

Town of North Topsail Beach

Joann M. McDermon, Mayor
Mike Benson, Mayor Pro Tem

Aldermen:
Richard Grant
Don Harte
Connie Pletl
Robert Swantek



Alice Derian, ICMA-CM
Town Manager

Melinda Mier
Town Clerk

Nature's Tranquil Beauty

Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2022, at 10:30am
2008 Loggerhead Court, North Topsail Beach. NC 28460

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Benson; Aldermen Grant, Deborah Coltrane (Phase One), Thomas Garrison (Phase Two), John Gardner (Phase Four), Larry Strother (Phase Five), Coastal Engineer Chris Gibson, Town Manager Alice Derian, Town Clerk Melinda Mier.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mike Benson, Chair

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 10:31 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Benson asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Larry Strother made a motion to approve the proposed agenda and the BISAC Meeting Schedule. John Gardner seconded. **The motion passed unanimously; 5-0.**

3. Approval of May minutes

Larry Strother made a motion to approve the May BISAC Meeting minutes. John Gardner seconded. **The motion passed unanimously; 5-0.**

4. Public Comments

No one provided public comment.

5. Organizational item

Chair Benson discussed the resignation of Michael Pawelko (Phase 3) from the committee. Mr. Pawelko was discouraged with the way the Board of Alderman developed the budget for this coming year. Chair Benson made a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen to re-open the application process for a Phase 3 committee member.

6. Current Status of Shoreline Protection Projects – Manager Derian

a. Sea Oats Planning

Town Manager Derian reported that the Sea Oats planting that resumed in May will be on-going through August. Since Memorial Day they have been planting northern limits of the project from BA 4 and continued in that direction which will wrap up this week and then they will flip back south starting approximately 3000 feet south of the St Moritz and planting approximately 6000 feet. July 6th through mid-August they will be planting approximately 9000 feet from St Moritz and finishing at the Surf City town line.

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b. Phase 5

Phase 5 along with other beach projects are paused until November after turtle season. In November we will resume work with our current contract for 289,000 CYs of sand and in the meantime are currently working on an IFB for the second phase of work that will be for 310,000 CYs of sand that will take place in Phase 5.

c. Living Shoreline Project

Living Shoreline Project – I have been working with the NC Coastal Federation since last October to initiate the first living shoreline project for the Town. Tracy Skrabel (Coastal Federation Project Coordinator) has been meeting with marine contractors to identify the ideal location for the project at the Richard Peters Town Park site. The conclusion is to install an Oyster Catcher Marsh Toe Revetment due to the low wave and boat wake energy and soft substrate. The demonstration will be situated between the two piers. I learned last week that we will be awarded 100% of the costs through the grant.

Coastal Engineer Fran Gibson offered a comment about the sea oat plants that were originally purchased, but not planted between Phase 4 and Phase 5, there wasn't an approved planting in that particular area, so we shifted the planting. Instead of having those plants go to waste, we used them. He states it usually takes about three weeks for the transplants to take off and they plan on putting about two more fertilizer applications as we go into the fall to ensure these plants grow the way they should. He reports that transplanting is going very well and the number one tip for homeowners is to stay off the dunes.

7. NTB 2022-2023 Budget & BISAC - Richard Grant

Alderman Grant presented information on the upcoming Town Budget for 2022-2023 so that the committee could better understand town finances and the sources of revenue for the Beach Fund 30. The following revenue sources covered were Property taxes, Accommodation taxes, Sales Taxes, Parking fees, and misc. revenues. He noted a net positive position for the Beach Fund going through the year such that new projects can be planned for in the future. His presentation is attached in the Appendix.

8. 2013 Ravella BOA shoreline report– Mike Benson

Chair Benson discussed the Ravella report that he shared with the committee. His reason for discussing this report was not about the Federal project but based on the fact that the town worked with a coastal engineering firm (CPE) approx. 13 years ago to develop a town-wide beach nourishment plan. The town-wide plan divided the approx.. 11 miles of shoreline into five phases and made recommendations on beach nourishment across all five phases. The follow-on Ravella report looked at the financial aspects of the town-wide plan. The major

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conclusion in the Ravella report was that the current beach fund tax rate was inadequate to support the town-wide plan. Rather future Boards would have to pick and choose what project could be funded. The outcome was the Board's decision to finance a Phase 1 beach and dune nourishment project in 2012-2013. Once, that loan was paid off, a second financed beach project was undertaken in 2015 for the approx. 4 miles of beach and dune in Phase 5. The Phase 5 loan will not be paid off until 2027. The consensus of the discussion was that in the future, the town needs to plan strategically for beach projects so that adequate financial revenues are already in place to avoid costly financing of future projects. A copy of the Ravella powerpoint is included in the appendix.

9. Shoreline Protection – Chris Gibson

Coastal Engineer Chris Gibson discussed how the town was only incorporated in 1990 and recognizes that the Town hasn't had many years to put money away. He mentioned the cost of the CPE plan and the five phases. If you borrowed the money to pay for the project and each year, each phase you'd be paying off and borrowing over and over again. So essentially you were funding the entire beach renourishment all at once with interest, not with cash. So there was never enough in-flow to ever get these funds. Knowing this, ideas were discussed, with one the use of sand in ICW Disposal Area 143, a disposal island at the crossroads of the ICW and Channel to Jacksonville, rather than more expensive offshore borrow areas known to have hard bottoms and rock issues in the dredged sand. Another source of sand would be the New River Inlet bar and obtaining state financial help through the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund. The concept in the CPE plan was to look at Phase 1 through Phase 4 after the initial nourishment in Phase 5. Then do maintenance out of New River Inlet with a hopper dredge that would 'drop' dredged sand in front of the beach and allow that sand to wash up onto the beach. These ideas were relatively economical back in the day. However, dredge mobilization back then was \$2.5 million dollars and now it's closer to \$5 to 9 million dollars. He said that today where the town is headed, especially with the Coastal Storm Mitigation Fund grant application, it could be a game changer. The idea is to obtain \$10.5 million dollars from the State, with no cost to the Town, which would allow us to continue the beach nourishment work in Phase 5 and extend into Phase 4 if everything goes well. It makes things a lot easier because Phases 1, 2 and 3 are within reach of New River Inlet by dredge, and the Channel Jacksonville - ICW crossroads and disposal island. Thus, we would never have to go into the ocean to finish all the initial construction. Potentially if everything goes well, we could look five years down the road having at least initially construction everywhere.

10. Public Comments

No one provided public comment.

11. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 10:30 am.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.