

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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*Thursday March 27, 2025, 2:00 PM*  
Surf City Town Hall, Surf City, NC

### **Commission Members Present**

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

### **Associates Present**

David Ferrell, Maynard Nexsen  
Doug Shipley, TB Manager  
Kyle Bruer and Carla Citarelli (Surf City)  
Kerri Allen, NCCF  
Kathleen Riley, NCBIWA (vir)  
Billy Christ, (Rep Rouzer rep)

### **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 asked for a moment of silence for former Topsail Beach Mayor, Morton Blanchard who passed recently. Chairman Snyder then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

### **II. [Public Comments](#)**

No comments.

### **III. [Approval of Agenda](#)**

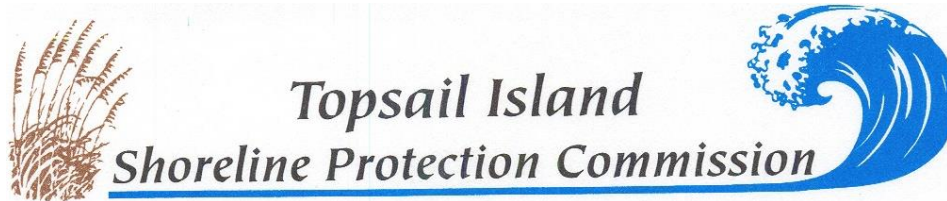
Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ed Broadhurst made a motion to approve the agenda. Teresa Batts seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

### **IV. [Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2025](#)**

Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Teresa Batt made a motion to approve the minutes. David Ward 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 was not able to attend today, so Chairman Snyder read a



synopsis of Congressman McIntyre's March report. Congress passed a funding bill to avert government shutdown. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking feedback on the implementation of the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) 2024. The Trump administration, through the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) led by Elon Musk, has initiated significant staff reductions within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

**North Topsail Beach CBRA Mapping Issue.** We are excited to report that Representative Murphy introduced H.R. 1885, the Town of North Topsail Beach Coastal Barrier Resources System Map Amendment Act of 2025.

**Washington Trip.** Details are being worked out for our visits on April 28 -29. TFG has started the process of planning meetings and documents based on the outlined federal priorities the Commission approved during the February meeting.

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

David Ferrell joined us to report on activities of the General Assembly that started on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Speaker Hall indicates that new spending will match cuts. There will be a budget surplus this year, but not next so new recurring funds will not be considered this year.

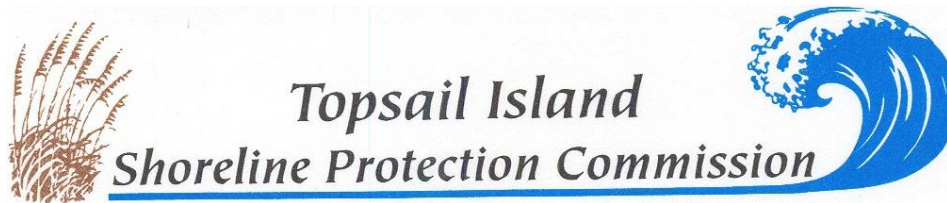
So far over 400 bills have been introduced with over 2,000 expected this year. Deadline for filing is April 2. Recovery from Hurricane Helene will be a priority for western NC. We coordinated with Kathleen Riley to support the NCBIWA effort for grant funding to update BIMP. For TISPC goals, we continue to work toward continuation of funding for the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund and the CSDM Fund. As for the shellfish moratorium goal, we had a meeting with Rep. Carson Smith, and I will report on his position later in this meeting.

**c. North Carolina Coastal Federation – Kerri Allen**

Kerri announced that a grant was received for high resolution mapping of the entire NC coast. This will be invaluable for planning departments. SB505 was introduced to ban the abandonment of vessels state-wide. This will allow rapid removal of abandoned vessels and penalize those who abandon vessels. Our joint grant proposal with NC Sea Grant to NOAA for resolving shellfish lease conflicts is still under review. Our Coastal Summit is scheduled for April 8-9 up in Raleigh.

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

Kathleen highlighted the upcoming NCBIWA Spring Conference May 8-9 in Emerald Isle. Both Senators Lee and Jackson support the much-needed revision to the NC Beach, Inlet Management Plan (BIMP) and funding to make it happen. Kathleen noted that for every \$1 spent on coastal resiliency, \$13 in benefits result.



**e. Turtle Hospital – Kathy Zagzebski**

*Sea Turtle hospital:* Kathy was unable to attend.

**VI. Old Business & Updates**

**a. Status of Vitex Dune Project – Doug Shipley**

Each town has the RFP on their websites with an April 11<sup>th</sup> deadline for submissions. The state grant of \$1.2 million covers two years of the four-year project, so additional funding will be needed.

**b. Oyster Leases**

**a. Scheduled public hearings and lease applications update**

William Snyder announced the public hearings schedule for Craven County (April 2), Pender County (April 15) and Onslow County (April 22).

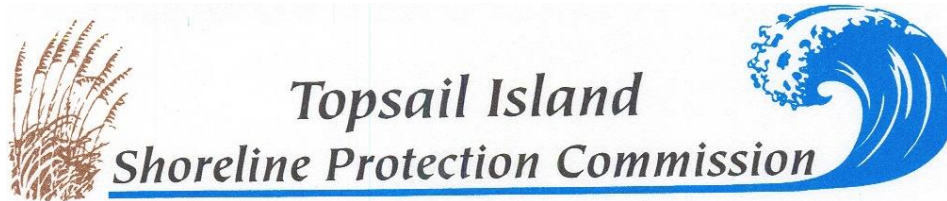
**b. Discuss Shellfish Lease Moratorium**

Chairman Snyder has been in conversation with David Ferrell on the status of a moratorium bill for Pender and Onslow Counties. Mr. Ferrell then led a discussion on his interactions with Rep Carson Smith from Pender and Onslow Counties. Initially, Rep Smith was in full support of a moratorium bill, however, pushback from other constituents caused him to suggest instead a bill that would repeal all shellfish moratoria in North Carolina. The commission subsequently spent a good bit of time discussing the positives and negatives of a state-wide moratorium repeal. Some positives – all shellfish suitable areas would be open for new leases; this would be fair to those who use public waters for recreation. Some negatives – there would be strong pushback from legislators in areas with moratoria. Kerri Allen noted that Marine Fisheries must consider the ‘cumulative impact’ of new leases and all types of public water uses. She cited a DEQ report that covered this aspect of new leases as well as potential coastal areas that shellfish aquaculture could expand. A main point of discussion was the lack of guidelines for citing shellfish leases that considers all users of the state’s public waters. A ‘resource guide’ that would address conflict resolution that is proposed in the NCCF/Sea Grant project is needed. In the end, the Commission voted unanimously to continue our support for a shellfish moratorium for Pender and Onslow Counties. Chairman Snyder will draft a letter to Rep Smith thanking him for his support and relaying our request for a local two-county moratorium.

**c. CRAC and CRC update – Kyle Breuer**

**CRAC.** Manager Breuer reported that the CRAC supported CRC approval for temporary sentinel hurricane storm monitor stations on the beach prior to storm arrival. The CRAC had a split vote on the use of artificial turf in the Ocean hazard setback, so now up to CRC to decide. The CRAC considered innovative materials to stabilize sediment (sand) deposited on the beach front.

**CRC.** New Topsail Beach mayor, Frank Braxton, was recently appointed to the CRC. The



CRC has filed lawsuits against the NC Rules Review Commission regarding the RRC reversal of several CRC rules to protect the coast. The CRC is considering straw bales as a stabilizing method for dune stabilization. The Fish and Wildlife Commission opposes bales as an unknown on the dune/beach ecosystem. The CRC is developing a structure for reviewing their policies.

## VII. Town Updates

### a. Surf City.

Manager Breuer updated us on the Bank's Channel dredged project by Norfolk with about 400,000 cy expected by April 12. We got a permit modification from the Corps to expand the dredge area. The Town hopes to get a post and rope exemption along with sand fencing to provide beach access and build dunes. Our GRR for the Federal project is still on track.

### b. Topsail Beach

Manager Shipley reported that their board passed a resolution to support the NCCF's effort to ban abandoned vessels statewide. Paid parking now in effect for their beach accesses. They may have to raise property tax by 0.23 cents/100 to account for the lost FEMA reimbursement monies.

### c. North Topsail Beach

Manager Derian noted that the Corps project to clear out sand at the ICW Cedar Bush Cut crossroads is complete with about 78,000 cy removed and disposed of on the north end of town. The Phase 4 project has placed about 118,000 cy. Our board approved funds to place about 60,000 cy in an emergence dune restoration project due to losses from PCT#8 with FEMA reimbursement hopeful.

## VIII. New Business

### a. Spring Legislative Trip to Washington- William Snyder

William announced that plans were underway for the advocacy trip to Washington April 28-30 with a pre-trip planning call on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### b. Proposed Trip to Raleigh – William Synder

After discussion it was decided that this trip wouldn't be made.

## IX. Upcoming Meetings

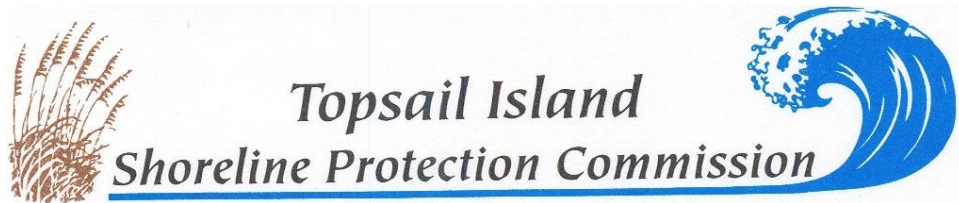
a. Regional Workshop: Sand Matters, UNCW Coastal Engineering

b. CRAC and CRC- April 30, May 1

c. NCBIWAs May 8-9, Emerald Isle.

## X. Public/Commission Members Comments

None given



- XI. Next Meeting – 2 PM, Thursday, May 22, 2025 – Surf City Town Hall
- XII. Adjournment and thank you for your support  
David Ward made a motion to adjourn with a second from Larry Combs and it passed unanimously.