

Shore Protection Manager

Greg L. Rudolph
Tel: (252) 393.2663
Fax: (252) 393.6639
rudi@carteretcountygov.org



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

December 1, 2008, 2 pm

Attendance.

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (October 27, 2008).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the October 27th 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 that the October occupancy tax collection report was attached to the Commission's agenda packet, and the total revenue was down by roughly 15% compared to last October. This continues the downward trend experienced this fiscal year which is currently at -4%. Interestingly, the hotel/motel collection sector was significantly down and conversely the condo/cottage sector was slightly up. This was the first month thus far in the fiscal year that the hotel/motel sector and condo/cottage sector were inversed – normally they have both been "up" or "down" for the month. Also, the beach nourishment reserve is estimated to be at ~\$7.1 million.
- (4) **Nomination Committee Appointments and Upcoming Beach Commission Vacancies.** – Chairman Fugate mentioned that as summarized in the agenda packet, he would like to appoint the entire Beach Commission as the nomination committee, and also noted that all the members whose terms were expiring would very likely wish to be reappointed. Member Lamson subsequently made a motion to nominate members Cooper, Lindblad, and Goldstein for re-appointment. The motion was seconded by member Hoover and unanimously approved. Member Allen's term is also expiring but he will be considered by the County Board of Commissioners as their direct designee without any recommendations from the Beach Commission.
- (5) **2007-2008 Annual Report – Bogue Banks Beach and Nearshore Mapping Program.** – Chairman Fugate introduced Moffatt & Nichol's Johnny Martin, who along with Dr. Paul Tschirky subsequently provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Beach Commission and audience summarizing the key aspects of the 2008 Bogue Banks Beach & Nearshore Mapping Program that

includes periodic surveying of Bogue Banks, Shackleford Banks, and Bear Island. Overall, it was a quiescent year in terms of storms and the changes along the beach were very minimal.

After Moffatt & Nichol's presentation, it was noted the draft report will be reviewed and returned to Moffatt & Nichol and subsequently printed in its final form. Copies will be furnished to all the Bogue Banks municipalities, stakeholders, and a few extra copies for Commission members wishing to retain a hard copy. The report will also be made available on-line at <http://www.protectthebeach.com/Monitoring/monitoring.htm>.

- (6) **N.C. Beach and Inlet Management Plan - Summary.** – Secretary Rudolph welcomed Steve Underwood, Assistant Director of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management and prefaced Mr. Underwood's presentation by noting the Beach and Inlet Management Plan (BIMP) has been mentioned in the past to the Beach Commission on a few occasions, but there are two events that have recently transpired that make his presentation very timely. First the contractor for the BIMP, Moffatt & Nichol, has recently developed the management reaches for the BIMP and Bogue Banks falls in Region 2c. Second and in light of the formulation of the management reaches, the State is holding several public input sessions this week regarding the BIMP, including one this Thursday (Dec. 4th) at East Carteret High School, 6 – 8 pm.

Also included in the Beach Commission's packet is a set of comments concerning the BIMP that was prepared for the public input sessions. Because the management regions have been defined but no management strategies have yet to been adopted, the comments are very "big picture". The comments include four specific points; (1) a request for more State monitoring, (2) the development of a coastal assessment index, (3) adoption of dredged material disposal language by the General Assembly that would be approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and (4) a request that the BIMP not be constrained by existing rules (i.e., develop management strategies first and then look at the rules).

After the presentation, member Donnelly noted that all the regions in the BIMP (or coastal counties) could use a shore protection coordinator – that would make intuitive sense. Secretary Rudolph followed by mentioning that; (1) \$80 million collectively have been spent and 10 million cubic yards of sand have been used to nourish Bogue Banks since 2001, (2) the County has formed a Beach Commission, (3) a Shore Protection Office, (4) has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in beach surveying, and (5) have created a GIS (geographic information system) website. In light of these proactive efforts, there is a little fear that the State could mandate changes to our coastal management strategy under auspices of the BIMP. What kind of assurances can the State provide that this won't occur? Mr. Underwood replied that he understood this sentiment but hopes the BIMP will help, not hinder whatever coastal management policies the County develops and administers. Chairman Fugate subsequently thanked Mr. Underwood for his time and transitioned to the letter the Shore Protection Office developed for the December 4th BIMP public input session .

Member Stephenson objected to comment #4 (the BIMP be developed without being tethered to existing State rules) as this could open the door for terminal groins and/or other hard structures that he and the N.C. Coastal Federation strongly opposes. Chairman Fugate replied that the language could also pave the way to explore sand bypass systems and if it is a viable alternative, then the State should explore it. Member Lamson and Hoover voiced their agreement

with the Chairman. Member Stephenson replied that regardless, the existing movement afoot is to allow terminal groins and no doors should be opened in this regard. The N.C. Coastal Federation has supported the BIMP and if terminal groins are going to be an option, then this support can change. Member Hoover asked member Stephenson to clarify himself; to which member Stephenson replied that neither he nor the Coastal Federation would support the BIMP if hard structures are going to be part of the evaluation process. This is not really a matter of science but politics at play. Chairman Fugate mentioned that terminal groin legislation is going to be considered by the General Assembly this upcoming session, and the matter will be well outside the Beach Commission's purview at that point. Likewise, the Beach Commission has a very good relationship with the Coastal Federation and considering all of these variables, it might be best to omit comment #4 altogether. Plus, the terminal groin issue is not really a major issue for Bogue Banks. To this effect Member Donnelly made a motion to omit comment #4, which was seconded by member Lamson and approved by a 7 to 1 vote (Hoover objected).

- (7) **Public Comment.** – None.
- (8) **Other Business.** – None.
- (9) **January 2009 Meeting Date (January 26, 2009 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on January 26, 2009 at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall.
- (10) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.