

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

August 24, 2009, 2 pm

Attendance.

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order and welcomed member Dr. Rodriguez who was recently appointed to the Beach Commission by the County Board of Commissioners. The Commission followed by introducing themselves to Dr. Rodriguez.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (July 27, 2009).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the July 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 the agenda packet includes several items, including a spreadsheet for the entire FY 2008-09 budget that concluded on June 30, 2009. One quick caveat to note is that there is a small discrepancy between the actual dollar figure that was transferred to the beach nourishment reserve (Beach Fund) by the County compared to the cumulative tally that is presented to the Beach Commission based upon the monthly occupancy tax collection reports. The budget summary sheet depicts the actual budget numbers compared to those that were forecasted back in January of this year. In terms of revenue, we forecasted a decrease in occupancy tax revenue of -6% - the actual was closer to -7.5%, which results in a net loss of roughly \$37,000. Interest on the reserve however was higher than anticipated.

For expenditures, our budget estimates were close with the exception of the contracted services line items. We usually provide a maximum dollar figure for this line item to ensure all contingencies would be covered for the fiscal year – including legal services for FY 2008-09, which could have included a trial and appeal (a settlement was reached with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers instead). Thus out of the \$665,000 budgeted for contracted services, only \$385,000 was utilized, resulting in a "cost savings" of \$280,000, which well exceeds any revenue shortfalls. Accordingly, our surplus for the year was more than \$225,000 higher than anticipated (\$1.67 million compared to \$1.44 million for the year), equating to an ending reserve balance of \$7.66 million.

With no further questions concerning the FY 2008-09 budget, the secretary mentioned the June occupancy tax collection (the last for the fiscal year) was down by -19% compared to June 2008. Even if there are some reporting discrepancies that occurred (i.e., an extra week of collections reported in 2008 compared to 2009), it still appears that June was a down month. And interestingly, the hotel/motel sector constitutes 30% of the overall collection and was down by -13.5% for the fiscal year. Conversely, the condo/cottage sector represents 70% of the overall collection and was down by -4.7% for the fiscal year.

- (4) **Long-Term Evolution of Bogue Banks in Response to Sea-Level Rise, Variations in Underlying Geology, and Storms.** – Dr. Rodriguez began his presentation by introducing Emily Timmons, a graduate student working on the subject project as part of her Master's thesis, and also mentioned other individuals associated with the project as well. Dr. Rodriguez's presentation to the Beach Commission is available at http://www.protectthebeach.com/minutes/2009/beach_commission_pres_ar.pdf.
- (5) **Public Comment.** – None.
- (6) **Other Business.** – Chairman Fugate mentioned the final issue of the Beaufort *Gam* was published a few weeks ago and the managing editor, Lana Cox had some nice words for the secretary (Shore Protection Manager) in her final column, and proceeded to read that particular section to the Beach Commission. The secretary thanked the Commission for giving the Shore Protection Office the flexibility and support needed to accomplish the many tasks at hand.
- Member Cooper followed by asking the secretary to quickly summarize the negotiations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding year 1 of the Interim Operation Plan (IOP) for Morehead City Harbor. Secretary Rudolph explained that the first year of the IOP includes outer harbor dredging with beach placement along Ft. Macon and Atlantic Beach (AB) – the first time AB has received sand from the outer harbor as part of routine maintenance dredging. However because a pipeline dredge is being utilized, the volume of sand and linear extent of sand delivered to AB may not be optimal. Most of the sand placed in Ft. Macon moves back towards Beaufort Inlet and it would be beneficial for a majority of the sand to be placed in AB, preferably to the Circle. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reluctant to do so and the local governments are working towards an amicable solution. Member Willis added that the Ft. Macon beach is in the worse shape it has been in a long, long time. The secretary mentioned that State Park staff believes the beach erosion has not been this bad since the early 1980s, which member Willis subsequently agreed.
- (7) **September 2009 Meeting Date (September 28, 2009 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on September 28, 2009 at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall.
- (8) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.