

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

March 28, 2005, 2 pm

Acronyms:

AIWW – Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

CBOC – Carteret County Board of Commissioners

EI – Emerald Isle

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, Ted Lindblad, Pat McElraft, Vincent Oliveri, Jim Stephenson, Jim Willis III, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Member Jerry Huml (e) was absent.

Note: (e) – excused absence; (u) – unexcused absence

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting & Closed Session – February 28, 2005).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the two sets of minutes presented in the agenda packet. Member Goldstein motioned that the minutes from the Commission's regularly-scheduled February meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by vice-chair Donnelly and unanimously approved. Member Goldstein also motioned that the minutes from the Commission's closed session held the same day be approved. This motion was also seconded by vice-chair Donnelly and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Proposed Modification to Beach Commission By-Laws.** – Chairman Fugate guided the Beach Commission to the agenda packet that summarized the topic. Member Lindblad reiterated that the proposal included changing the Commission's by-laws to hold officer elections in January rather than October, and similarly, to request the CBOC to appoint Beach Commission members in January rather than October. Member Lindblad continued by asking the Commission to consider holding officer elections in June or July in order to give new Commission members appointed in January time to understand the role of the Commission and the Commission members. Member Willis motioned that the by-laws should be changed to hold officer elections in July rather than October. Member Stephenson noted that this proposal could cause some discrepancies if the officers were not reappointed in January yet their one-year term as an officer did not expire until the following July. Member McElraft reiterated that it was important to ensure that nominations for membership continue to originate from the Beach Commission, not the municipalities, although the municipalities and the Beach Commission often work together. Chairman Fugate agreed and

added that this was stipulated in the by-laws and that should not be compromised in regards to changing the appointments from October to the following January. Chairman Fugate subsequently asked for a second on the motion currently on the floor (change officer elections from October to July), although the discrepancy member Stephenson illustrated should be taken into consideration. Member Lindblad asked the Commission if there was method to work around this discrepancy (a standing officer not reappointed although the term of office ends six months later). Member McElraft added that because Beach Commission members are appointed for 3-year terms; that gives new members a year to become acclimated with the Commission and elect officers in the following years. The motion on the floor was seconded by member Lindblad and was rejected by a 1 (Willis) to 8 vote.

Member Doe subsequently made a motion that the by-laws be changed as recommended in the agenda packet (officer elections changed from October to the following January). The motion seconded by vice-chair Donnelly and unanimously approved. Chairman Fugate mentioned that the by-law change is subject to CBOC approval, and subsequently asked if the Commission wished to vote on the second point of order (change appointment dates from October to the following January). Member Stephenson made the motion to request the CBOC to change the appointment dates for Commission members as discussed. This motion was seconded by member Willis and was approved by an 8 to 1 (Willis) vote.

- (4) **Beach Restoration Projects Update.** – Secretary Rudolph initiated the discussion by discussing the Bogue Inlet Channel/Western EI Beach Nourishment Project. The dredging contractor (Weeks Marine) encountered a formed piece of concrete last week that required a jack-hammer to break before the cutterhead dredge, the *Borinquen*, could continue working. Unfortunately once this issue was resolved, the booster pump failed. This series of events resulted in a shut down period extending from Monday to Friday of last week (3/14 – 3/18). Secretary Rudolph added that there is ~1,600 linear feet of beach nourishment to complete, which should be completed later this week at about the same time the dredge should cut through the ebb tide delta thereby establishing the new channel. The *Borinquen* will be repositioned to the undisturbed, middle portion of the channel to begin and complete dike construction. However, all of these activities are contingent upon a permit extension that EI filed with the State and Federal clearinghouse agencies that would extend the construction window from April 1st to April 15th. Secretary Rudolph re-iterated that a decision regarding the permit extension, the beach nourishment element of the project, the channel establishment, and the start of dike construction should all transpire by Friday (4/1) or shortly thereafter. Vice-chair Donnelly asked the secretary if he thought the permit extension would be granted. Secretary Rudolph replied that he believes the permit extension will be granted because the beach work should be completed by April 1st and that is where most of the environmental concerns lie with the moratorium and also, a key to the project's success is the construction of the closure dike.

Secretary Rudolph transitioned to the Morehead City Harbor update by mentioning that Manson Construction completed the outer harbor portion of work a couple of weeks ago at about the same time Marinex Construction completed the inner harbor scope of work with concurrent beach nourishment to Ft. Macon. Dike reconstruction on Brandt Island at the dredging entrance should begin later this week.

A shallow draft waterway funding summary was also discussed and summarized by the secretary. There are five shallow draft inlets with connecting channels to the AIWW in southern N.C. that are maintained by government-owned dredges; Bogue, New River, New Topsail, Carolina Beach, and Lockwoods Folly inlets. This is unique to other civil works projects where the dredging industry is contracted to perform dredging activities. Secretary Rudolph continued that it was not uncommon for each of these inlet/connecting channels to receive \$500,000 to over a \$1,000,000 per year for maintenance activities. All five projects received less than \$1,000,000 total in FY 2005 and the President's budget contains \$0 for the inlets in his FY 2006 recommendation. The boating community has galvanized around this cause and was successful in securing \$1,000,000 of supplemental funds for FY 2005 but there are long range funding problems regarding the government-owned dredging fleet that will need to be reconciled. Secretary Rudolph added that he attended a Navigation Performance Metrics workshop in Washington, D.C. last week. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a prioritization methodology for funding USACE port, inlet, and inland waterway projects. The Office of Management & Budget has notified the USACE that their budget will remain static and instructed the USACE to start prioritizing projects under this budget restraint. The USACE budget is probably tighter than initially thought and that does not bode well for the Federal Shore Protection program.

Chairman Fugate mentioned that the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association held their annual Washington Summit a few weeks ago and that the secretary served as the Summit chair. Joan Lamson (audience) later disclosed that Bogue Banks was also a recipient of one of four awards presented at the Summit for the 2004 Top Restored Beach Award. Member McElraft added that this award should receive more attention. Chairman Fugate also noted that the Bogue Banks Beach Preservation Association will be hosting a beach & waterways symposium on August 12th at the Sheraton (Atlantic Beach).

- (5) **Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the permitted purpose of discussing confidential information.** – Chairman Fugate disclosed that JoAnn Long resigned from the Beach Commission and therefore the closed session was cancelled. The chairman further explained that it would be appropriate to nominate a replacement to serve in one of the two positions reserved for residents of PKS at this point, and on behalf of the nominations committee, he believes that Joan Lamson (mayor of PKS) would be an appropriate candidate. Vice-chair Donnelly made a motion to recommend Ms. Lamson to the CBOC as a nominee for the Beach Commission. The motion was seconded by member McElraft and unanimously approved.
- (6) **Public Comment.** – Member Willis noted that there are two ways to get something from the USACE – legal action or while the scoping process is underway for any potential deepening projects at the Morehead City Harbor. Although Olsen Associates is preparing a cause and effect report for the Beach Commission that examines current and pre-existing conditions, a part of the report should look ahead if the channel is deepened from 45 to 50 foot. Member Lindblad asked how does the Beach Commission seek cooperation with the N.C. Port Authority to work together regarding deepening and beach nourishment issues. Chairman Fugate replied that if any proposals change the cost of navigation projects (increase), then there will be resistance. However, it is important to take a broad, holistic approach and progress could be made.
- (7) **Other Business.** – None.

- (8) **April 2005 Meeting Date (April 25, 2005 – proposed)**. – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on April 25th at 2:00 pm.
- (9) **Adjourn**. – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments. No further comments were forthcoming from the Commission and the meeting was adjourned (vice-chair Donnelly motion, member Doe second, unanimously approved).