



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018- 10:00 A.M.**

The Inlet and Beach Protection Board (IBPB) of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2018.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Vicki Myers called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were: Chair Vicki Myers, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, Members Ronda Dixon and Dean Thomas. Member Richard Rice was unable to attend. Town Manager David Hewett and Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Member Dixon to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2018 meeting, second by Vice Chair Pearson; approved by unanimous vote. Motion by Vice Chair Pearson to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting, second by Member Dixon; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

UPDATE FROM FRAN WAY ON ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT AND LWF INLET

The Town's beach engineer discussed three projects regarding the Lockwood Folly (LWF) Inlet. He stated that the LWF inlet crossing project is slated for this winter. He said he hasn't seen the bid package out yet. He continued, the next meeting in New Bern on Wednesday may supply more information on projects. Mr. Way said that in the 2009 stimulus the Corps had more money. The bend widener was used by the Town to supplement sand placement on the east end and the east end was better. Since that time state funding got involved. The Town saw how important it is to continue this nourishment every two years. Mr. Way said the Town needs to continue. He said that Oak Island is trying to lay claim to the inlet. He stated that Oak Island had issues with Bald Head on the other side where they are trying to share sand. Mr. Way explained that the east end of Holden Beach is a down drift beach. He said that sooner or later the sand is going toward the west. He continued that down drift beaches can really suffer harm with work done in the inlet if Holden Beach doesn't keep getting the sand. Mr. Way stated what we don't want to see is 2,000 feet of sandbags along the east end shoreline. He stated we need to make sure Holden stays at the top of the line on sand. Every other year has been working out. He continued that if we did a share agreement and we got sand every four years, the shoreline could not take that. Mr. Way explained the Town has worked with the Corps to maintain the status quo. He stated that around 2009, the Town tweaked the process enough to sustain and it is the minimal needed to sustain it. When the Corps set up least cost method of disposal, LWF Inlet sand went to Holden, Shallotte Inlet went to Ocean Isle. He said if we are talking about changing up the whole system it would create chaos.

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Mr. Way then went on to explain a second proposed project, the Murden project which will be nearshore disposal. This project was originally supposed to be 6000 cubic yards and has been upped to 30,000 cubic yards. He said that will help with the outer shoal. He said in previous times, the Town used the Murden when the Merritt was in dry dock. The closest spot to drop nearshore is the east end of Holden Beach in about 10-15 feet of water. Mr. Way explained that the Town did pre and post surveys and saw mounds of material two feet high after those drops, around 25,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of material. He continued that theoretically that is the best place to put it, but it doesn't have a direct effect on beach health. He stated it is not like putting sand directly on the beach. He said the Town was open to letting Oak Island try that. He expressed that as soon as the Merritt comes back online it is really the Corps' vessel to maintain the inlets because it has a shallower draft and a little higher production rate. The Corps prefer using it.

Mr. Way then explained a third project, the outer ebb shoal, that would involve digging a deeper and wider channel. He said that as soon as you dredge a much bigger channel, sand moves around and shoals attach over the year or two. Mr. Way explained those can be seen as you walk around. He stated he and the Town raised concerns to the county regarding this project. He continued there is a way that ATM thinks you can make it a little deeper and wider. If that occurs, Mr. Way said the sand should go on the east end of Holden because that is where it naturally would go. He explained the county's main focus seems to be navigation. He continued that it is tough to balance beach health with navigation. Mr. Way said if they try to dredge when they have funding, assisted with the state funding, it helps with keeping it open. He said navigation is a difficult issue. He gave the Masonboro jetties and inlet as an example of being much better to navigate. Mr. Way said the county is going through the permitting process and trying to cite old data from the 70's saying you can go deeper. He continued that you can't get near Civil War wrecks. Permitting anything like that can cause unseen opposition from other groups. Environmental concerns like essential fish habitat may not be as big an issue as the Civil War wrecks. Mr. Way explained that every time the Town went offshore environmental requirements were for a 25 meter minimum spacing and 500 meter buffer. He explained the county is saying this project is not happening this winter but the following winter. He said it could be longer. Mr. Way said it does seem like the main priority of the county is navigation but he would say ours is the beach with navigation being important as well. He stated that the state has the dredging fund set up and it is flush with money. Entities are trying to find projects because 2/3 of the cost would be paid for. He said this project would be about \$20 per cubic yard as they are explaining it currently and that is not the best economically. Just because all the dredging is 2/3 off, we need to keep a focus without just looking for cheap material to help the east end. Mr. Way said we need to look for potential dangers for the down drift beach.

Member Dixon asked if the Murden project is for the mouth. Mr. Way says when he looks at the mouth he thinks of the inlet throat and that is usually pretty deep. The project is for the outer ebb shoal. The flood shoal is inside where the LWF inlet crossing project is. Lockwood Folly River creates its own little inlet. Mr. Way said that dredging projects improving water quality in the Lockwood Folly River is doubtful. They are dredging the outer ebb shoal where buoys are and then they are dropping it over on Oak Island. He said there could be hot spots on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and they might hit them too. He stated the website marinetraffic.com would show where they go and sometimes they do hit hot spots.

Member Dixon asked if the sidecaster project is number two. Mr. Way said the sidecaster is just to maintain navigation of the ebb shoal and is related to project one we just discussed. He said when you talk about the throat there is a COLREGS line. Dredgers have to be ocean certified to work in the areas seaward of the line. Corps dredges are small but can also work in the COLREGS line. He continued that Dare County is going to build a small dredge like one of these. He stated the State has wanted this all along, to have a dredge small enough that it can work beyond the COLREGS line. He said if it is not working the Oregon Inlet is should be able to work some of the other inlets.

Member Dixon asked if project three is the large more costly Lockwood Folly Inlet project and for clarification on project two. Mr. Way said the Lockwood Folly Inlet crossing project that normally happens every two years with a cutterhead dredge that goes on the east end is project two. Mr. Way said if the Merritt comes back online the Murden project may go away. Member Dixon understands that the third project would be the deepening and widening project. Member Dixon asked about the effectiveness of near shore disposal, is it better than the sidecaster but not directly on shoreline? Mr. Way explained it would be approximately a two foot mound of sand in 13 feet of water, 2000 feet offshore. It is a small amount of material and it could take a few years to move onshore. Chair Myers asked for clarification that because it is a negligible benefit that we are okay with it going to Oak Island. She continued if it came to us we are fine with it because it will eventually append to our beach, but it would be a minor benefit. Mr. Way explained that the Town is not sure it is going to help Oak Island's problem, so they are going to probably continue to come toward other projects. Chair Myers said that it probably will not append to their beach where they think it is going to and will likely end up back in the inlet. Mr. Way said eventually that would likely happen.

Member Dixon questioned given that Oak Island is pressing hard for all three of the sand projects to go to Oak Island, if it sets a precedent for the first project to go over there. Mr. Way said Oak Island is looking for crazy amounts of sand, 15-30 million cubic yards. He continued that they need to do big projects. He continued they are trying to use the little amount of sand from the inlet, and when they haven't really nourished their beach with a major nourishment; they are really just trying to band aid it. He stated that when they do that, our east end is becoming vulnerable. He continued that Ocean Isle and North Topsail have sand bags on the beach and we don't want that.

Town Manager Hewett asked Mr. Way if he could talk about the annual beach monitoring report. Mr. Way said the nourishment was almost a year and a half ago. Between both the Eastern Reach and the Central Reach it was about 1.5 million cubic yards. Transects are run every 1,000 feet on the coastline from inlet to inlet. He said the monitoring showed a volume increase of 440,000 cubic yards of material since last year. He continued that he questioned his staff because there was no nourishment this year. He was hoping to see around zero counting for material without losing much. He said that the 440,000 cubic yards didn't make sense. Mr. Way continued that they measured 1500 feet offshore to -12 feet below sea level contour. He said that Matthew knocked material more than 1500 offshore and it has made its way back onshore. We have seen some equilibration, so the ocean waves are working the designed slope in the project. He said the upper beach did lose material, but from -5 foot contour to -12 contour, gained the material. He continued that big storms do make it move around and the findings were a nice surprise. He said the Town is hoping to get 10-15 years out of this nourishment. He stated that we do want to have an offshore borrow area permanently ready for a new hurricane. He is still working on finalizing the annual beach monitoring report. He continued that the only section of beach that did lose material was the east end. He explained that everything saw a gain from Blockade Runner west. In total the east end lost about 70,000 cubic yards. Mr. Way expressed if the Town is losing 70,000 cubic yards per year and every two years they are doing 120,000-180,000 cubic yards, the Town will be okay, but it will not work to share that sand. Town Manager Hewett asked if the loss on the east end is what we usually see on an annual basis. Mr. Way answered other than when placement takes place, we usually don't see any accretion on the east end. Net transport is to the west but can spread to the east a little, especially right after project completion. The Central Reach could have sent some material east but net transport it west. Channel alignment plays a part.

Member Dixon asked other than what is already being done, what can the Town do to make sure we get the sand from project two and project three? She said when you read the articles in the newspaper, you get the impression that Oak Island is getting all the sand. Town Manager Hewett stated that he thinks the most important thing is developing the Town's position officially and that goes toward stating the Town's position.

Chair Myers asked if everyone was clear on the projects. Member Thomas asked for a drawing to show the three projects. Town Manager Hewett illustrated a depiction of the inlet on a dry erase board. He explained the flood shoal and the outer ebb shoal. Member Thomas asked who decides who gets the sand. Mr. Way discussed how the least cost option is Holden Beach. Mr. Way explained that Oak Island went to the Corps and said they would pay for the delta for it to go to them. Mayor Pro Tem Mike Sullivan asked if that weakens the argument for least cost method of disposal for the sand to go to Oak Island. Town Manager Hewett said that regardless of who is paying for it there is a dollar amount. He continued that occurs regardless of whether it gets in the system and goes onto the beach. He said that Oak Island is one mile to get back in the inlet. He stated that if you place at Amazing Grace, it has 9 miles to move around.

There was clarification of projects on the dry erase board. Town Manager Hewett said project two was with the cutter head dredge and showed where the project would be. Town Manager Hewett explained the deepening and widening project would bring approximately 200,000 cubic yards. Member Thomas asked for clarification on timelines for the project two and project three. Member Dixon asked if Oak Island would need to get a permit for project three. Mr. Way said with project three they could go through the permitting process. Otherwise they could piggyback on the Corps efforts like Holden Beach has done. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that the goal at the New Bern meeting will be to reiterate with the Corps that the county does not speak for us and we need to have them talk to both towns. Mr. Way said the Corps has a system and we should continue with what the Corps has done in the past. He stated that Oak Island needs to look at other sources. Town Manager Hewett said we need to set a policy statement by the commissioners to eliminate any misinformation in the papers and to apprise the county of Holden Beach's position. Member Dixon said she is concerned about time being of the essence.

Vice Chair Pearson asked if Oak Island has to have a permit to participate in the Lockwood Folly crossing. Town Manager Hewett stated that is one way, but through the State's Shallow Draft Inlet Fund by passing through the MOA, depending on where they want to place it, they might be able to piggyback on the Corps federal authorization. Town Manager Hewett said we have done it both ways in the past. Mr. Way said that all the Corps' federal authorizations were done in the 70's. He said the Corps doesn't have a figure that says why sand can be placed in certain areas, they go by these past authorizations. He continued that sometimes they have grey areas. He said that Oak Island had requested to have the primary bid, the base bid. He said the Corps usually does not like to do more paperwork. Chair Myers asked if we know why Oak Island is making war with their neighbor. Member Dixon suggested they want to get it any way they can. Mr. Way said if you are a geologist, in regard to the flood shoal, Oak Island is saying that half the sand in the inlet came from Oak Island and half came from Holden Beach, therefore they own half the sand. Member Dixon asked if there is any value in making an argument about how long we have been paying to maintain that inlet. Mr. Way expressed that we could make the same argument about the Shallotte Inlet. He said it is a myopic point of view and almost claiming ownership of sand. He said Oak Island may have a bad taste in their mouth from battling with Bald Head. Member Dixon asked if it is the thought this resolution would be a position statement and that then would go to the county and Corps. Town Manager Hewett said he would assume the commissioners would use it to inform the county, the Corps, and the State. He continued that because it is real easy to say Oak Island take half and Holden take half if you don't understand how it works, specifics should be backed up by current engineering facts. Mr. Way expressed what was weird was that Oak Island was talking about 2014 and 2015 data they were using to discuss their hot spot. Member Thomas asked if we do transects every thousand feet, who is doing Oak Island's. Mr. Way answered that the Town does a few on the west end of Oak Island to gain information on the Lockwood Folly Inlet. Town Manager Hewett said just to be correct we have been running a few transects across Oak Island but that is to help us understand the inlet.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH'S POSITION ON THE LWF INLET

A draft resolution was provided by the staff and used as a starting point for discussion. The board made clerical changes and made suggestions for improving language about cost to the Town for maintaining the inlet in the past and that we continue to plan on it based on the Town's adopted budgets. Impacts to the east end without sand placement on Holden Beach were discussed. Mayor Holden provided the address for Amazing Grace to allow for a physical address to be put on the eastern most property on Holden Beach in the resolution. Historical erosion rates were also discussed. Member Thomas asked about expanding on the verbiage on the second page of the resolution to express our concerns on the deepening and widening project. Commissioner Kwiatkowski suggested that the end of the resolution needs to have further refinement that if the deepening and widening project happens despite increased risk and cost, then the Town's position should state that we should get the sand. Town Manager Hewett said it could be accomplished by adding the words now let it be further resolved that, and make the statement. Permitting, modeling, and costs surrounding the deepening and widening project were discussed. Staff was directed to make changes and prep for the commissioners' consideration.

Motion by Member Dixon to approve the resolution with the boards' input provided and the staff should make modifications to present to the Board of Commissioners, second by Member Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION TO LONG TERM BEACH PLAN

Chair Myers wanted to get more into this after everyone had an opportunity to complete their drive. She said it should focus on how to protect and advance the Town's \$15 million dollar investment. She would like to include the future state of the beach and goals such as a healthy, stable, vegetated dune, inlet to inlet. She said the next large nourishment will be Central Reach Two. Vice Chair Pearson said he reviewed other towns and he is working to prepare a mission statement to further refine what this board is trying to do. He said he was hoping to do get one out for the board to review. He read examples from other communities. He continued that for the next meeting he will draw up a mission statement for presentation. He said part of the mission is to be fiscally responsible and come up with ideas. Member Thomas asked about ATM's long term plan and the difference in this long term plan. Town Manager Hewett stated that in setting up the board and calling the joint meeting, the commissioners have established the purposes of the board, anything outside of that is probably outside what the IBPB has been told to do. The long term beach plan came out of the meeting as something that was supposed to be put into place. Town Manager Hewett said the long term plan from ATM probably needs to be updated. He said the long term plan has three legs on the stool, federal projects, state's intermediary projects and the local contributions. There are also long term planning pieces where the Inlet Beach Protection Board has a possible impact in regard to fleshing out the fiscal side of it and where they could meld together.

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF THE MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Myers asked the board members if the schedule of the fourth Thursday at 10 a.m. works for the board and if not, is there a time that does work. Town Manager Hewett suggested that day and time were selected as a matter of staff convenience. Member Dixon said she does still work but the 10 a.m. meeting will work with her schedule. Member Dixon said she can't make it to the next scheduled meeting, September 27, 2018. She asked about trying to reschedule for the third week in September. A special meeting was discussed. Town Manager Hewett said the Coastal Resource Commission meeting is September 20th and 21st. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson also clarified that September 19th was the Brunswick Shoreline Meeting and there is also a League of Municipalities meeting scheduled for the end of the week. Chair Myers asked if the resolution can be taken up at a special meeting earlier than the 18th. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said that the Town is trying to take care of resolutions at regular meetings. Member Thomas asked if details on upcoming meetings can be [Inlet and Beach Protection Board 8/23/2018]

sent out. Town Manager Hewett asked if anything came out of the agenda meetings of the MOA to have approval to add to the resolution. It was decided to continue to keep meeting the fourth Thursday at 10 a.m. Member Dixon asked about the Thanksgiving and Christmas meetings falling on that day and the board would need to modify. Town Manager Hewett asked that the staff be able to look at their schedules and it needs to be tabled until next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Myers wanted to make everyone aware to keep up with Carteret County Beach News. The Brunswick Shoreline Protection meeting is September 19, 2018 at the County Complex. She asked who plans to attend? She said a potential for a quorum exist. Town Manager Hewett said the town clerk could send something out that a potential for a quorum exists. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the NC Beach Inlet and Waterway Association meeting is November 13, 2018 and November 14, 2018. She continued the Town is sponsoring a break one day. Vice Chair Pearson asked about dividing and conquering for the Coastal Resource Commission and Brunswick Shoreline. Town Manager Hewett said probably dividing and conquering were a good thing but the board may want to look at the agendas and see which are more relevant. He continued they may want to give a report back to this board at the September meeting and make the entire board aware. He said the CRC advisory panel meets prior to the CRC meeting and the agenda is published on the Department of Environmental Quality website.

CONSENSUS OF REPORT TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Myers told the board she typed up a memo and she wanted to make sure the IPBP agrees with the points.

- Lockwood Folly Inlet Dredging- asked that draft resolution be placed on the September 18, 2018 agenda.
- Annual Beach Monitoring Report – heard from Mr. Way about annual report and heard about LWF inlet projects
- The board made plans for future internal and external meetings and intent for involvement goals were discussed at the meeting

Motion by Vice Chair Pearson to adopt the memo as the consensus report, second by Member Dixon; approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Dixon to adjourn at noon, second by Member Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.