

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday February 20, 2025, 2:00 PM
Surf City Town Hall, Surf City, NC

Commission Members Present

William Snyder, Chairman
Larry Strother, Vice Chair
Tim Foster
Teresa Batts
Mike Benson
Tom Leonard
Morton Blanchard
Ed Broadhurst
Hiram Williams (vir)

Associates Present

Congr. Mike McIntyre, Ward Smith (vir)
Marley Peterson, Ward Smith (vir)
Stephanie Missert, Ann Durand, Danny
McNamara, and Chris Griffin (TFG reps)(vir)
David Ferrell, Maynard Nexsen (vir)
Christina Burke, TB Asst. Manager
Kyle Bruer and Carla Citarelli (Surf City)
Grayson Overholt, Senator Tillis rep
Kathy Zagzebski, Turtle Hospital
Kerri Allen, NCCF (vir)
Kathleen Riley, NCBIWA (vir)

Guests

Larry Combs, (Marc & Karen Danmyer, Jane
Harrison, Jan Farmer, vir)

I. Call to Order & Greetings

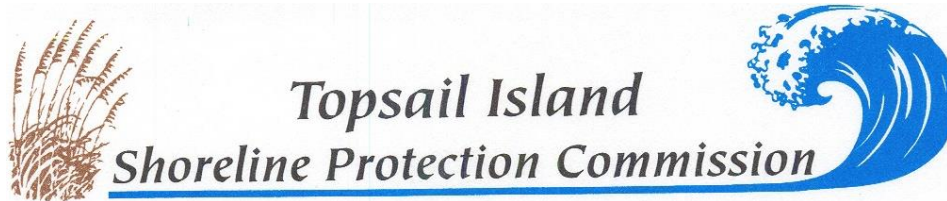
Chairman Snyder called the meeting at order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed the commission members, associates, and those in the audience and online. He also welcomed Tim Foster, Chair Onslow County Commissioners, as a new member of the commission. Chairman Snyder then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

II. Public Comments

No comments.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Larry Strother made a motion to approve the agenda. Ed Broadhurst seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.



IV. Approval of Minutes for December 12, 2024

Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ed Broadhurst made a motion to approve the minutes. Larry Strother seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

V. Consultant & Partner's Reviews

a. **Federal Legislation Activities - Ward and Smith, P.A. –Congressman Mike McIntyre.**

Congressman McIntyre reported that Congress is facing two critical fiscal deadlines in the coming months. The continuing resolution (CR) currently funding the government is set to expire on March 14, and the "drop-dead" deadline to pass FY 2025 funding bills is April 30. Need a bipartisan support to achieve a budget resolution on the \$36 trillion budget deficit. Delegations from North Carolina have their assignments with Rep Rouzer on House Transportation, Chair of subcommittee on Highways and Transit; Senator Budd on Armed Services; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Joint Economic Committee; Senator Tillis on Finance, Veteran's Affairs, Banking, and Judiciary Committees and we will support Rep Murphy's work as well.

Water Resources Development Act. The act was approved in December and Congressman McIntyre commented on recent executive actions that have taken place and the effect these will have on federal actions. He is confident that the Surf City project will continue as well as other approved projects.

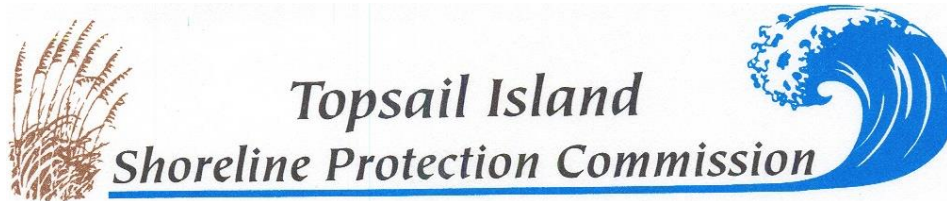
North Topsail Beach CBRA Mapping Issue. Building on last year's successful passage of the HB 5430 the BEACH Act, we have been working closely with Representative Murphy's office, the House Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries (Committee), and North Topsail Beach Alderman Tom Leonard along with the Ferguson Group to prepare refined legislative language for reintroduction this year. We are in good shape to move forward this year.

Washington Trip. Details are being worked out for our visits on April 28 -29.

Congressman McIntyre needs names for each of the two people who will travel with the delegation from each town. We will hold a pre-trip phone conference for coordination of our trip.

Federal Goals. We understand the goals you have sent us with the understanding that you will finalized them later in your meeting today.

Questions. He was asked about passaging of the next WRDA bill and replied that it should stay in place after talking with certain of our representatives in Washington. He



was also asked about the future of FEMA and indicated they will follow any developments.

b. NC State Legislation Activities – Maynard Nexsen PC – David Ferrell

David Ferrell joined us virtually to report on activities of the General Assembly that started on January 29th. Speaker Hall is the new leader and how he operates will be followed. He published a legislature calendar for the House ending June 30th. Focus so far is on the house bill with \$500 million in aid for Hurricane Helene recovery. Bill supports road repairs, agriculture, and other infrastructure needs.

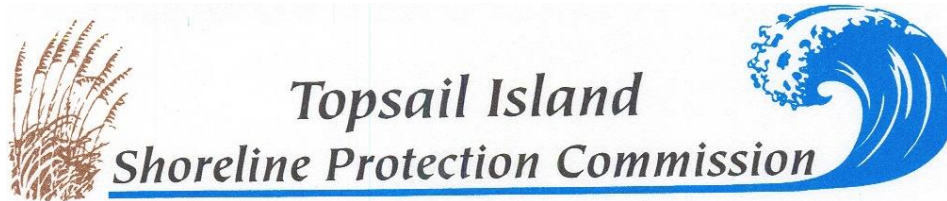
So far 247 bills have been introduced with over 2,000 expected this year. Budget subcommittees will be meeting for the various agencies under their prevue. Then negotiators for the House and Senate will begin to negotiate. Revenue forecast shows a budget surplus this year but after that the numbers will be closer the last few years of the decade. Asking for recurring funds will be difficult due to future budget forecast. Interest in lowering personal income tax by finding new sales tax revenue possible through internet video gaming.

For TISPC goals, we had a meeting with Rep. Carson Smith and briefly with Senator Jackson to encourage continuation of funding for the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund and to find a recurring source of funding for the CSDM Fund. But the focus on Helene recovery may dimmish chances for the CSDM funding. As for the shellfish moratorium goal, we had a meeting with Rep. Carson Smith who agreed to draft a local bill for a 2-yr moratorium even though it will apply statewide. David will provide a draft of bill for TISPC to review to be certain we include just the waterway areas that need to be included. For the statewide ban on abandoned vessels, I will need to know who to work with on drafting a bill.

Questions. The shellfish moratoriums in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties – would they revert? David answered that those moratoriums cover a specific geographic area and can be renewed. Different expiration dates would probably not match. It was noted that the statewide ban on abandoned vessels is spearheaded by NCCF and the TISPC would be asked to support. Also, Kyle Breuer noted that three towns have supported NCCF effort. Teresa Batts noted that Surf City met with Rep Smith who is willing to move forward with a moratorium bill.

c. North Carolina Coastal Federation – Kerri Allen

Kerri announced that the federation has bill sponsors for the abandoned vessel bill from Rep. Miller and Senator Lee. The proposed statewide law would expedite removal especially after storms. Also, we have a cost-share ask with the state for the living shoreline as well as for water quality programs that will happen in a couple of Topsail



Island towns this year. The federation will be participating in the White Oak River Basin Advisory Program and encourage those on TISPC to participate as well. Our Coastal Summit is scheduled for April 8-9 up in Raleigh.

d. Turtle Hospital – Kathy Zagzebski

Sea Turtle hospital: Kathy had to leave before we got to her so Chairman Snyder read her report. We had an average nesting on Topsail Island with 104 nests. New technology using hydrophones to listen to nest and measure nest temperature to help estimate hatch time. The hospital had one of its busiest years with 258 turtles with 48 still in house. Summer internship applications are now being accepted. On March 9 they will hold a community open house and invite TISPC members to attend.

e. North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association – Kathleen Riely

Kathleen noted they are pursuing BIMP funding to update the plan with current statistics and significant return on investment. She noted that each dollar spent on prevention resulted in a \$8 dollar savings on disaster recovery. She has asked the 28 local coastal governments to support the plan updating. The BIMP plan is the keystone resource whenever we ask for money for the coast. **Question.** You are asking for local resolutions? – yes. It was noted that two of the three island towns so far have signed on. Chairman Snyder asked for a resolution to support the funding to update BIMP. Ed Broadhurst moved, and Tom Leonard seconded. Motion approval was unanimous.

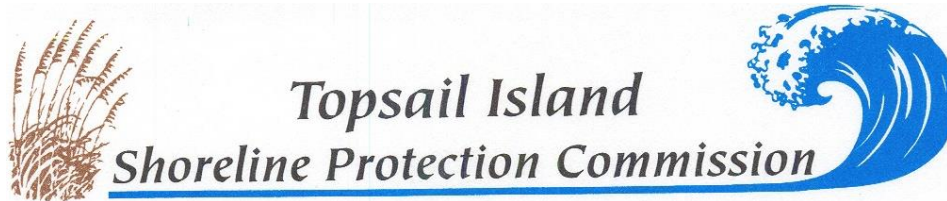
VI. **Old Business & Updates**

a. DEQ award for Vitex Removal for Topsail Island – Christina Burke

Christina reported a signed agreement is in place with the state. The waiver that property owners will sign is under preparation. The RFP for bidding the project is in preparation.

b. Oyster Leases – Dr. Jane Harrison, NC Sea Grant and Kerri Allen, NCCF

Dr. Harrison talked about oysters and the importance to the shellfish industry and NC aquaculture. She wants to offer ways to mitigate user conflicts. Sea Grants provides information to coastal groups to help resolve issues. She also coordinates the Oyster Seafood Trail to promote the benefits of oysters to the ecosystem. She cited jobs and tourism numbers for Pender and Onslow Counties. She has submitted a grant proposal along with NCCF to NOAA to help mitigate conflict that would include focus groups to identify areas of overlap. A resource use agreement would then serve as a guide to future leases. **Questions.** Kathleen Riely invited Dr. Harrison to participate in the April NCBIWAs meeting. Chairman Snyder noted that TISPC provided letter of support for the grant application.



VII. Town Updates

a. Surf City.

Kyle Breuer reported a few things with the Banks Channel beach nourishment project update and that a delay resulted from a mechanical issue. The dredge is running now and getting good sand placement with about 90,000 cy placed so far. We hope to get a permit extension for an additional 150,000 cy which we expect to be granted. We are still on track for our federal project. Our town 'post and rope' effort for beach accesses is underway with permitting requests. Kyle mentioned that he and Mayor Batts went to Raleigh to meet with their reps. Some of the priorities they discussed were to protect the CSDM fund and resiliency programs like the RCCP. They also discussed oyster lease requirements and citing of leases. Offshore energy concerns and coastal communities benefiting. Living shorelines important with maybe a top-down approach. Also, fisheries management consistency with different regs in adjoining states. [Kerri Allen commented that NCCF just got a grant to map estuaries in the state with the aim of finding additional locations for living shorelines.]

b. Topsail Beach

Assistant Manager Christine Burke reported that the Coastal Land Trust will be completing their purchase of South End, then the town will purchase a small area for parking access. Paid parking will begin April 1 at ocean accesses only. Budget discussions with BIS fund shorted by lack of FEMA full reimbursement.

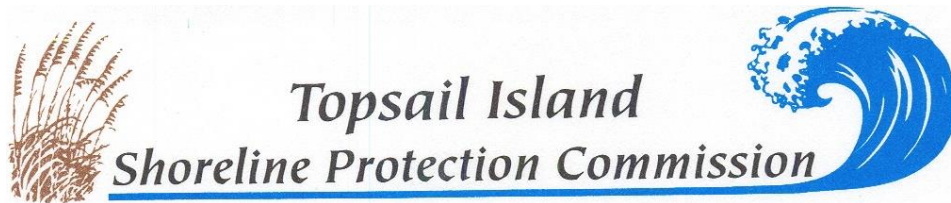
c. North Topsail Beach

Mike noted that the Corps dredge project to clean out the ICW and New River Inlet at Cedar Bush Cut crossing has deposited approximately, 66 thousand yards on the north end beach. The Phase 4 work continues, beginning at the south end of Phase 4 (around 3686 Island Drive) and will work north approximately 2.3 miles until May 1, 2025, and place approximately 150,000 cy of sand. Also, the town is moving forward with a FEMA project due to PTC#8 for about 60,000 cy to restore 4 miles of dunes in town. Tom Leonard commented that a new bill for resolution of the CBRA issue is in preparation in Rep Murphy's office and it is expected that Rep Rouzer will co-sponsor. On the Senate side Senator Thom Tillis' office is assisting.

VIII. New Business

a. Finalize 2024 Accomplishments and Goals for 2025- William Snyder

William announced that each member had the 'red line' version of the accomplishments. He suggested that Surf City be added to the 8A Shallow Draft Inlet Funds item in addition to Topsail Beach. Larry Strother motioned to accept the revised accomplishment document with a second from Tom Leonard. Motion passed unanimously. Next, Chairman Snyder asked for discussion on the advocate goals for



2025. He suggested a change to the State goals to include support for the BIMP legislative initiative for state funding. Mayor Batts made a motion to accept change and Tom Leonard seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Under federal goals discussion centered around FEMA team coordination with the suggestion to draft a FEMA standard letter of support for our Senator to sign when a disaster is declared. Larry Strother made a motion to accept the federal goals with a second from Ed Broadhurst Motion passed unanimously.

b. Spring Legislative Trip to Washington – William Synder

William noted the trip will occur April 28-29 with any spill over meetings on April 30th.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- a. ASPA Coastal Summit and Raleigh trip if needed
- b. CRC February 26-27
- c. NCBIWAs April 8-9.

X. Public/Commission Members Comments

Larry Combs commented that oyster leasing is a statewide coastal issue and not just the two counties.

XI. Next Meeting – 2 PM, Thursday, March 27, 2025 – Surf City Town Hall

XII. Adjournment and thank you for your support

Mayor Batts made a motion to adjourn with a second from Tom Leonard and it passed unanimously.