



Town of North Topsail Beach **Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee**

Beach Inlet Sound Advisory Committee Minutes for September 27, 2022 2008 Loggerhead Court, North Topsail Beach. NC 28460

Members Present: Alderman Rick Grant, Manager Alice Derian, Mike Benson, Onslow Commissioner Tim Foster, Coastal Engineer Chris Gibson, and members Larry Strother, John Gardner, and Deborah Coltrane

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Mike Benson, chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone including those in the audience.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Chair Benson asked for a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to add an item for the long-standing vacancy.
Alderman Grant made a motion to approve the agenda with the vacancy item inserted after the approval of the agenda with a second by John Gardner. The motion was approved unanimously (4-0)
3. **BISAC Vacancy.** Chair Benson noted that it has been several months since we noticed a vacancy for the Phase 3 slot on the committee. He proposed an 'at-large' member from any Phase so that the committee would be back to full authorization. After brief discussion the consensus was for the Town Manager to notice an at-large vacancy on the town website.
4. **Public Comments.** No one offered comments.
5. **Current Status of Shoreline Protection Projects.** Manager Derian, ex officio, reported that a second bid for the Phase 5 beach nourishment project was received. The low bidder was CM Mitchell. Work will start in November/December and is expected to place about 290,000 cu yd of sand at a bid price of \$8.6 million dollars. The recipients of 2022-2023 grants from the state CSDM fund has not been announced yet. We applied for \$10.5 million dollars to extend the beach nourishment work through Phase 4 with about 2.5 miles of shoreline. Sea oats planting was completed with about 300,000 sprigs planted in the Phase 5 dune and about 530,000 sprigs planted in the Phase 2-4 dunes. The Living Shoreline in Richard Peters Park will begin construction once the state has approved our permit request. A conference call with the USACE officials regarding the ICW crossing and Channel to Jacksonville dredging work was held to discuss preferred placement of disposal materials on the Phase 1 beach. Chris Gibson, TI Coastal President, provided a justification for the preferred placement starting on the beach across from the junction of River Rd and New River Inlet Rd. and working south toward the Topsail Reef Condos to maximize benefit of this disposal material.

Manager Derian then answered several questions about her report to the satisfaction of the committee.

6. **USACE New River Inlet Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) update.** Chair Benson noted that the Town has been in contact with the USACE Regulatory Director Mr. Mickey Sugg on a regular basis to stay abreast of the EIS progress. Mr. Sugg indicated that the

November 1st publication of the 'Notice of Intent' still seems possible and that he would work to complete the EIS within a 12 month window following publication of the notice. Chair Benson noted that additional modeling is underway by a sub-contractor for ATM to do a 4-year run of model parameters beyond the 2-yr data already available. This may delay notice publication.

7. **NCBIWA Fall Conference, November 3-4, Wilmington.** Chair Benson noted the upcoming conference and encouraged members to attend. Manager Derian reported that four members would attend. She also wanted to ensure that our Town contribution to the conference sponsorship was appropriate for our level of participation.
8. **LT MOA quarterly meeting update.** Chair Benson noted the item from this meeting about USACE ICW crossing – Channel to Jacksonville dredging project. Chris Gibson, who had just arrived for our meeting has not heard anything yet but he has a good liaison with the Cottrell Construction the selected contractor for the project. He suggested a permanent pipeline be routed underground along River Rd. to the prime disposal area on the beach. Costs est. at about \$200 – 250K which was questioned for reimbursement by Manager Derian.
9. **CRC quarterly meeting update.** Chair Benson noted that the CRC approved the 'new' 2019 Inlet Hazard Areas as proposed by the Science Panel at their September meeting. The inlet hazard area for the New River Inlet will be expanded and now include the Topsail Reef Condos, Dolphin Shores, and the St. Regis Condos. Mr. Gibson gave a background history of the inlet including the 'horseshoe' ocean bar across the inlet mouth and how that influenced the Science Panel in delineating the new inlet hazard area.
10. **Shoreline Protection.** Chris Gibson mentioned the north end USACE project mentioned under item #8 that will bring 170,000 cy of sand to the beach, a significant amount. This volume will build a 75 ft wide beach berm. Mr. Gibson suggested a NC Shallow Draft Grant fund application to augment the Corps work. In the future, Mr. Gibson mentioned using Disposal Area DA143 as a sand source for Phases 1-4 beach nourishment by placing pipe along the ICW then crossing the marsh to the beach. Ms. Coltrane questioned how we could apply for grants such as the Shallow Draft program and how we could get support to apply for appropriate grants.
11. **BISAC Grantsmanship.** Chair Benson talked about town-wide how we go after grants in the future. At the federal level, 104 grants for resiliency are available. How to you know if you qualify? The question is "How to develop a small-town grant program?" How do we divide granting up with the Planning Board developing water infrastructure and the BISAC looking to beach nourishment and sound-side flooding. Do we need a sub-committee to look into applying for grants? Alderman Grant suggested figuring out finances then getting an expert to write the grant. Mr. Gibson used the example of a retired professor who has written grants to support their program. Could an expert like this be used as a consultant for grant writing on a contract basis?
12. **Public Comments.** No public comments were offered.
13. **Next Meeting.** Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 10:30 am
14. **Adjournment.** Chair Benson adjourned the meeting.

Recording for the meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avcVNXqk1jQ>