

Shore Protection Manager

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## CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

March 26, 2007, 2 pm

### **Acronyms:**

AB – Atlantic Beach

CBOC – Carteret County Board of Commissioners

PKS – Pine Knoll Shores

USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### **Attendance.**

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – February 26, 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 Pickett motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Donnelly and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Review of the President's FY 2008 Budget Request - Energy & Water Development Appropriations.** – Secretary Rudolph reviewed that the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, which is different from the local/State government calendar (July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>). The President will release his administration's budget for the upcoming fiscal year on the first Monday in February, and accordingly, the President released his FY 2008 budget proposal on February 5, 2007 totaling \$2.9 trillion dollars, which includes three fundamental components – mandatory expenditures (i.e., social security, Medicare, etc.), interest payments, and discretionary expenditures. As mentioned in the Commission's agenda packet, military & homeland defense is also considered as discretionary items; therefore the non-military, discretionary portion of the Federal budget accounts for roughly 16% of the total outlay. This outlay framework is placed in the context of the war on terror and budget deficits, meaning there are less dollars available for non-military, discretionary expenditures.

The USACE budget has been static for the past several years despite rising business costs and a higher demand for services as more of the Country's population moves to the coast. This set parameters for the USACE and the budget as whole does not bode well for the Beach Commission/Shore Protection Office as we depend upon Federal cost-sharing dollars for our

beach preservation efforts. The USACE's budget is also divided into three separate accounts; (1) general investigation (studies), (2) construction general (nourishment and channel deepening), and (3) operation & maintenance (maintenance dredging). For beach nourishment, only four projects were funded in the President's budget – one project is the result of a court-ordered settlement and the other three are for the construction of hard structures.

From a State perspective, a spreadsheet of all waterway and beach projects is included in the Commission's agenda packet, and the overall trend is that there was no funding provided in the President's budget for beach nourishment, almost no funding provided for shallow-draft waterway maintenance, and sparse funding provided for Port channel deepening. Looking ahead, the House and Senate will soon pass their budget resolutions, which is a financial ceiling for each of the 12 appropriation bills they will pass, and subsequently begin to work on each individual spending bill. The Energy & Water Development Appropriation Bill contains the funding for the USACE and ideally, the bill will be passed by the House and Senate by the beginning of FY 2008 (October 1, 2007). The secretary concluded the summary by noting that in light of the budget conditions, the Commission's strategy to maximize the dollars and sand resources at the Morehead City Harbor appears to be a more prudent approach with each passing day.

Member Stephenson distributed a handout to the Commission from the USACE describing the FY 2008 budget in different terms, and chairman Fugate asked how the funding for the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) would be distributed. Secretary Rudolph responded that the USACE has the high commercial use corridors of the AIWW identified and the funds would be applied to these reaches.

- (4) **Contract Extension for the Bogue Banks Beach & Nearshore Mapping Program.** – The secretary noted that a subcommittee of the Beach Commission has met on a couple of occasions to discuss the future of the beach monitoring program which was triggered by the sunset of a 3-year contract with Coastal Science & Engineering (CSE) this past year. The subcommittee recommended to enter into a one-year contract extension with CSE, which includes the same scopes of work as performed in previous years - beach monitoring at Bogue Banks, Shackleford Banks, and Bear Island. The results of the survey are presented in an annual report. In terms of cost, the one-year contract extension proposed by CSE is \$45,000, and is approximately \$5,000 less than previous efforts. The secretary explained there is overlap of surveying that CSE will undertake for the *Ophelia* Sand Replenishment Project and the broader beach monitoring initiative the Beach Commission is considering, and therefore some cost savings are realized. One item that was not included in the contract extension was a post-hurricane beach survey, which usually entails the surveying of every 5<sup>th</sup> profile established along Bogue Banks (120 profiles total along the island), and has traditionally totaled \$7,500. The secretary mentioned that the Commission could negotiate this supplemental survey with CSE a later date.

Member Lindblad asked if there was an option for a post-storm survey in the contract extension, and if not, would the Commission favor including a post-storm survey provision in the contract for logistical and cost considerations. Members Donnelly, Stephenson, and chairman Fugate all disclosed they favored adding the post-storm survey to the contract extension. Member Picket subsequently amended his earlier motion to recommend the approval of the contract extension by the CBOC with the addition of a post-storm survey. The motion was seconded by member Lindblad. Secretary Rudolph mentioned he would come back to the Commission if the

post-storm survey exceeds \$10,000. Member Willis asked if the post-storm survey included Shackleford Banks and Bear Island, and member Stephenson asked if the post-storm survey included AB. The secretary replied that the post-storm survey included all of Bogue Banks with each 5<sup>th</sup> profile surveyed, and therefore does not include Shackleford Banks and Bear Island. The motion on the floor to approve the contract extension with the addition of a post-storm survey was unanimously approved.

- (5) **Resolution Supporting National Clean Beaches Week (June 29, - July 5, 2007).** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned that a resolution supporting National Clean Beaches Week was forwarded to the County several weeks ago and has been brought to the Beach Commissions consideration. The effort is being spearheaded by the Clean Beaches Council, a non-profit group based out of Washington, D.C. The secretary added the Commission/Shore Protection Office has to walk a fine line between advocating for causes prompted by non-profit organizations, while realizing the Commission/Shore Protection Office also have advocacy roles for promoting beach preservation, beach nourishment, access, and other causes germane to the County. The Clean Beaches Council is not asking for a monetary donation at this time, just to support the Clean Beaches Week (June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>). The observance of Clean Beaches Week is predominantly focused upon water quality and debris along the Nation's beaches, which could be considered outside the Commission's purview; however the Commission has become the *de facto* information source for everything related to beaches in the County, and therefore the Commission should consider the resolution and be cognizant that other items of a similar nature may come before the Beach Commission in the future.

Member Donnelly disclosed he was favor of the resolution, and adoption of the resolution should provide positive public relations. Member Donnelly subsequently made a motion to recommend the CBOC adopt the Clean Beaches Week resolution, which was seconded by member Stephenson. Member Lindblad recommended that the County's Tourism Development Authority should be made aware of this resolution and maybe they would like to also adopt a similar resolution. Member Stephenson also recommended the resolution be forwarded to the local municipalities as well. The Commission agreed with these recommendations and unanimously approved the motion of the floor regarding the resolution.

- (6) **Public Comment.** – Dick Collins from 225 Salter Path Road, PKS came forward and brought to the Beach Commission's attention that the beach at/near his home was 135-foot wide in the late 1970s, and prior to the 2007 beach nourishment events, was only 50-foot wide. Mr. Collins contends the dredging of the Morehead City Harbor and beach placement of sand at Ft. Macon in the 1970s shifted the island from an accretion state to one of erosion. He has supported beach nourishment efforts including the local funding initiative that resulted in the 2001-02 nourishment project, and salutes the Beach Commission for all their work to bring beach nourishment to PKS in 2007.
- (7) **Other Business.** – Member Willis referred to the Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP correspondence to Colonel Pulliam prepared on behalf of the County that essentially asked the USACE to prepare a new Dredged Material Disposal Plan for the Morehead City Federal Navigation Project. Member Willis distributed a Design Memorandum from 1992 that he believes should be amended to address outer harbor dredging issues only. The disposal policy for the inner harbor should remain intact and member Willis asked for the Commission's thoughts regarding this proposal. Chairman

Fugate replied that the USACE has informed the County that they do not have a Dredged Material Management Plan and therefore it would be impossible for the USACE to amend a piece of paperwork they do not have. Thus a new Dredged Material Disposal Plan with supporting environmental documentation must be prepared. Member Willis noted if a new plan was developed, then AB would lose its free sand. The chairman added that even if the Design Memorandum was considered as a Dredged Material Management Plan, the Commission's argument has been that new circumstances documented in the USACE's Section 111 Report and the Olsen Associates Report has warranted the production of a new Dredged Material Disposal Plan. Member Willis contended the Brandt Island disposal policy would be grandfathered in with respect to the State's new beach nourishment sediment criteria, meaning that mud could still be placed in AB. Chairman Fugate replied that even this same mud is being proposed to be dumped offshore now, which is concerning because this could mix with the good beach quality sand that is residing in the offshore dump site. Member Willis responded that even if a court-ordered settlement is reached and sand from the outer harbor is placed in AB, a sand tax would need to be generated in AB to help pay for the compulsory local share.

Layton Bedsole (N.C. Port Authority) asked the Commission where the mud emanating from the inner harbor should go considering that no one wants the mud in Brandt Island or an offshore disposal site. Chairman Fugate replied that is a good question and why a new Dredged Material Disposal Plan is needed to evaluate disposal options. Member Willis added that maybe one offshore area could be utilized for mud disposal – the other for beach quality sand.

- (8) **April 2007 Meeting Date (April 30, 2007 – proposed)**. – Secretary Rudolph disclosed the proposed meeting date is the 5<sup>th</sup>, rather than the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month because of an agenda preparation/vacation conflict. The Commission by consensus agreed to the proposal and the April regularly-scheduled meeting will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.