

Shore Protection Manager

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CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Emerald Isle Board Room

Remotely via Carteret County Zoom Account (<https://carteretcountync.zoom.us/>)

June 28, 2021, 2 pm

Attendance.

Commission Members Jim Normile (chair), John Brodman (vice-chair), Larry Baldwin (remotely), Larry Corsello, Jimmy Farrington, Douglas Guthrie, Mike Luther (remotely), Danny Navey, Tom Rule, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members Harry Archer and Woody Warren were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Normile welcomed everyone in attendance (both live and remotely) and proceeded to call the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (May 17, 2021).** – Chairman Normile asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the May 17th regular session minutes presented in the agenda packet. With no comments forthcoming, member Navey subsequently made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, which was seconded by member Corsello and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Room Occupancy Tax (ROT) and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph initially focused the conversation on our April 2021 collection that was included in the agenda packet (see [Slides 1 & 2](#)). Again, and continuing an unabated trend that started last June, the April 2021 collection broke the all-time record for the month --- by a significant amount. The previous April record was \$426,106 (2018), compared to \$768,260 for April 2021 (+80%). In fact if we compare the first tercile of 2021 to 2020 (i.e., first four months), then we can conclude the occupancy tax collection is up by +279% (\$1,776,936 in 2021 vs. \$468,597 in 2020 = +\$1,308,339). Moreover from a fiscal year perspective, our collections through just 10 months of the current fiscal year (2020-21) is \$8,196,676 compared to \$7,271,245 for all 12 months of FY 2019-2020. We will easily break the \$9 million threshold with two reporting months remaining. The secretary concluded by reviewing the nourishment reserve (a.k.a., “Beach Fund”) balance from a worse case, cash flow scenario relative to the Phase III Post-Florence Renourishment Project. In essence, the lowest the reserve may have dipped down to is ~\$9.2 million. However, we are waiting on a pending FEMA reimbursement payment (via Emerald Isle) that is for over \$9 million – and that’s before we really take our high collections summer months into account. We should be right on target or more likely well above our reserve forecast.
- (4) **Master Plan Sand Resource and Reserve Project – Task List.** – The secretary introduced Chris Freeman with Geodynamics and Doug Huggett with Moffatt & Nichol (Newport office) who were

“live” in attendance to help answer any questions that might arise related to the geophysical and permitting aspects of the “Sand Search” effort, respectively. More specifically, Mr. Freeman will be providing the Beach Commission a very nice PowerPoint presentation concerning the broad areas of sand that may exist offshore and our very general/initial seismic and other remote sensing technology track lines we are conceptualizing for this first phase of the Sand Search. The secretary continued with a PowerPoint presentation of his own summarizing many of the concepts we discussed at our last meeting with a keen focus on our sand resources (possible sand that can be used) and reserves (sand we can economically extract and use today). We utilized roughly six million cubic yards of sand for all three phases of the Post-Florence Renourishment Project, and while our reserves are not dangerously low after this event; they are not sufficient for the next four plus decades of anticipated use per our Master Plan (see [Slides 3 - 10](#)). Secretary Rudolph proceeded to review potential issues related to permitting/authorization and geophysical requirements for the five main, broad areas of sand – Cape Lookout shoals, the nearshore berm disposal sites associated with the Morehead City Harbor Federal Navigation Project (MCH), actively dredged material from the MCH, the old disposal area associated with the MCH known as the “ODMDS”, and then the offshore resources that we need to constrain from a broad compartment of northern Onslow Bay.

Mr. Freeman continued from this point with his presentation (see [Slides 11 – 27](#)), which focused on the sources of sand not related to the MCH – Cape Lookout shoals and the offshore. The presentation focused upon the processes that led to the antecedent framework of the coast in the past, highlighting relict dune features visible on land today and the paleo-drainage network that is most certainly expressed offshore – that latter however has not been constrained and could represent a significant source of sand as incised channels carved during lower sea level could have been infilled with sand during the subsequent rise of sea level associated with the current “interglacial”. Mr. Freeman highlighted all of the old data obtained offshore, which is generally of sparse coverage and/or poor quality. Hence the first phase of sand search effort would be a desktop review of all the data obtained by different agencies coupled with a first round of seismic surveying in a looser, east-west track line, reconnaissance type grid. We envision the second phase to include additional seismic surveying, but these would be only in the areas showing promise from the first survey and based upon resource agency input. These track lines would be orientated more north-south to again detail the sand resources and reserves. This first phase would also include a scoping meeting with the resource agencies to ascertain issues they may have that could bound the sand search, remote sensing, vibracores, etc. to certain areas. The second phase from a more permitting standpoint would be to fully engage the resource agencies to secure final permits and authorizations. The secretary and chairman requested if the Beach Commission is in agreement with this phased approach and if we should direct Moffatt & Nichol/Geodynamics to develop a fee estimate and contract for this first phase for the Commission’s consideration at their July meeting. Vice-chair Brodman subsequently made a motion to this effect, which was seconded by member Rule, and unanimously approved.

- (5) **Radio Island Shoreline & Infrastructure Protection Project.** – Secretary Rudolph reviewed the Project utilizing a series of maps and recent photos obtained from the site (see [Slides 28 – 48](#)). The project aims to protect roughly 2,800 linear feet of sandy shoreline along the eastern flank of Radio Island, which is home to a very popular County administered public beach area including amenities, car lot, etc. The remaining beach frontage is juxtaposed to Marine Road that the Navy actively uses as transportation infrastructure to land/launch amphibious vehicles at the south

Bulkhead ramp facility. Erosion is presently compromising the road, supporting power poles, and has narrowed the recreational beach tremendously. The County has a CAMA Major Permit in hand to dredge East Taylor's Creek and place the material via bucket to barge to truck on the Atlantic Veneer property (+36,000 cubic yards), and has also secured a N.C. Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund Grant for this effort. With the erosion threat identified at Radio Island, the County is pivoting and is seeking a permit modification to place the dredged shoal material along Radio Island rather than onto the Atlantic Veneer property. With this "reset", the [Defense Community Infrastructure Program](#) has been identified as a possible non-State funding source and to this end, the County is applying for a \$650,000 stipend – the Beach Commission is requested to support this funding effort by means of the resolution included in your agenda packet.

Vice-chair Brodman mentioned this is the exact type of project showing what type of expertise we have to offer and therefore the Beach Commission should be very willing to endorse the resolution. Vice-chair Brodman followed this comment by making a motion to approve the attached resolution in support of the efforts to secure a Defense Community Infrastructure Program grant for the subject project. The motion was seconded by member Farrington, and unanimously approved.

- (6) **Closed Session - (G.S. 143-318.11.(a)(6) - permitted purpose for discussing personnel)**. – Subsequent to the closed session, the Commission disclosed they have endorsed a letter prepared for the County to authorize a one-time bonus in the amount of \$5000.00, from existing occupancy tax revenue, to the Shore Protection Manager/secretary. This action was predicated on a motion by member Navey, a second by member Farrington, and unanimously approved.
- (7) **Public Comment**. – None.
- (8) **Other Business**. – The secretary mentioned we recently received a +\$200,000 reimbursement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which represents the unused portion of non-federal funding associated with the Pre-Construction, Engineering, and Design Phase of the Coastal Storm Risk Management Project. This was a pleasant surprise and the secretary thanked the Corps for taking this initiative and also mentioned the Corps was complimentary of our decision-making process.
- (9) **July 2021 Meeting Date (July 26, 2021)**. – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on July 26th at 2:00 pm, Emerald Isle Board Room and remotely.
- (10) **Adjourn**. – Chairman Normile asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.