



RESOLUTION 18-10

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH'S POSITION ON LOCKWOOD FOLLY INLET NAVIGATION MAINTENANCE AND ASSOCIATED LEAST COST METHOD OF DISPOSAL PLACEMENT

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, the Town of Holden Beach, NC (the Town) is a barrier island community located in Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Holden Beach barrier island is a west to east oriented island, bounded by the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) on the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the south facing the Long Bay region of Brunswick County, the Shallotte Inlet to the west and the Lockwood Folly (LWF) Inlet to the east; and

WHEREAS, Holden Beach's East End has the largest historical erosion rates on the island, with twenty-seven (27) oceanfront homes having been lost since 1993 due to erosion; and

WHEREAS, fifteen (15) years of annual monitoring data for Holden Beach show that the East End loses approximately 60,000 cubic yards (cy) of sand per annum, a number consistent with monitoring data showing loss of 67,000 cy between East End monitoring stations (264 Ocean Blvd East to 500 feet east of 337 Ocean Blvd East) over the last year; and

WHEREAS, the LWF Inlet is a federally authorized navigation channel maintained by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the AIWW Inlet Crossing navigation channel is also maintained by the USACE; and

WHEREAS, dredging of certain sections of the AIWW, i.e., the "inlet crossing", has provided beach compatible sand via the least cost method of disposal for USACE projects; and

WHEREAS, referencing the NC Beach and Inlet Management Plan (BIMP), Table VIII-16. Summary of Beach Nourishment Data-Region 1, Holden Beach was first nourished in 1971; and

WHEREAS, referenced sources of historical nourishment according to the BIMP Table VIII-17. Historical Borrow Sources-Region 1 Beaches include the Holden Beach Waterways and the shoals of the LWF Inlet; and

WHEREAS, the Town has historically received and participated in navigation maintenance of the LWF Inlet; and

WHEREAS, the Town has contributed significant funding for many years to piggyback on AIWW/LWF Inlet dredging projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town's commitment to navigation maintenance is supported by our long-term beach plan and yearly budget plans; and

WHEREAS, the Town's consultant engineer, Applied Technology Management (ATM) advises that sand placement on Holden Beach as part of the AIWW/LWF crossing project is critical as a storm damage reduction effort for the East End; and

WHEREAS, the Town has consistently been the recipient of sand via least cost method of disposal for the AIWW Inlet Crossing Project since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the stability of the Town's East End depends on the least cost method of placement at a minimum every two years as a result of the AIWW/LWF Inlet Crossing Project; and

WHEREAS, the Town's East End last received sand in March 2017.

LET IT FURTHER BE KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, on Oak Island, a barrier island to the East of Holden Beach, spring 2017 – spring 2018 data from monitoring Oak West Stations 3 - 7 (6961 King Lynn Drive to 5701 West Beach Drive) lost 35,000 cy of upper beach measured down to -5 ft. but actually saw a net gain in sediment of 96,000 cy measured down to -12 ft.; and

WHEREAS, natural nearshore transport of sand via littoral drift occurs from east to west in Long Bay, making sand placement on the West End of Oak Island of time-limited benefit while increasing the negative impact on the LWF Inlet; and

WHEREAS, LWF outer ebb shoal sediment will travel naturally to Holden Beach via littoral drift and by taking this material and placing it elsewhere the East End could be negatively impacted; and

WHEREAS, sand placed on the East End of Holden Beach travels through the natural nearshore transport system via littoral drift and establishes storm damage reduction barriers along the nine mile stretch of beach as an added benefit; and

WHEREAS, direct sand placement via hydraulic dredging (pipeline) on Holden Beach is the preference of the Town to enhance storm damage protection, create habitat and provide increased recreation and tourism related opportunities; and

WHEREAS, an alternative LWF Inlet deepening and widening project as proposed by Brunswick County causes concern to the Town's consultant engineer ATM in regards to possible adverse effects to the East End of Holden Beach, including accelerated erosion, loss of habitat, negative impact on tourism, need for placement of sandbags and eventual possibility of loss of structures; and

WHEREAS, no historical monitoring or state of the art modeling data has been produced to demonstrate the benefits of such a project outweigh the risk of adverse effects; and

WHEREAS, the deepening and widening project is estimated at a total cost of \$4,132,000, with state grant assistance requested by Brunswick County in the amount of \$2,754,650 and a local match of \$1,377,350 with Brunswick County participating at a rate yet to be determined; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the proposed alternative LWF Inlet deepening and widening project is not deemed as fiscally achievable in the current operating budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach that it is in the best interest of the Town to continue with the navigation maintenance and beach nourishment efforts that have proven historically effective in mitigating East End erosional issues. The AIWW Inlet Crossing Project is of the utmost importance to the Town of Holden Beach to remain on a cycle of every two years for this purpose, and placement on Holden Beach follows the USACE's fiscal responsibility to utilize least cost method of disposal for their projects.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that before a decision on the deepening and widening project does occur, it must be supported by a data driven cost benefit analysis that includes possible environmental impacts. If the decision is taken to move forward with the project, it is critical that Holden Beach be the recipient of the sand. Without significant monitoring data to prove no adverse effects to Holden Beach by placement of sand on a neighboring beach, the Town supports ATM's position that placement anywhere other than Holden Beach would cause adverse impacts to our East End.

This the 5th day of October, 2018.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk