr. Turille stated that N. Topsail Beach will going to Washing D.C. for CBRA to remove existing zoning placed on properties mistakenly years ago. Phase 5 is set to go out for bid in early May. This section includes the south four miles of town, and will hopefully begin November 15, 2014.

2. Topsail Beach:

Mr. Bone stated the Town's efforts were currently on hold until November. There is also a good possibility that the inlet will be closed this summer. There is no money for the dredging of the inlet at this time. The maximum of 950 yards is scheduled for April and August, but the money for the dredge project is just not there.

3. Surf City

Mr. Bergman stated that two contractors are currently working diligently on pushing sand on the beach. The Town is pushing the whole 6.2 miles of ocean front. We have applied for the extension to continue the push and are awaiting final approval from Wildlife at this time. The planting of beach grasses will begin in May.

- Status of Existing Corps Projects

1. Corps – Pam Castens

Mrs. Castens stated that the Topsail Beach design is ready. Surf City and N. Topsail Beach are scheduled to be completed in June 2014. All are making good progress and lining up well for funding.

2. CRC Update:

Mr. Morrison stated that the CRC has finally come to a decision on appointments. They have appointed 10 members to the CRAC and the swearing in ceremony will be May 14-15, 2014.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Pete Benjamin: NC Wildlife

Mr. Benjamin stated that North Carolina will fall under the new Critical habitat regulations for sea turtles, the final decision on this will be made June 2014. Red Knot birds may also be added to the list of endangered species, there will be a public hearing on these May 6 in Morehead City. These new restrictions should not impose any more restrictions on land holders. We would require Army Corps to add new documentation, which could possibly delay the permit process slightly. The addition of species is where the issues would arise from. The conservation of endangered species does overlap a lot though. As part of the permit process biological standards are written for each specific location, but instead of writing biological standards for each location, a blanket one would be written for each beach nourishment project under new regulations. The state would pay consultants to collect data of previous beach nourishment projects to see the post statistics to see if the blanket biological standards would work. Section 10 under endangered species act allows for a habitat conservation plan and out lines all the steps and procedures and allows for issuance of the permit will monitoring the work. This is where writing your own ordinance or regulations would come into play. Grants are available for the planning portion writing regulations, and these funds are awarded annually.

Mr. Ward asked if beach nourishment would be able to be done in the summer with a local ordinance protecting critical habitat.

Mr. Benjamin stated that process would be dealt with, with an HCP and maybe additional assessments. An HCP would still require Army Corps approval. Only if all work is on the beach is the permit exempt from Army Corps. Any work done over or in the water requires Army Corps approval.

Mrs. Beasley stated that she is an oceanfront property owner and advocate for sea turtle since the 1970's. Since the mid 1980's she and her team have worked closely with all three towns at the time of re-nourishment. Summer time nourishment will disturb the tourist. In the summer there are scads of turtles around. Once summer alone there were 5 turtles caught on the Surf City Pier in one week. One turtle can shut down

dredging and has before. Looking for new plans like Daytona Beach could make things even stricter. What we have done in the past has worked and we have all worked together. Turtles generally show up in April and the earliest nest show up around May. The drop off of turtle season generally begins in October but of course it depends on the weather.

Mr. Benjamin stated that Daytona Beach has been very successful with their plan. However, they are very different than Topsail Island. They have done many different things to offset the HCP, such as closing the beaches after dark, lighting restrictions, and others.

**V. OPEN FORUM:**

The next meeting will be April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at Surf City.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Bone made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Leonard and carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Adopted this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

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Michael Curley, TISPC Chairman

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Stephanie Edwards Hobbs, TISPC Recorder