

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

January 24, 2005, 2 pm

Acronyms:

AB – Atlantic Beach

EI – Emerald Isle

IB – Indian Beach

NCDCM – North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

PKS – Pine Knoll Shores

USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers

Attendance.

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order recognizing that member Willis was traveling to the meeting at this time. Member Willis' attendance would constitute a quorum for the Beach Commission's January 2005 meeting. In the interim, chairman Fugate proceeded to an agenda topic that would not require Commission action, and introduced Dennison K. Breese, owner of Cape Fear International.
- (2) **Agitation Dredging Technologies and Shore Protection Utilizing Beachface Dewatering and Other Drainage Approaches.** – Mr. Breese provided a brief summary of his professional experience to the Beach Commission, and summarized his practical experience with beachface dewatering and surface water/water table management (see [handout](#) and <http://www.seadozer.com>).

Subsequent to Mr. Breese's presentation, the group discussed logistical and environmental issues regarding the disposal water obtained during by the beachface dewatering practice. Member McElraft noted that EI was encountering problems with groundwater disposal associated with the Town's stormwater project, which should accommodate major event storms in a few communities. Beachface dewatering entails considerably more water to handle and resource agencies will likely not permit sound or ocean discharge. In light of these experiences, member McElraft asked Mr. Breese if he had any other disposal avenues in mind. Mr. Breese recognized that water disposal is a big issue and replied that injection wells and lagoons that could serve as a dual purpose for bird habitat, are possible solutions. Chairman Fugate asked Mr. Breese for any benchmark papers concerning beachface dewatering and examples of projects along the east coast of the U.S. Mr. Breese noted that a project at Sailfish Pt. in Florida and Martha's Vineyard

(MA.) are two examples in the U.S., however the technology is very popular in Australia, Denmark, and there is abundant research emanating from Japan. Mr. Breese continued his discussion by mentioning Seadozer, a propeller agitation dredging system. His experimental work in Malaysia was very informative and Mr. Breese would like to garner Federal and State permits to perform a demonstration for local, State, and Federal officials.

- (3) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – November 22, 2004).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the November 22nd meeting minutes. There were no comments forthcoming from the Commission and vice-chair Donnelly motioned that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by member McElraft and unanimously approved.
- (4) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph noted that the October 2004 occupancy tax collection report is included in the Beach Commission's agenda packet. Revenues for October 2004 were up by approximately 10% compared to the October 2003 collection, while the yearly collection is up by over 7% if comparing collections to this point in time in 2003. Secretary Rudolph noted that it was expected that the October 2004 collection would be less than or similar to the October 2003 collection. The October 2003 collection was likely “inflated” because of the perceived influx of displaced tourists that likely migrated from Hatteras Island in response to the Hurricane *Isabel*/breach/inlet between the towns of Frisco and Hatteras Village. However, the October 2004 occupancy tax receipts were above the October 2003 level, and it could be postulated that good weather and a successful Seafood Festival may attribute to this positive spike. Secretary Rudolph added however that the October collection contributes a minor portion to the overall yearly collection total. The November and December 2004 occupancy tax collection reports were received this past Friday, after the Beach Commission agenda packet was prepared, and both of these monthly collections were down if compared to the 2003 collection levels. However, the fiscal year (2004-05) to date collection rate is over 6% higher than last fiscal year (2003-04). The collection reports for November and December 2004 will be included in next month's Beach Commission meeting agenda packet (February 2005).

Secretary Rudolph also noted that the Shore Protection Office budget is usually adopted at the February Beach Commission meeting. However, it was recently disclosed that the budget is due to the County Finance Department on February 21, 2005, which is a week before the Beach Commission meets for their monthly meeting. Secretary Rudolph requested the Beach Commission to discuss the Shore Protection Office budget adoption procedure for this year considering the timetable that was just delineated. Options including a special meeting, a subcommittee, or general e-mail consensus and dialogue were all discussed, and it was decided that the budget would be discussed and adopted via e-mail.

- (5) **Beach Restoration Projects Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned that the Shore Protection Office has been providing updates on the office's website with interim e-mails to the Beach Commission. As of today, Bean Stuyvesant should complete the Brandt Island Pump-Out tomorrow and the sediment discharge area is located at the western end of the Ft. Macon Bathhouse parking lot, near the 4-WD ramp, and progressing east towards Beaufort Inlet. Marinex Construction is dredging the inner harbor and is currently positioned in the northern half of Bulkhead Channel. The sediments encountered during maintenance dredging are placed along the shoreline of Ft. Macon progressing east to west and the discharge is currently situated at the

eastern tip of the Bathhouse parking lot. Secretary Rudolph also mentioned that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in EI earlier today to celebrate the Bogue Inlet Channel/Western Phase Beach Nourishment Project. The 24" cutterhead-suction dredge, the *Borinquen*, is presently near Jacksonville, Fla., and it's anticipated that the dredge will arrive in Carteret County late this week and initiate the project next week. This schedule should accommodate successful completion of the project before the beginning of the environmental moratorium (4/1/05). In the interim, there has been a lot of dredge pipe delivered to EI's Western Regional Access and submerged pipeline drawn ashore near the western tip of EI.

Secretary Rudolph also mentioned that days before the Beach Commission's last meeting in November 2004, nine appropriation bills were rolled in to an omnibus package for FY 2005, including the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Bill, which funds the USACE. Attached to the Commission's agenda is a list of all the beach nourishment/shore protection projects in the Country for FY 2005, minus a supplemental Florida Hurricane recovery package that totaled over \$60 million. The last sheet of the handout includes a State by State breakdown, and Illinois, Florida, and New Jersey were the top three States for appropriations. Secretary Rudolph continued that the President's budget for FY 2006 (10/1/05 – 9/30/06) will be released on February 7, 2005 (the first Tuesday in February). This should be an interesting year regarding appropriations beyond the usual debate regarding domestic spending in the wake of budget deficits and the war on terror. It also appears that Congress is more tightly aligned with the White House this year and therefore beach communities may not experience the degree of Congressional Adds that has become customary. Also, there is rumor and an apparent movement to consolidate the 13 appropriation bills required to be passed each year into a smaller number. This debate could mean a slow start to a usually long appropriation negotiation process. Secretary Rudolph also referenced a letter by the USACE that Carolina Beach Inlet, Bogue Inlet, Rollinson Channel, and Silver Lake harbor will not be dredged this year because of funding restraints (see [USACE letter](#)).

- (6) **Beach Monitoring Discussion – Scope of Work Amendments.** – Secretary Rudolph introduced the topic by mentioning that the Beach Commission entertained a proposal to incorporate Bear Island into the Bogue Banks beach surveying program this past October. The mindset behind the proposal was to (1) help EI satisfy permit requirements associated with the Bogue Inlet Channel/Western Phase Beach Nourishment Project that institute a 5-year post-project surveying program for Bear Island, and (2) Bogue Inlet is a preferable target for beach nourishment needs along western EI, while serving a dual role to provide safe navigation within the Bogue Inlet floodway and protecting homes/infrastructure at the Pointe. This latter objective will likely require an analysis of shoreline change at Bear Island and the expanded survey program could contribute to this overall purpose. This latter topic, pertaining to dredging and adjacent shoreline impacts, also appeared to have bearing to Beaufort Inlet and Bogue/Shackleford Banks as well. Member Willis suggested to expand the surveying program to include Shackleford Banks based on this premise. Secretary Rudolph added that the Shackleford Banks surveys would help augment the 50-year Shore Protection Project and the Independent Study that is currently being prepared by Olsen Associates.

With this background in mind, Coastal Science & Engineering (CSE) was approached to modify the current contract for beach surveying to include Bear Island and Shackleford Banks. The Shore Protection Office has a 3 year contract with CSE and we are currently in our second year of the contract. The survey includes two events per year, one in the winter and one in the summer.

The winter survey for this year was conducted in October and EI concurrently retained CSE to conduct a Bear Island survey to quantify pre-project conditions pertaining to the realignment of Bogue Inlet. CSE's scope of work proposal includes a once a year surveying program encompassing Shackleford Banks, Bogue Banks, and Bear Island compared to the current semi-annual surveying program along Bogue Banks only. Also, the proposal includes sediment sampling along the beach with a maximum of 50 individual samples. These samples would be collected and analyzed in a manner consistent with the State's proposed sediment compatibility standards for beach nourishment. Member Willis and Secretary Rudolph subsequently discussed the sediment sampling criteria in terms of spatial distribution and came to an understanding that the Beach Commission/Shore Protection Office would work closely with the State regarding the sampling protocol. Member Willis also asked why the month of June was selected as the one month to conduct the surveys. Secretary Rudolph replied that June was selected to provide ample time to obtain data considering the prevailing nature of southwest winds, which causes windswells and surface chop for the boat work, and that this timeframe leaves enough leeway before the Hurricane season is upon us. Chairman Fugate added that all the previous surveys have been conducted in June as well and the proposal is consistent to this temporal baseline. Member Willis agreed that June would be the best month to conduct the surveys. Following this discussion, vice-chair Donnelly motioned that CSE's proposal to modify the scope of work for the beach surveying program be approved. The motion was seconded by member Willis and unanimously approved.

- (7) **Public Comment.** – Frank Rush (audience and Town Manager of EI) expressed his appreciation to the Beach Commission for including Bear Island in the surveying program.
- (8) **Other Business.** – Chairman Fugate noted that the board of Directors for the N.C. Shore & Beach Preservation Association met this past Friday and voted to expand their mission to incorporate shallow draft waterways and inlets into their purview of interest. Chairman Fugate added that waterway interests have common linkages to beach preservation efforts including funding, environmental issues, and recreation. And by combining resources, mutual goals could be achieved.

Member Stephenson if the Beach Commission was planning to prepare a public beach access pamphlet for this upcoming summer season. Secretary Rudolph replied that maps delineating all access and parking points are available on the Shore Protection Office website, and that because the pamphlets were a condition of the Section 933 Project, the Shore Protection Office/Beach Commission was waiting until the Section 933 Project was completed in PKS before finalizing maps and printing pamphlets. Therefore the pamphlet is on hold until PKS receives sand from a Section 933 Project, which will likely be next year. Member Stephenson asked if a pamphlet would be prepared if PKS never receives Section 933 sand. Secretary Rudolph answered that IB installed 3 new access/parking facilities and PKS could be furnishing 5 new facilities and that Shore Protection Office was waiting until those five new areas were completed. Member Stephenson noted that NCDCM has agreed to furnish funds for the pamphlet and asked if these funds are in jeopardy if there is a year delay. Secretary Rudolph replied no, and chairman Fugate added that it wouldn't be practical to approach NCDCM for grant money in two consecutive years to essentially produce two similar pamphlets. Member Stephenson disagreed and commented that the Beach Commission should create a pamphlet for this year. Member Willis asked if the pamphlet would include the Section 933 area only. Secretary Rudolph answered that the pamphlet would incorporate the entire island. Member Stephenson noted that beach access is

not a static issue and according to surveys conducted by the N.C. Coastal Federation, the newer accesses are not as well used as the older, more well-known access. Chairman Fugate responded that most day visitors migrate to the larger, regional accesses with bathhouses, lifeguards, and other amenities; not the smaller accesses. Member McElraft asked where the pamphlets would be distributed. Secretary Rudolph replied that the pamphlets would be furnished to hotels and other places of business. Joan Lamson (audience and Mayor of PKS) commented that PKS fully intends to complete the new access/parking areas they have planned in association with the Section 933 Project and wants to be part of the pamphlet effort. The first edition of pamphlet will customarily have a longer shelf life and therefore it would be wise to wait until PKS completes their access points before the first edition of the pamphlet is produced. Frank Rush also noted that the Town of EI has their access locations on the web as well.

To bring the issue to closure, chairman Fugate noted that there was consensus to wait until the accesses associated with the Section 933 Project are completed before producing the pamphlet. Member Stephenson disagreed that there was consensus among the Beach Commission. To determine the wishes of the Beach Commission, member McElraft made a motion to wait until PKS completes the accesses associated with the Section 933 Project before the access/parking pamphlets are finalized and printed. The motion was seconded by vice-chair Donnelly. Chairman Fugate, vice-chair Donnelly, and member McElraft voted yes; members Oliveri and Stephenson voted no, with member Willis abstaining. The motion carried (3 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstention).

- (9) **February 2005 Meeting Date (February 28, 2005 – proposed)**. – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on February 28th at 2:00 pm.
- (10) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments. No further comments were forthcoming from the Commission and the meeting was adjourned.