

Shore Protection Manager

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CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

July 26, 2010, 2 pm

Attendance.

Commission chair Buck Fugate, Commission Members A.B. "Trace" Cooper, Doug Fleming, Tom Hoover, Richard Hunt, Ken Jones, Ted Lindblad, Dr. Antonio Rodriguez, Art Schools, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members William Donnelly (vice chair) and Jack Goldstein were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** –Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (May 24, 2010).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the May 10th regular session minutes presented in the agenda packet. With no remarks to this effect voiced by the Beach Commission, member Lindblad motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Schools and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and "Beach Fund" Update.** – Secretary Rudolph directed the Commission to the agenda materials and summarized that there was a general mood of optimism concerning this fiscal year's occupancy tax revenue (FY 2009-10) as we entered the late spring and summer seasons. This was predicated on a rather strong February and March collection (granted, the winter month collections contribute very little to the overall yearly revenue), and accordingly there was hope that this would be a foreshadow of a productive summer coupled with the popular consensus that the U.S. economy may be recovering from the current recession. However, the April and May collections were both down compared to the year prior, and collectively represents a 12% decrease for this 2-month period. With one collection report remaining for the fiscal year, the occupancy tax is down by 4% compared to the year prior – our budget estimates included a 2% a decrease. Even if the June collection is very strong, the revenue will almost certainly be down for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

There is also very little to report in terms of analyzing the April and May receipts by sectors as well (condo cottage vs. hotel/motel) - both the hotel/motel and condo/cottage sectors were down respectively for both months. Hence there was no "incongruent" collection trend – e.g., even though the April collection was down, the hotels/motels were slightly up for the month but condos/cottages were down significantly. Member Jones commented that from what he and others have heard, advance reservations were up and therefore the April and May numbers are somewhat surprising. Member Schools replied that he also was under that impression, but maybe the registrations are mostly for the months of July and August and hopefully we'll see some recovery. The secretary concluded that the beach nourishment reserve is hovering just below the

\$9 million mark, and will almost certainly be eclipsed once the end of the fiscal year totals are complete and calculated.

- (4) **Consideration of Permitting and Engineering Services for a Proposed "Hotspot" Nourishment Project, East Emerald Isle.** – Secretary Rudolph provided the Beach Commission a [PowerPoint summary](#) highlighting the agenda materials regarding a contract approval to prepare a permit modification for beach nourishment along an erosional hotspot near the 10th to 20th street blocks in Emerald Isle. Construction and associated financial details concerning the proposed project were also discussed but no action by the Commission was warranted regarding these matters at this time.

Subsequent to the presentation, member Lindblad asked if the hotspot also identified in Pine Knoll Shores also needs to be addressed at this time. The secretary replied that it appears most of the sand from this hotspot has migrated into western Pine Knoll Shores, but perhaps more importantly, there is still enough sand in the Pine Knoll Shores FEMA management reach that it is well above any possible nourishment trigger. Thus it would probably prudent to hold off addressing the Pine Knoll Shores hotspot. Member Lindblad and Hoover also asked if Mofatt & Nichol were going to address the cause of the Emerald Isle hotspot as part of this contract. Secretary Rudolph responded that Mofatt & Nichol will spend a majority of their time addressing the hotspot by modeling/reconciling different beach fill configurations. Some casual attempts might be made to understand why the hotspot exists, but a majority of that work will be completed during the formulation of the Bogue Banks Master Plan that just got underway. Member Schools subsequently asked if the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) was amenable to our proposed plan considering that the sand targeted for the hotspot nourishment effort is the maintenance material emanating directly out of the Morehead City Harbor. The secretary replied that there are some contractual obstacles to overcome and this will be evaluated by Mofatt & Nichol under the scope of work. Ultimately, there will likely be a standalone contract with a dredging company, or an option added directly to the Corps dredging solicitation. With no other comments forthcoming, member Lindblad made a motion to approve the contract with Mofatt & Nichol for a maximum of \$12,450, pending subsequent approval of the contract for the same amount by the Town of Emerald Isle. The motion was seconded by member Cooper and unanimously approved.

- (5) **Morehead City Harbor Interim Operation Plan and Dredged Material Management Plan Update and Status.** – Christopher Frabotta, Navigation Project Manager with the Corps provided the Commission a [PowerPoint presentation](#) regarding the Interim Operation Plan (IOP) and the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). The first year of the 3-year IOP includes beach nourishment along Ft. Macon and Atlantic Beach, which will be constructed between November 16, 2010 and April 30, 2011. The contract has been awarded to Marinex Construction. The DMMP is a 20-year plan orientated towards evaluating various dredging and disposal plans for the Morehead City Harbor – the document is scheduled to be completed in October 2011 as part of the legal settlement between the Corps and Carteret County.
- (6) **Public Comment.** – Chairman Fugate welcomed Chief Rob Lepere with the Emerald Isle Coast Guard Station to the meeting to discuss shoaling issues at Bogue Inlet with the Beach Commission and Mr. Frabotta with the Corps. The group reviewed a recent June 2010 survey of the inlet, shoaled areas, safety concerns and recent rescues, and the need for emergency dredging. To these effects, Mr. Frabotta mentioned the earliest either of the two government sidecast dredges

(*Merritt* or *Fry*) could get to Bogue Inlet is mid August. This is predicated upon their schedule, maintenance repairs, and balancing the need for possible other emergency dredging requested at Ocracoke. However, Mr. Frabotta assured Chief Lepere that the Corps would do everything possible to quickly get a sidecast dredge to Bogue Inlet. Member Hoover asked/suggested that it would be very beneficial to boaters if any bends in the channel alignment could be marked by two buoys rather than one. Chief Lepere replied that the inlet is shoaling and shifting so rapidly, that it is very difficult to keep up with the buoys, but the Coast Guard will do their best. With no other comments forthcoming, Chief Lepere thanked the group.

- (7) **Other Business.** – Dennison Breese, with Coastal Coanda Research disseminated a [white paper](#) he prepared concerning potential relationships between groundwater and beach erosion, and proceeded to highlight some of the more salient aspects of the paper directly to the Commission. Chairman Fugate thanked Mr. Breese for the information subsequent to his presentation.
- (8) **August 2010 Meeting Date (August 23, 2010 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on August 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.