



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes
Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall
June 25, 2018, 2 pm

Attendance.

Commission Members A.B. "Trace" Cooper (chair), Ken Jones (vice-chair), Harry Archer, Larry Baldwin, Joel Fortune, Jim Normile, John Wooten, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members Larry Corsello, Jimmy Farrington, and Douglas Guthrie were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** - Chairman Cooper welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (March 26, 2018).** – Chairman Cooper asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the March 26th regular session minutes presented in the agenda packet. Member Archer subsequently made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, which was seconded by member Baldwin and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Room Occupancy Tax (ROT) and "Beach Fund" Update.** – Chairman Cooper introduced the topic by noting that despite the winter like weather we had in April, the occupancy tax numbers still trended in a positive direction and that continues to be a theme for this year (calendar and fiscal year wise). Secretary Rudolph followed by noting it has been a while since we last had a regular meeting, and attached to the Commission's agenda packet therefore are the occupancy tax reports from the months of February, March, and April 2018 ([Power Point slide 1](#)). Rather than reviewing each month independently, we will look at these three months as a collective. To this end, the collection was up +13% compared to these same three months in 2017 resulting in additional +\$43,965 to the nourishment reserve in excess of last year. The secretary continued that in respect to the fiscal year (2017-18), we are up by +7.1% through ten reporting months (+\$186,990 to the nourishment reserve) and our nourishment reserve balance at the end of April is estimated to be \$18.2 million. If the occupancy tax collection is the exact same for May and June as last year, then the collection would be up by +5% comparing FY 17-18 to FY 16-17. The Commission agreed that may even be a "worst case" scenario considering the level of visitation we appear to be experiencing.
- (4) **N.C. Division of Coastal Management's Methodology for Determining Oceanfront Shoreline Change Rates and Oceanfront Construction Setbacks.** – Chairman Cooper and Secretary Rudolph introduced Ken Richardson with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management (NCDQM) who is here today discuss their approach to calculating shoreline change rates and how they are used to determine oceanfront construction setbacks. The secretary further distinguished how the Shore Protection Office and Beach Commission determine the shoreline spatially, how frequently it is

monitored, and how shoreline change rates are derived ([Slides 2 & 4](#)). NCDCM on the other hand uses the endpoint method, meaning they always go back to the original shoreline depicted in aerial photography when they conduct their updates every five or so years – they do not compare the shoreline position to the most previous update, only to the original shoreline from decades ago. NCDCM further utilizes their shoreline movement rates to develop setback factors for oceanfront development, with a minimum rate of -2 feet/year. Thus even if the beach is accreting; the setback will be “-2”. This can cause confusion if the user is not aware of the differences between shoreline change rates vs the setback factor. Mr. Richardson is going to demystify this process in greater detail. The secretary concluded by noting NCDCM's shoreline/setback updates are beneficial to Bogue Banks because; (1) the municipalities receive Community Rating System (CRS) credits if the updates are timely, and (2) because the endpoint method is used; we realize the benefits of wider beaches from nourishment in terms of the setback factor.

Mr. Richardson proceeded to provide a [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Beach Commission and noted that from a historical and practical standpoint, the goal of the shoreline assessment is to generate the oceanfront setback factors – NCDCM does not involve itself with cause and effect for erosion or accretion; or delve into forecasts, prognostications, etc. Mr. Richardson continued and reviewed how erosion rates are smoothed statistically to filter dynamic features such as beach cusps or other short term phenomena that could lead to very localized areas of seaward advance or recession that are not indicative of general trends. The smoothed erosion/accretion rates are then blocked by encapsulating adjacent, like erosion rates over uninterrupted geographical areas to formulate the setback factors.

Subsequent to the presentation, Chairman Cooper asked when we should expect the updated rates and setback factors to be released. Mr. Richards replied by late fall inclusive of public hearings, and they would likely go into effect in 2019. Member Baldwin empathized the plight of how shoreline change rates and setback factors are mistakenly used interchangeably; and then asked if the wet/dry line is a good metric to use considering storms, or other avulsion type of events; or even considering beach nourishment. Mr. Richardson replied that NCDCM have investigated this and because the time between the endpoints are long; it tends to mute the large swings in shoreline. Over 50 years seem to be appropriate – anything shorter is suspect.

- (5) **Funding Scenarios and Decision Matrix for Master Plan (Project #1) and Morehead City Harbor Delta Project.** – The secretary initiated the agenda topic by noting the purpose of today's discussion is for the Beach Commission to understand the decision-making matrix the municipalities are undergoing with respect to the subject nourishment project(s). In this manner, the Beach Commission's future vote to release monies out of the beach nourishment reserve will be an educated one. Secretary Rudolph continued by reviewing Project #1 of the Master Plan ([Slides 5 – 15](#)) in terms of geographical range, cubic yardage (cy), and cost. The project was predicated by considering our beach volume triggers, berm widths, and economies of scale (i.e., maximizing the dredge production once mobilized to Bogue Banks). In general, the project would include roughly 9.5 miles of beach and would entail over 1.5 million cubic yards using a 30 cy/linear foot fill density. For our cost estimate, we utilized the unit rate for the *Irene* Project ([2013](#)) and an annual escalation rate of 3% that equates to ~\$18.50 per cy (inclusive of mob/demob) for a total project cost of over \$28 million. We were hoping for a State appropriation that would cover 50% of the project, which we knew would be difficult to secure. However, the State short session budget did include \$5 million for the Master Plan Project to be released from the new Coastal Storm

Damage Mitigation Fund. The secretary continued that leaves a \$9 million gap (\$14 million anticipated vs. \$5 million received). Regardless of the State funding situation, the Beach Commission has agreed to furnish 75% of the non State/Federal share of any project with the local municipality providing the remaining 25%. How the \$5 million of State funding is to be distributed across the project reaches is what the communities are discussing, but from a Beach Commission perspective; the monetary input total will be the same - ~\$17 million. Chairman Cooper added that securing any State money should be considered as a major step forward and is a precedent setting – and we should be proud of that.

Secretary Rudolph transitioned to the recent federal appropriations for the Morehead City Harbor Federal Navigation Project, which was recently highlighted by \$12.6 million additional dollars provided in the FY 2018 omnibus package that was passed in March 2018 – the Corps Work Plan was released a couple of weeks ago. When added to other appropriations for the Harbor (i.e., President's budget, Hurricane supplemental funding, and NC Port contribution); the total for the entire Harbor is estimated to be in excess of \$24 million. With half or even more to be allocated to hopper dredging with offshore disposal at the ODMDS (offshore dredged material disposal site); this provides an excellent opportunity for a delta project that would take the sand to west Atlantic Beach and all of Pine Knoll Shores. Because the Corps of Engineers is receiving appropriations for the base cost to dump the sand offshore – the delta cost to place the sand in Atlantic Beach and Pine Knoll Shores would be relatively low. In fact the Pine Knoll Shores' cost in theory would be much lower than the Master Plan effort along this same reach (see slide [15](#)). The secretary concluded that there are a lot of moving parts in motion that will need to come together for this to work, and to this effect; he, chairman Cooper in his role as Mayor of Atlantic Beach, and Brian Kramer (Town Manager for Pine Knoll Shores) have a meeting at the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tomorrow. Chairman Cooper added this would be the best case scenario and a great way to leverage funding sources, and regardless of what happens, the Beach Commission will be requested for nourishment funding within the next several weeks or months for either; (1) both projects (Master Plan and Morehead City Delta) or (2) if the Delta Project falls through, then just the Master Plan. Commission members agreed this scenario (the Delta and Master Plan) would be the best case and we should be speaking to the dredging community as well to position these projects in the best possible light.

- (6) **Public Comment.** – Brian Kramer (Town Manager of Pine Knoll Shores) complimented the Beach Commission for ensuring the Morehead City Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan included Pine Knoll Shores as an area of inlet influence, which paved the way for authorized beach placement for a delta project as envisioned today.
- (7) **Other Business.** – Chairman Cooper mentioned that earlier this month, the secretary coordinated a meeting with Jan Peelman from Embassy of the Netherlands. The purpose of the meeting was one of information exchange pertaining to flood defense and water-based economies - the dialogue was well received by all who attended.

Secretary Rudolph briefly mentioned the Shore Protection Office has been coordinating/administration an emergency dredging project at Atlantic Harbor, and provided two slides to illustrate the project ([Slides 16 and 17](#)).

- (8) **July 2018 Meeting Date.** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on July 23rd at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall.
- (9) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Cooper asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.