



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

To: NTB Board of Aldermen

Subject: BISAC Monthly Report for August 23, 2022, Meeting

From: Mike Benson, Chair

Date: August 24, 2022

There was no BISAC report for July as the committee did not meet.

Manager's Update. Manager Derian, *ex officio*, reported that --

- **Phase 5 project:** The Invitation for Bid for the second tranche for the phase 5 project was issued on Monday August 1st. We had a non-mandatory pre bid meeting on August 10th. Five contractors were present. Bids are due today at 2:00pm.
- **Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund Grant:** Our grant application for \$10.5 million dollars was submitted on July 8th following our last Board of Aldermen Meeting and we have received confirmation from the state that it has been received. It is currently in the review process.
 - This grant would enable the Town to extend the Phase 5 project 2.5 miles to the north to renourish Phase 4 with matching funds. This work was included in the Invitation for Bid as an Alternate Bid item in the Invitation for Bid issued for the Phase 5 project. Award will be contingent upon grant funds.
- **Sea Oats Planting:** Coastal Transplants continues to work on Sea Oats planting that is scheduled to wrap up at the end of August.
- **Living Shoreline Project:** The BOA approved the contract to proceed with the NC Coastal Federation and the contractor who will be installing the Oyster Catcher Marsh Toe Revetment at Richard Peters Park. Permits have been submitted to CAMA. Once we have those, the contractor will be ready to start.

New River Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Manager Derian and Mike Benson held a conference call on August 17, with Mr. Mickey Sugg, Regulatory Chief for the Wilmington District of the Army Corps of Engineers. In review of the ATM engineer's plan for positioning a potential terminal groin in the 'northern position', the Corps sent the model data to the ERDC lab in Mississippi for evaluation. ERDC analysis suggested a 'southern position' based on the same data set. It appears that additional inlet modeling may be needed at an additional cost to the town and possible delay of the Draft EIS.

The Corps office has chapters 1-3 of an expected six-chapter document for the Draft EIS from the 3rd party cooperating with the Corps on the EIS. It is expected that the full Draft EIS can be reviewed, and the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register by November 1. Once the Notice of Intent is published, the Corps has 2 years to reach a 'Record of Decision' for the best alternative to alleviate the significant erosion rate on the North Topsail Beach side of the New River Inlet. Mr. Sugg in his revised timeline to the Town had proposed an even faster schedule between NOI publication and reaching the Record of Decision by December 2023 but admitted that is only an estimated date.

Topsail Shoreline Protection Commission. Chairman Benson encouraged the BISAC members to start participating in the monthly meetings of this island-wide commission. Now that the BISAC has had met over the past few months and become more familiar with shoreline protection and some of the issues affecting our beaches, it is time for members to get a broader sense of island-wide issues as influenced by state and federal policies and rulemaking.

Southeast Coastal Communities Water Level Observation System. The American Shore and Beach Protection Association (ASBPA) is cooperating with an effort to study sea-level rise and the effect of rising tides on coastal flooding. To this end ASBPA is offering communities a discounted water-level, measuring device which the Town has now acquired. The plan is to place it at the Richard Peters Town Park alongside the living shoreline that will be constructed. The committee's charge is to develop a plan to gather sound-side flooding observations to correlate with the water level readings that are recorded continuously. The Town Manager will coordinate with staff on a possible electronic platform to gather information and summarize it.

No specific recommendations to the BOA were made by BISAC at this month's meeting.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 10:30 am