

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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*Thursday May 22, 2025, 2:00 PM*  
Surf City Town Hall, Surf City, NC

### **Commission Members Present**

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

### **Associates Present**

Mike McIntyre, WardSmith (vir)  
David Ferrell, Maynard Nexsen (vir)  
Doug Shipley, TB Manager  
Kyle Breuer and Carla Citarelli (Surf City)  
Kerri Allen, NCCF  
Kathleen Riley, NCBIWA (vir)  
Larry Combs  
John Gunter  
John Gardner

### **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. Chairman Snyder then ask Ed Broadhurst to lead the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

### **II. Public Comments**

No comments.

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

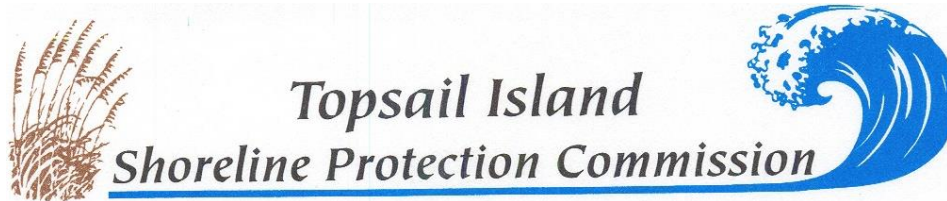
Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Larry Strother made a motion to approve the agenda. Tim Foster seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes for March 27, 2025**

Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tim Foster made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Leonard 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 attended remotely today. House Republicans are advancing a



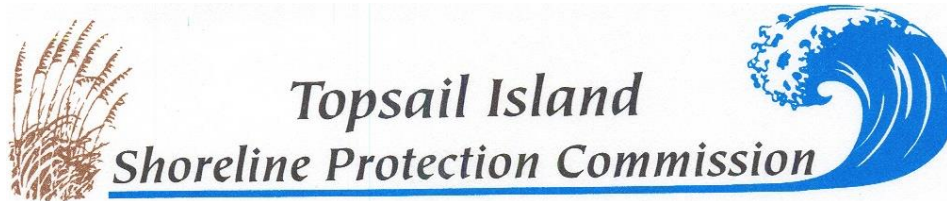
sweeping \$4.5 trillion budget reconciliation package, aiming to pass it through Congress by Memorial Day using the budget reconciliation process that bypasses the Senate filibuster. The new EPA head, Jessica Kramer emphasized that the agency is actively exploring ways to provide support for utilities facing challenges related to PFAS regulation and lead service line replacement, specifically under the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Currently, litigation is underway regarding both the LCRI and the PFAS rules, with the EPA seeking delays in proceedings.

**Washington Trip.** We had the pleasure of conducting a series of successful meetings on Capitol Hill and at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters on April 28 through 30 for the Commission's annual advocacy visit. The Commission traveled to Washington to attend the meetings with the Ward and Smith and TFG team and met with the following: Representative David Rouzer, Representative Greg Murphy, M.D. The Office of Senator Ted Budd. The Office of Senator Thom Tillis, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters.

We discussed the following priorities: Secure Passage of H.R. 1885 to Amend the Boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit L06 in North Topsail Beach, Support Approval of the Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project General Reevaluation Report So the Project Can Proceed to Construction, Obtain Legislative or Administrative Change Allowing the Borrowing of Sand from Within the Coastal Barrier Resources System for Use Outside the System, Improve Island-Wide Coordination in Disaster Recovery and Protect FEMA, and Maintain Funding for New River Inlet and New Topsail Inlet and Connecting Channels Navigation Dredging.

**North Topsail Beach CBRA Mapping Issue.** As we reported in March, Representative Murphy introduced H.R. 1885, *the Town of North Topsail Beach Coastal Barrier Resources System Map Amendment Act of 2025*. Following the Commission's meetings with Representative Murphy and the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Leonard of North Topsail Beach was invited back to Washington, D.C. to testify in support of the bill before the Committee. The hearing will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

**FEMA Issues.** On April 4, 2025, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a press release announcing it is ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and canceling BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-



2023. The BRIC program helps communities proactively prepare for natural disasters by funding projects that reduce hazard risks.

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

David Ferrell joined us remotely to report on activities of the General Assembly where the House is working on budget bill under new speaker Justin Hall. Whether the budget can be approved by June 20 or whether legislature will come back in September to approve. The Senate is looking at income tax cuts and business tax cuts. The BIMP resolution at \$400K is in both House and Senate budgets. Various bills as outlined in his regular reports are moving forward in both chambers. Rep. Carson Smith's shellfish leasing study passed the House and is now in the Senate. It may need TISPC support to keep it going.

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

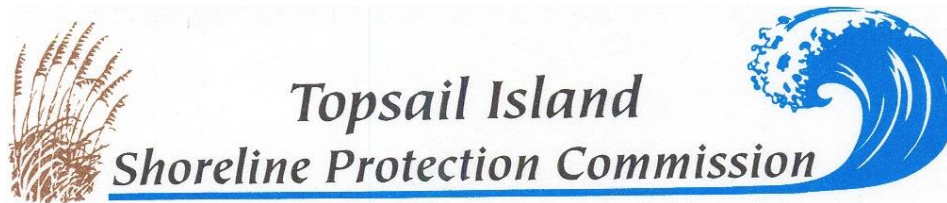
Kerri announced that the abandoned and derelict vessel bill is moving forward with support from Senators Lee and Sanderson. Work continues on our living shoreline project and we now have a facility to grow out plants for future shoreline projects. The Stump Sound Stormwater project is underway to look at future opportunities to manage stormwater. The Federation is working to remove North Carolina from the federal offshore wind project as it may be deleterious to our coast.

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

Kathleen reported on the NCBIWA Spring Conference May 8-9 in Emerald Isle. We had a big turnout with an informative program. Presentations are now on the BIWA website. State funding for the BIMP is a good win and will allow reevaluation of the plan every two years including the status of oyster leases. She commended Alderman Tom Leonard (NTB) for his efforts this spring in testifying for the CBRA bill currently working its way thru Congress. Kathleen is already in prelim stage for the fall conference and hopes to have a homeowners insurance session as part of the conference. She also requested that anyone send her topics for the conference.

**e. Turtle Hospital – Kathy Zagzebski**

*Sea Turtle hospital:* Kathy announced that nesting season has started with the first nest in NTB with 10 nests on the island overall. She is looking at water temperature relationships to the percentage of hatchlings that are male and female. Debilitated turtles are still coming to the hospital. Tours have started. Their summer interns will look at artificial lighting by town to determine effect on nesting habits. School kids' tours both in April and again in October. Turtle talks in all three towns will commence soon.



## VI. Old Business & Updates

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

Michael Baker International has the contract for the Vitex eradication. We have 132 property owners' permissions so far. TB will administer the \$1.2M grant for the project.

Doug also gave the Topsail Beach manager's report that included the announcement that TB will charge for parking in town. TI Coastal is surveying Bank's Channel. The Coastal Land Trust closed on the south end property with TB now owning the parking area there. Our Summer Concert Series is starting soon.

### b. Oyster Lease Update

William Snyder sent a letter of support to Rep. Carson Smith for his bill to review oyster leasing policies. He also sent a letter of position to the public hearings chair to be read into the public record. He mentioned the Coastal Review Online story about oyster leasing. Chairman Snyder along with member Larry Strother attended the public hearing in Holly Ridge. The takeaway was that there needs to be better communication between leasees and public groups as neither understand the concerns of each. There are three lease applications in Topsail Beach with one near Queen's Grant that was withdrawn by leasee due to public resistance. Hopefully, Rep Smith's bill to study leasing will happen before the 2026 legislative session. Member Williams suggested that DCM should be involved in that study.

### c. Spring Legislative Trip Review & CBRA Zone Mapping – Tom Leonard

Those who attended the Washington trip were TISPC Chairman, William Snyder, NTB Mayor Pro Tem Tom Leonard, NTB Manager Alice Derian, SC Mayor Teresa Batts, SC Manager Kyle Breuer, TB Mayor Frank Braxton, TI Coastal President Chris Gibson, Ward and Smith Congressman Mike McIntyre, and for The Ferguson Group Stephanie Missert and Ann Durand. He then outlined the key federal priorities discussed with the various legislative leaders, congressional committees, and various federal agencies. Support for HR-1885 (CBRA amended map) in both the House and Senate was encouraging. Also, the federal project for Surf City was discussed and continues to move forward. Sand borrowing from CBRA zones to non-CBRA zones was also discussed at various levels.

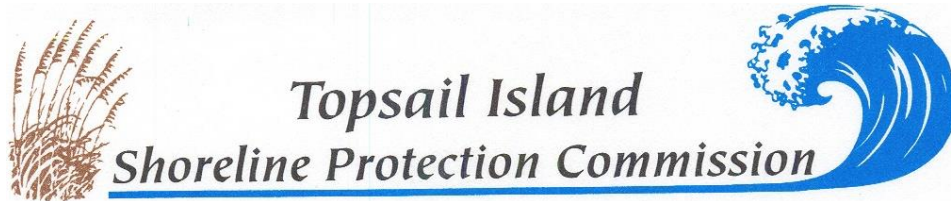
### d. CRAC and CRC update – Kyle Breuer and Frank Braxton

Manager Breuer reported that the CRAC supported CRC approval for temporary Sentinel Hurricane Storm Monitor Stations on the beach prior to storm arrival. The CRC approved a 30 ft setback for artificial turf soundside and sand block spray to slow erosion.

## VII. Town Updates

### a. Surf City.

Manager Breuer updated us on the Bank's Channel dredge project by Norfolk with a total of 585,000 cy placed on our beach up to the pier. Our beach grass planting project by homeowners was completed. We have reviewed our beach codes for campfires. Our



GRR for the Federal project is still on track with Lt. General Graham expected to visit the project this summer. Our dune filtration project was held up in June with over 5 in. of rain.

**b. Topsail Beach**

See under 'Vitex' above.

**c. North Topsail Beach**

Tom Leonard presented the report for Manager Derian. Potential Tropical Cyclone # 8, dune work has paused for the season effective May 2nd. We are repairing a couple of public crossovers damaged during PTC#8. The cost share project with Coastal Transplants for Sea Oats and Bitter Panikum is in progress whereby homeowners cover 50% of the cost. Over 19,000 plants have been planted so far. We have three beach ambassadors this summer who will be on beach patrol throughout the season to educate beach patrons on filling in holes and the importance of removing personal property items when they leave the beach for the day. The Ocean City Jazz Festival is scheduled for July 4th through July 6th.

VIII. [New Business](#)

**a. Proposed Trip to Raleigh – William Synder**

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

IX. [Upcoming Meetings](#)

**a.** August 27-28, CRAC and CRC, Ocean Isle Beach

**b.** October 7-10, ASBPA National Coastal Conference, Long Beach, CA

**c.** November, NCBIWA, Wilmington

X. [Public/Commission Members Comments](#)

None given

XI. [Next Meeting – 2 PM, Thursday, August 21 – Surf City Town Hall](#)

XII. [Adjournment and thank you for your support](#)

Larry Strother made a motion to adjourn with a second from Tom Leonard and it passed unanimously.