



Town of North Topsail Beach

Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee

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Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2022, at 10:30am

2008 Loggerhead Court, North Topsail Beach. NC 28460

Present: Mike Benson (Chair), Rick Grant (Alderman), Deborah Coltrane(Phase One), Thomas Garrison (Phase Two), Michael Pawelko (Phase Three), John Gardner(Phase Four), Larry Strother (Phase Five), Alice Derian (Town Manager), Chris Gibson (Coastal Engineer) and Danyale Lundy (Town Clerk). **Absent:** Tim Foster (Onslow County Commissioner)

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mike Benson, Chair

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order shortly after 10:30 am and welcomed those in attendance

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Benson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Rick Grant moved to approve the agenda with a second from John Gardner. The motion passed unanimously; 7-0.

3. Approval of minutes

Chairman Benson asked for a motion to approve the May minutes. Rick Grant moved to approve the minutes with a second from Michael Pawelko. The motion passed unanimously; 7-0.

4. Public Comments

No one provided public comment.

5. Current Status of Shoreline Protection Projects – Manager Derian

- the FEMA Phase 2 Cat B project has been completed with the last section completed along the Goldsboro Lane dune line. The volume of sand placed was not as great as in other sections due to the smaller volume differences in pre-and post-storm surveys for that reach of beach. This last phase of the Cat B work paused in November placed an additional 8,100 cy of sand into the dune line this spring.
- The Cat G beach fill project has been paused for turtle season with nearly 100,000 cy of sand placed. This project resumes in November with almost 500,000 cy to be placed.

- Sea Oats planting has resumed with Coastal Transplants starting work where they left off near BA 4 and started working south. They are scheduled to be near St. Moritz going south starting tomorrow (May 25) and continuing through Memorial Day. After Memorial Day they will be planting northern limits of the project of BA 4 and will continue in this direction until approximately June 23rd. June 24th, they will flip back south starting approximately 3,000 feet south of St Moritz and moving approximately 6,000 feet. July 6th through mid-August they will be starting approximately 9,000 feet from St Moritz and finishing at the Surf City town line.
- An updated EIS timeline for the New River Inlet Management Master Plan was distributed to the BISAC committee based on recent conversations with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Manager Derian also informed the BISAC committee that the BOA added a placeholder of \$30 thousand dollars into the proposed 2022-2023 budget should the BISAC move forward with plans to develop a 30-year engineered beach plan.

6. NCBIWA May Conference Summary.

Chair Benson and Alderman Grant summarized the highlights from the recent NC Beach, Inlet Waterway Association meeting in Emerald Isle. Coastal flooding, CAMA rule changes, and legislative updates from Congressman Rouzer, Congressman Murphy, as well as from State House representatives were among some of the conference topics. Chair Benson said that BISAC members would now be invited to attend this bi-annual conference as not only is it educational but also an excellent platform for making person to person connections with local, state, and federal coastal program leaders as well as researchers conducting coastal studies.

7. Shoreline Protection – Chris Gibson

- **30-year Beach Management Plan.** Chris Gibson talked about the advantages of having a 30-engineered beach management plan for the entire 11 plus miles of North Topsail Beach shoreline. One major advantage that would overcome the current town plan is that once approved by the Division of Coastal Management, a 30-yr plan comes with a CAMA major permit for the life of the plan. Rather than permitting individual projects as the Town currently does, the basic required information is already in the CAMA database so specific project requests can be processed faster than waiting on a CAMA decision for each separate project. However, it is important to note Chris said, that the plan has to be financially sustainable. Chris said that the town hired a financial consultant, Peter Ravella of PAR Consulting in 2013 to advise us on a financially doable shoreline protection plan. Unfortunately, Mr. Ravella’s major conclusion was that the plan was not achievable given the lack of current funds dedicated to shoreline protection.
 - Once a town has a 30-yr Engineered Beach Management Plan in place, work can begin as soon as contractors can go to work. There is no delay with waiting on

FEMA to determine all the parameters of the project since they are already included in the Plan.

- **Recommendation.** The Board of Aldermen should direct BISAC to begin the initial project scoping work needed for an engineered beach plan with the consultant costs to be covered by funds set aside in the proposed 2022-2023 Fund 30 budget. In addition, however, the BOA should direct BISAC to explore funding opportunities to defray part or all the planning costs to prepare an engineered beach plan. Motion made by Michael Pawelko and seconded by Rick Grant with a unanimous vote for the recommendation.
 - **Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund.** Chris described how the Town of Topsail Beach has taken advantage of this relatively new source of state funding for shoreline protection projects. The fund requires a 50:50 match with local dollars, however, because the Town has federal funds involved in our FEMA projects, that federal funding can also be used against the local share of the CSDM fund. After discussion by the committee members, it became apparent that the Town should apply for the current round of funding with grant proposals due July 8th. Manager Derian and Chris Gibson will work to put together a grant application for the Town.
8. Public Comments -- None
 9. Next Meeting – Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 10:30 am
 10. Adjournment -- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm with motion by Rick Grant seconded by Michael Pawelko.