

Shore Protection Manager

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CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

April 28, 2008, 2 pm

Attendance.

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (February 25, 2008).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the February 25th regular session 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 Donnelly and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned the February and March 2008 occupancy tax reports were included in the agenda packet, and collectively constitutes an approximate \$1,100 increase if compared to the February/March 2007 collection. Interestingly, there was sharp decline in the February collection, and yet a sharp increase in the March collection. As member Goldstein added, the reported increase for March makes sense with an early Easter holiday this year and spring breaks, but there appears to be no real explanation for the decrease seen in February. However, February is traditionally a low revenue month anyway, so the overall impact of a decrease for this particular month is relatively minor. Member Goldstein added that in the off months, the hotel/motel sector will normally produce more revenue than the condo/cottage sector, with the opposite holding true for the summer months. Also, there really are very few hotel/motel rooms available in the peak months, so we may experience a little drop in revenue from this particular sector. The downturn in the economy may also play a factor for this upcoming summer’s receipts. Chairman Fugate agreed and added he believes gas prices will likely impact tourists’ inclination to visit Carteret County and/or spending additional money on boating and fishing. The secretary concluded by mentioning that the “Beach Fund” is up by roughly 4.5 % this year compared to last year at this same point in time and the reserve estimate as of March 31st was approximately \$5.1 million.
- (4) **Contract Extension for Governmental Affairs Consulting Services – Marlowe & Co.** – The secretary introduced the topic by noting the County has had a relationship with Marlowe & Co. for governmental affairs consulting since 2001. For a while, the agreement between the County and Marlowe & Co. was through a series of one year contracts, with the exception of a three-year contract that will expire June 30th. Based upon our relationship with Marlowe & Co. and the good

fortune we have had regarding Federal appropriations, a new 3-year contract extension is most likely warranted. The proposed contract extension is attached to the Commission's agenda and the annual inflation rate applied to the contract in the past has been lowered from \$3,000 a year to \$2,000 per year. The secretary added that when discussing "lobbying", it is very difficult to establish objective benchmarks for success because so much of the work is cultivating relationships. However, in attempt to put a number on Marlowe & Co.'s service, the agenda packet includes a summary of appropriations obtained for beach nourishment and waterway dredging from 2001 to 2007. The federal appropriations granted to Carteret County projects during this time frame is roughly \$70 million, and while not all of those dollars can be attributed to Marlowe & Co.; a good amount can and that fact in itself likely merits approval of the proposed 3-year contract extension. The secretary concluded his introduction by introducing Steve Dye from Marlowe & Co., Washington, D.C.

Mr. Dye proceeded by introducing himself and expressing appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the Beach Commission and for the opportunity to represent Carteret County in Washington, D.C. The relationship with the County is often used by Marlowe & Co. as a good example of how to locally coordinate lobbying efforts and gain results. Howard Marlowe is the president of the company, which he founded 24 years ago, and he is the guru of U.S Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) affairs from headquarters down to the local districts. I (Mr. Dye) have been with Marlowe & Co. for a year and my experience was with U.S. congressional representatives from California and the west coast, also dealing with the Corps. Marlowe & Co. also has fantastic relationships with your members of Congress and staff (Senate & House). The County's representation is in very good hands with Congressman Jones, and likewise with Senators Dole and Burr.

Mr. Dye continued by mentioning that Marlowe & Co. has been pushing very hard for the funding required for the last phases of the 50-year Shore Protection project feasibility study, and have also educated members of Congress about the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for Morehead City Harbor. Also in the past, Marlowe & Co. has worked closely with the County to secure all necessary Section 933 Project funding. In terms of the DMMP, the Corps has an operation plan for the document and it is working up the chain of command for approval. In the interim, we will work collectively to get funding specifically for the DMMP into the Morehead City Harbor Project line item each year. For the feasibility study, the Wilmington District is finalizing their inputs for GRANDUC runs, which is a super computer program that will help determine if all the reaches in the proposed Shore Protection Project can become incorporated into the National Economic Development plan (benefit to cost ratio must be over 1).

Chairman Fugate and member Donnelly both commented that Marlowe & Co. have shown their worth in the past and the County is well served by Marlowe & Co. Member Goldstein subsequently made a motion to approve the 3-year Marlowe & Co. contract extension for submittal and execution by the County Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by member Donnelly and unanimously approved. Member Stephenson also mentioned that Marlowe & Co. has helped the County in the past with legislative matters associated with the Water Resources Development Act.

- (5) **Selection of Contractor for the Bogue Banks Beach and Nearshore Mapping Program – Moffatt & Nichol.** – Secretary Rudolph summarized that the beach monitoring program is one of

the cornerstone initiatives the Beach Commission performs for the County and has been used to develop the Bogue Banks Restoration Project, determine how much sand is lost during hurricanes and helps communities apply for FEMA assistance with respect to sand replenishment, and helps us answer questions such as “how is the beach doing” by objective means. It also serves as the main information source for our annual State of the Beach assessment report. In terms of our monitoring history, there was no real program until the hurricanes of the 1990s hit and in 1999, Coastal Science & Engineering (CSE) established ~100 profiles along Bogue Banks to gain an understanding of baseline conditions and develop the Bogue Banks Restoration Project. There was no formal monitoring program from 2000 – 2002. A one-year contract in 2003 with the Institute of Marine Sciences was followed by a three-year contract and a one-year contract extension with CSE. Also, the monitoring program was expanded into Shackleford Banks and Bear Island as part of permit stipulations or to gain a better understanding of regional dynamics. There are now roughly 160 total profiles along the three islands and the scope of work is essentially a survey event in late May/early June and the production of a final report. The most recent one-year contract extension with CSE closed in 2007, and the Commission chairman selected a subcommittee to evaluate options for the future.

The secretary continued that the subcommittee agreed to explore avenues where the engineering firms did not have in-house surveying in an effort to keep the data collection separate from the interpretation and reporting. To this effect, Olsen Associates, Inc. was solicited for a qualifications statement and cost proposal. Although the services Olsen Associates, Inc. offered would have been excellent, there was a degree of sticker shock regarding the cost. Subsequently, the subcommittee solicited Moffatt & Nichol for a second qualifications statement/cost proposal. Moffatt & Nichol is the contractor for the State’s Beach Inlet management Plan, and also received high marks for their report to the General Assembly a few years ago concerning shallowdraft waterways. They also conduct a similar monitoring service for the City of Norfolk, Va. Attached to the Commission’s agenda packet is a spreadsheet summarizing the cost of the two proposals and Moffatt & Nichol’s cost for engineering services is lower by a relatively high margin. The surveying cost is relatively the same because the firm of Geodynamics was selected by both engineering firms (Olsen Associates and Moffatt & Nichol). To Olsen Associates credit, the firm did provide supplemental information regarding monitoring costs for five other communities with similar scopes of work and the price proposed to the Beach Commission by Olsen Associates was very consistent, so it appears Olsen Associates was not trying to take advantage of the Commission by any means. The secretary concluded by asking the Commission to discuss the matter at hand and to approve the contract at this moment if this is indeed the wish of the group.

Member Lamson made a motion to recommend approval of the Moffatt & Nichol contract (once developed) to the County Board of Commissioners for final execution. The motion was seconded by member Stephenson. Member Lindblad noted that the contract also covers a post-storm survey. The secretary noted that the additional cost was very similar between the two firms. With no other comments, the Commission unanimously approved the motion on the floor. Member Stephenson subsequently commended the subcommittee for their work.

(6) **Public Comment.** – None.

- (7) **Other Business.** – Member Lamson read a passage from a correspondence dated January 1976 that was passed along to her recently. The correspondence mentioned Beach Commission members Willis and Goldstein, and matters related to coastal issues.

Member Willis mentioned the sand body near Power Squadron Point at Cape Lookout has a history of migrating towards the west, closing Barden Inlet and the Bight, and ultimately welding itself to Shackleford Banks. The sand body is moving towards the west currently and it might be advantageous from both a scientific and public relations vantage point to establish three additional profiles at the Power Squadron spit to monitor its movement. These profiles and the information gathered from the profiles may help the National Park Service plan for the closing of Barden Inlet and possible dredging alternatives. Member Willis suggested the Commission think about the proposal for next year.

- (8) **May 2008 Meeting Date (discussion).** – Chairman Fugate noted the fourth Monday of the month in May falls on the Memorial Day holiday, which is the Commission's regular meeting time. After a brief discussion concerning other potential meeting dates, the Commission elected to postpone the May meeting until the June regularly scheduled date (the 23rd) at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall.
- (9) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.