

Shore Protection Manager

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CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

February 23, 2009, 2 pm

Attendance.

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (January 26, 2009).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the January 26th 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 December 2008 occupancy tax collection was up by 10% compared to the December 2007 collection, and represents the second "up" month thus far in the fiscal year (August was the other). Unfortunately, the month of December is the lowest revenue producing month out of all the twelve months in the calendar year, and therefore the net monetary input to the beach nourishment reserve ("Beach Fund") is minimal. Interestingly the hotel/motel sector was up for the month while the condo/cottage sector was down, again leading to a net increase of 10% for the month of December. For the first half of the 2008-09 fiscal year however, the occupancy tax is down by roughly 4% and we estimate that the Beach Fund reserve is close to the \$7 million mark. During our budget deliberations last month, we anticipated a 6% decrease in revenue for FY 2008-09.
- (4) **Discussion – Programmatic/Regional Beach Nourishment Efforts.** – Chairman Fugate disclosed that the Shore Protection Office submitted a "white paper" to the clearinghouse resource agencies (U.S. Corps of Engineers and N.C. Division of Coastal Management) that summarized the purpose and intent of a new programmatic or regional beach nourishment program for Bogue Banks. We (the chairman and the secretary) had a very productive meeting with these agencies last month that generated a lot interest and could very well serve as a prototype for the State's Beach and Inlet Management Plan efforts. The State even expressed a willingness to possibly cost-share the preparation of the engineering/environmental document. The chairman added that one major issue which will need to be reconciled is the fact that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Shore Protection Project Feasibility Study will also be concluding at approximately the same time the proposed programmatic Environmental Impact Statement will be. So we could have two environmental documents for the same stretch of beach, identifying the same sources of sand,

and the same impacts. That would be a terrible waste of time and monetary resources, and hopefully this new local effort will be able to utilize as much of the Corps data as possible.

Secretary Rudolph added it is anticipated the resource agencies will provide confirmation and/or guidance concerning the local effort which will help narrow the scope of work when engineers/consultants are solicited. As mentioned in the agenda packet, we could very well release a request for qualifications in late March, create a short list in late April with interviews occurring in May, and develop a scope for work with the most qualified firm by the July/August timeframe. The Commission (Member Lindblad, Schools, and chairman) also discussed the interlocal agreements that will need to be in place and agreed the attorneys for each Town and the County attorney will have to work together to develop a unified agreement or multiple agreements. Member Lindblad also inquired to the possible cost schedule of the local plan. Secretary Rudolph replied that during the interview process, we will request an outline or hierarchy of tasks with estimated costs. This should help us develop a contract for services document that provides the Beach Commission good financial control. Member Willis subsequently asked if there would be access and parking requirements for a local plan. The chairman responded that the State currently has no set policy, but if they are going to provide 40% of the funding to place sand on the beach, then there will likely be access requirements – hopefully they will not be as restrictive and inflexible as the Corps of Engineers' regulations. Chairman Fugate also concluded that after some thought and baseline assessments that were first discussed at last month's Beach Commission meeting, the creation of Beach Authority (albeit a good idea at first glance) doesn't appear to be in the County's best interest. The Beach Commission structure is very sound and works very well.

(5) **Public Comment.** – None.

(6) **Other Business.** – Chairman Fugate distributed a letter from Bill Price, III with the Land Alliance of North Carolina that requested the Beach Commission to authorize a study of alongshore currents using ADCPs (Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers). The secretary continued that thanks in large part to studies by Olsen Associates, Inc., the Corps of Engineers, and our own beach surveying plan; we understand and can demonstrate that sand generally moves from east to west along Bogue Banks. The ADCPs would record the current velocity and direction along the entire water column to determine how sand is flowing along our shoreline, and in actuality, we would need several ADCPs for a quantitative study, which would cost several \$100,000. Maybe if we focused on certain areas, then the ADCPs could inform us exactly how much sand is moving and when; or may help with placing submerged feeder berms that consequently and predictably move alongshore. Member Hoover stated that we already know how much sand moves along the beach and spend considerable money to conduct the beach surveys to obtain these data. Chairman Fugate added that the engineers we have spoken to also mentioned that we would get minimal return for the investment. Also, there is an ADCP already installed near Bogue Inlet Pier that is used to calibrate wave models, which is owned and maintained by the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences. Member Donnelly recommended the Commission reject the request because none of the engineers the Commission has worked with have ever recommended a study of this type. Member Willis added even though some interesting data could be obtained by ADCPs, it would really only answer theoretical questions, not ones that help directly with shore protection. Member Schools subsequently made motion not to proceed with an ADCP study, which was seconded by member Hoover and unanimously approved.

- (7) March 2009 Meeting Date (March 23, 2009 – proposed). – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on March 23, 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.