

Shore Protection Manager

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CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

June 25, 2007, 2 pm

Acronyms:

AIWW – Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

EI – Emerald Isle

PKS – Pine Knoll Shores

USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USCG – U.S. Coast Guard

Attendance.

Commission Chair Buck Fugate, Vice-Chair William Donnelly, Commission Members Pete Allen, Eddie Dawkins, Jack Goldstein, Tom Hoover, Joan Lamson, Stewart Pickett, Jim Stephenson, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members Ted Lindblad and Jim Willis were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order and recognized the new Town Manager for PKS in the audience; Brain Kramer.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – April 30, 2007).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the minutes presented in the agenda packet. With no comments forthcoming from the Commission, member Goldstein motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Pickett and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned the April and May 2007 occupancy tax collection reports were attached to the Beach Commission's agenda and were “up” compared to the collections for these same months in 2006. This contributes approximately \$42,000 to the occupancy tax overall, or roughly \$21,000 extra to the “Beach Fund”. The fiscal year-to-date occupancy tax collection total for 2006-07 is currently at +3% compared to this same point in time in the previous fiscal year with one very large collection month (June) remaining in FY 2006-07. The Commission utilizes a 3% growth factor in their budget estimates and this year (FY 2006-07) appears to be right on track with the month of June remaining, which could allow the tax collection to inch towards the +4% or +5% mark. The secretary continued that the hotel/motel input seems to have rebounded after being down for most of the year compared to last year (FY 2005-06), and the “Beach Fund” reserve is currently estimated to be at \$3.4 million. The secretary turned the floor over to member Goldstein for his input regarding visitation and lodging trends. Member Goldstein noted that some of the overnight rates have increased and hence the occupancy tax collection, and he was mildly surprised the hotel/motel return is remaining “high” considering how many of these facilities have been removed from the Bogue Banks.

- (4) **Requested Comments - U.S. Coast Guard's 10-Year Maintenance Dredging Plan, Emerald Isle.** – Secretary Rudolph utilized a video projector to provide maps and discuss the agenda topic. The USCG is currently reviewing dredging options at their facility in EI, near Bogue Inlet to help facilitate their rapid response capabilities. The USACE has been solicited to prepare a new Environmental Assessment and develop engineering designs for the new dredging maintenance plans. The secretary summarized that the Bogue Inlet Navigation Project includes areas known as the “ocean bar” and the “connecting channel” that are maintained a couple to several times a year utilizing the USACE side-cast dredging fleet (if annual Federal funding is provided for routine dredging maintenance). The ocean bar reach of the navigation project was repositioned by the Town of EI in 2005 to alleviate scour-induced erosion at the Point, and the USACE, as they have done in the past, follows the deep water channel at the time of maintenance along the entire navigation project reach. Thus, the Bogue Inlet Navigation Project generally extends from the southern tip of the ocean bar to the AIWW near cedar Point. The portion of the AIWW near Cedar Point on the other hand is dredged on a 2 to 3 year interval utilizing a contract pipeline dredge, and the disposal area for dredged spoils has traditionally been permitted along a reach of oceanfront shoreline near the Point. Last year however (2006), dredged sand was placed along the inlet shoreline because deep water still existed near the sandbags at the Point. The Beach Commission authorized a \$69,000 expenditure to help offset non-Federal funding needs for that particular disposal event.

The USCG is looking to establish a more reliable thoroughfare to connect to the Bogue Inlet Navigation Project and AIWW, and are soliciting comments concerning this general plan. More specifically, the USCG/USACE intends to utilize a pipeline dredge to maintain a route that follows the deep water connecting the Coast Guard Station to the Bogue Inlet Navigation Project and AIWW. Preferably, the USCG would like to keep a straight north alignment out of the USCG Station rather than a more direct route that would lead north and then west to the connecting channel associated with the Bogue Inlet Navigation Project. This quicker route however is perpendicular to flood and ebb currents, which makes traversing this alignment more difficult and again, the USCG would prefer the more northerly and straight route. However, they will dredge in the area that has the deepest water at the time of maintenance, which is anticipated to also be every 2 to 3 years. The beach quality dredged material emanating from the USCG work will be placed on the beach, currently depicted as the same historical area that the USACE has used for the inlet crossing work. Ideally, the USCG and inlet crossing pipeline dredge work would be under a unified contract (i.e., same equipment with same disposal area). The USCG would cover the costs for the work associated with the channel leading to the Bogue Inlet Navigation Project or the AIWW, while the USACE would be fiscally responsible for the AIWW crossing. Also, the non-compatible dredged material (mud), if encountered will be placed in a to-be-determined upland disposal site.

The secretary continued that the Beach Commission is requested to approve four recommendations that would be forwarded to the USCG/USACE via the County Board of Commissioners, and includes; (1) To have the flexibility to place the sand dredged every 2 to 3 years from the AIWW crossing and USCG channel along a broader reach of shoreline that is currently permitted and depicted on the USCG's solicitation for public comment. This would generally include the traditional disposal area and a reach continuing west, encompassing the immediate oceanfront and inlet shorelines at the Point. (2) Ensure there is coordination between the local governments and the USACE/USCG when planning each beach disposal event, (3)

Request that the dredged sand is placed in a nourishment template (discrete elevation, width, and distance dimensions), and (4) To the most practical extent, constrain dredging activities to limit disturbances to the public and biological resources.

Chairman Fugate asked if there was any prohibition regarding the placement of sand in an inlet hazard area (IHA). The secretary responded that traditionally the sand has been placed in the IHA anyway, so a new proposal to place sand within this area shouldn't be a problem. Member Hoover asked when the next nourishment would take place at the Point. Secretary Rudolph replied if the maintenance cycle is every 2 to 3 years, then the next cycle should be in 2009 (3 year cycle). Member Allen asked what extra cubic yardage would be included in the USCG scope of work. Secretary Rudolph answered that the AIWW inlet crossing usually entails 40,000 – 70,000 cubic yards and the USCG channel may be in the 20,000 cubic yard range if the deep water channel is followed. Members Hoover and Donnelly asked if the USCG proposed channel alignments would re-open the "old channel" in the Bogue Inlet floodway that the Town of El repositioned in 2005. If the old channel did become more hydraulically vigorous, then the homes at the Point could become threatened once again. The Commission and secretary subsequently discussed this notion, and the Commission agreed to include a fifth point (5) to be included in the response letter; i.e., that the USCG channel alignment should be selected in a manner that does not alter the hydraulics of the inlet which would re-open the old Bogue Inlet channel.

Member Hoover made a motion for the Shore Protection Office to draft a correspondence for the County Board of Commissioners' approval incorporating the five points discussed today (four that were included in the Commission's agenda and one developed at today's meeting). This motion was seconded by member Lamson and unanimously approved (8-0). Member Donnelly mentioned that the USCG/USACE should also hold the County harmless if the new dredging work does hydraulically open the old channel.

- (5) **Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference 2008, Hawaii.** – Chairman Fugate informed the Commission that he thought the secretary should attend this conference and because it could be misconstrued as an exotic trip, the secretary asked for the Commission to approve the attendance and travel costs associated with this particular conference. Member Donnelly recommended that the Commission approve this trip and member Lamson subsequently asked if the Shore Protection office has attended this conference before. The secretary responded that the 2005 conference was located in Charleston and we did attend. The 2002 conference was in San Diego just a few months after the Shore Protection Office was developed and therefore we did not attend this particular conference. Member Lamson continued by referring to the agenda materials and subsequently asked what topic would the Shore Protection Office discuss for an abstract, paper, and presentation at the conference. Secretary Rudolph replied that the Shore Protection Office has partnered with Tony Rodriguez, Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina's Institute of Marine Sciences for a grant application to NC Seagrant, and the proposal has been short-listed, and therefore may be a good topic for the Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference. Otherwise, a review of the Carteret County shore protection management structure or the Bogue Inlet Realignment Project could be other possible topics. Member Lamson subsequently made a motion to send the secretary to the subject conference that was seconded by member Donnelly and unanimously approved (8-0).
- (6) **Public Comment.** – None.

- (7) **Other Business.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned the grant he referenced earlier in the meeting is aimed at examining the paleo (relict) channels that exist underneath Bogue Banks and their influence to dune formation and shoreface erosion. This could help foster non-traditional beach nourishment strategies, which would be a potential practical outcome of the study.
- (8) **July 2007 Meeting Date (July 23, 2007 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting scheduled for July 2007 would be held on the 23rd of the month at 2:00 pm, PKS Town Hall.
- (9) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.