

Shore Protection Manager

Greg L. Rudolph
Tel: (252) 393.2663
Fax: (252) 393.6639
rudi@carteretcountygov.org

www.protectthebeach.com



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

February 28, 2005, 2 pm

Acronyms:

CBOC – Carteret County Board of Commissioners

PKS – Pine Knoll Shores

USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers

Attendance.

Commission chair Buck Fugate, Vice-chair William Donnelly, Commission Members, Tom Doe III, Jack Goldstein, Jerry Huml, Ted Lindblad, Pat McElraft, Jim Willis III, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members JoAnn Long, Vincent Oliveri, and Jim Stephenson were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order and welcomed Tom Doe and Jerry Huml to the Beach Commission, and also asked the two new members to remain once the Beach Commission meeting concluded for an orientation. Chairman Fugate requested the Commission to amend the agenda to go into closed session in between agenda items 8 & 9 to discuss personnel and confidential issues. A motion to amend the agenda was made by member Lindblad, seconded by vice-chair Donnelly, and unanimously approved.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – January 24, 2005).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the January 24th meeting minutes. There were no comments forthcoming from the Commission and member McElraft motioned that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by vice-chair Donnelly and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned that the staggered nature of the occupancy tax reports coupled with holiday scheduling had created a lapse in occupancy tax reports that have been provided to the Beach Commission. In this month’s agenda packet, the reports from November, December 2004, and January 2005 are included, which almost coincides with the historic three lowest collection months in the fiscal year calendar. The November and December 2004 reports showed some odd trends and were down significantly if compared to the 2003 reports for the same months. However, these figures were balanced with a very strong January 2005 receipt, meaning that the year-to-date collection is up by 7% if compared to the same point in time in 2004. Member Goldstein noted that when beach visitors pay for their stay along Bogue Banks (e.g.; arrival or departure) has a bearing to the month to when that particular tax is recorded, and consequently can equate to relatively large swings in the low-collection months of the winter. Secretary Rudolph also noted that currently a percentage point of occupancy tax garners almost \$700,000 per fiscal year.

- (4) **Discussion – Procedures for Reconciling/Adopting Interim Items.** – Chairman Fugate introduced the topic by noting that interim items requiring Beach Commission action rarely surface in between the Commission's regularly-scheduled meetings, and by chance two items were considered by the Beach Commission this past month before the monthly meeting. Both of these topics were discussed and voted upon via e-mail. One topic pertained to the Shore Protection Office budget and it was agreed during the last Beach Commission meeting that this item would be reconciled by e-mail. The second topic included a series of resolutions that needed to be adopted by the CBOC in February and needed Beach Commission approval beforehand. Member Willis has since raised a question to whether e-mail is the appropriate method to handle these types of interim items requiring Commission action. Chairman Fugate prefaced the discussion by noting that he would never choose e-mail over Board meetings to consider items, but situations sometime warrant an e-mail approach.

Chairman Fugate continued that Member Willis also requested to move the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting to a time earlier in the month to ensure that any items requiring Commission action can be forwarded to the CBOC in a timely fashion. Member Willis added that the CBOC's second meeting of the month (3rd Monday of the month) is their regular meeting and the CBOC's first meeting of the month (1st Monday of the month) is their work meeting. Using this as a guide, it would be beneficial for the Beach Commission to meet earlier in the month to have agenda items ready for the CBOC regular meeting (3rd Monday of the month). Member McElraft replied that both of the CBOCs's meetings are almost identical and have the same dimensions. Member Goldstein added that the CBOC used to meet once a month on the first Monday of the month. Member McElraft added that interim items are so rare for the Beach Commission and she would recommend keeping the meeting schedule the same unless a trend develops in the future that warrants a change. Member Huml appreciated having a set schedule so he and others can plan their calendars accordingly. Member Willis withdrew his request and thanked the group for their thoughts.

Chairman Fugate continued by addressing the first topic reviewed (e-mail polling) and asked if it was acceptable in the future to conduct Beach Commission business by e-mail poll. Member Doe stated that he was comfortable with e-mail polls although he doesn't like this methodology; however it is necessary in some circumstances. Member Doe recommended that any e-mail poll should be verified by Commission action at the following meeting as a documentation measure. Chairman Fugate and member Lindblad recommended that the results of the resolutions adopted by the Beach Commission earlier this month by e-mail be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting (2/28/05). Member Huml made a motion that we do not deviate from the Beach Commission's regularly scheduled meeting schedule and that when necessary, e-mail be considered an appropriate means for conducting Beach Commission business requiring a vote, and that Commission members use the "reply all" function when such items are considered by e-mail. The motion was seconded by member McElraft and unanimously approved.

- (5) **Beach Restoration Projects Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned that the beach restoration project updates pertaining to the Bogue Inlet Channel/Western Beach Nourishment and Inner Harbor Maintenance are web-based with interim e-mails distributed to the Beach Commission. For the sake of completeness however, secretary Rudolph mentioned that the Bogue Inlet Project continues to go well and although there were high seas today, Weeks Marine repositioned the

dredge to a more interior location along the channel alignment and have continued to work. Beach nourishment should be completed in 10-14 days and dike construction will begin immediately thereafter, with no beach nourishment to follow the dike construction event regardless of the volume of sand that is eventually required to construct the dike. As of today, the current discharge point is located just west of Bogue Inlet Pier.

As far as the Inner Harbor work is concerned, Marinex Construction is currently dredging near the Beaufort Bridge and will continue their efforts in the Turning Basin. Dredged shoal material is being pumped in between the Ft. Macon jetty and bath house groyne. Marinex has dredged almost 300,000 cubic yards to date. The Outer Harbor maintenance work that includes offshore disposal was initiated on February 24th by Manson Construction and will also entail 300,000 cubic yards that should take 14 days to complete. Secretary Rudolph continued that the USACE is trying to minimize the volume of sand they are dredging from the Outer Harbor to essentially save the sand for next year's Outer Harbor Section 933 Project to PKS in 2006.

Secretary Rudolph noted that the President's budget was released on February 7th and that attached to the Commission's agenda packet were; (1) a Statewide sheet with the President's recommendations for all water resource projects, and (2) a separate sheet with beach nourishment/shore protection figures for the entire country. The President recommended ~\$44 million for beach nourishment/shore protection in FY 2006, which is considerably less than the administration recommended for FY 2005 and the ~\$111 million Congress eventually appropriated in FY 2005. Secretary Rudolph continued that it is even more apparent than last year that most of the projects that were funded had a cause and effect relationship with a navigation project. The last page of the National spreadsheet included in the Commission's agenda packet includes a State by State breakdown for appropriations, and utilizing these figures, of the ~\$44 million recommended in the President's budget for beach nourishment/shore protection, \$20 million and ~\$15 million are recommended for Illinois and New Jersey, respectively.

Secretary Rudolph noted that \$150,000 is required for the Shore Protection Project Feasibility Study in FY 2006 that would be cost-shared by the State and County, and be used to complete the study. Also, an additional \$2 million is required to construct the FY 2006 Outer Harbor Section 933 Project. The Corps will retain \$2.6 million of FY 2005 Section 933 Project funding as the economic base of the project. Therefore the total Federal government share for the Section 933 Project is \$4.6 million. Although securing \$2 million for the Section 933 Project will be difficult, the President's budget did include \$3 million in the beneficial use of dredged material account and like previous years, we will ask our Congressional delegation to earmark a portion of that account for the Section 933 Project. In closing, secretary Rudolph mentioned that Congress might not provide the level of Congressional Adds they have in the past and that a broad water resource platform emanating from beach and waterway interests will likely be required to inflate the USACE budget, thereby providing some financial operating room. Secretary Rudolph also mentioned that the Onslow Bay Fishing Club is hosting a waterway seminar Thursday night (3/3/05) at the Swansboro Rotary Club. Chairman Fugate also noted that a group from Carteret County will be attending American Shore & Beach Preservation Association's Annual Summit in Washington, D.C. next week and will also be visiting the N.C.'s congressional delegation. The chairman added that a key to Carteret County's appropriation success in the past has been the County's lobbyist, Howard Marlowe, of Marlowe & Co.

- (6) Public Comment. – None.
- (7) Other Business. – Member Goldstein took a moment to thank the Beach Commission for their remembrance of his wife – it was greatly appreciated by member Goldstein and his family.
- (8) March 2005 Meeting Date (March 28, 2005 – proposed). – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on March 28th at 2:00 pm.
- (9) Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the permitted purpose of discussing confidential information.
- (10) Adjourn. – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments. No further comments were forthcoming from the Commission and the meeting was adjourned.