



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018 10 A.M.**

The Inlet and Beach Protection Board (IBPB) of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 20, 2018 in the Town Hall Public Assembly.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Present were: Chair Vicki Myers, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, and Members Ronda Dixon and Dean Thomas. Member Richard Rice was unable to attend the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Member Dixon to approve the agenda; second by Member Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Vice Chair Pearson to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 29, 2018; second by Member Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.

STATUS OF BEACH AND INLETS

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that the beach expert from FEMA conducted his Florence and Michael assessment on the same day but kept the two storms separate for paperwork accounts. She continued that he advised us that due to new FEMA regulations we would need to run the survey transects we completed further out to depth of closure. The survey crews are trying to complete that work prior to the holidays. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson continued that she spoke to Brennan Dooley with the Corps yesterday about an update on the AIWW crossing project contract. The pre-con meeting was scheduled for yesterday, December 19, 2018, with the contractor. She said if the Corps felt like the environmental windows were conducive to cut the contractor loose, the Corps was going to plan to meet with both communities about the bend widener. Finally, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that in attending the Shallow Draft MOA Meeting the day prior, the Town became aware that the rates for the Merritt are going to \$20,500 per day which is actually more than the Murden at \$19,200, both based on 12 hour days. She said that according to the current schedule the Corps has the Merritt coming in mid-May to do dredging. They were supposed to come after the Merritt got out of dock for repairs for a test but that has not occurred to date.

Member Dixon asked for more information about the inlet crossing contract. Town Manager Hewett said he assumes the Marine Corps is going to have priority with the project. He continued that depending on how long that takes, it could impact the ability to do anything else with the projects. He

stated it's the first of January and it will be 100 days of dredging. He said it is a small pipeline dredge and mobilization is different than the Corps' plant and more involved.

Town Manager Hewett said the additional survey work for the storms has been completed and submitted to the engineer as of yesterday. Chair Myers asked if he would go back and recalculate from depth of closure and add those losses on. Town Manager Hewett said the engineer will stitch them on to what was previously calculated and come up with the additional amount. Chair Myers asked if the Town had any plans on how to spend FEMA money we might receive. Town Manager Hewett said first you have to execute a project by the Town and then submit for reimbursement, but prior to that you have to get approved. He said for Florence the beach technical advisory consultant has submitted paperwork, but not in final form for project worksheets because of the additional data that is needed. Town Manager Hewett said it makes economic sense to him to marry them together for economies of scale, but we will have to see how that plays out. Member Dixon asked if it was possible that the deeper and wider project would qualify for that. Town Manager Hewett said that is a navigation project and it doesn't reach the standard required by FEMA as an engineered beach project as it stands today. Chair Myers asked for clarification that we can't put it into the inlet hazard area. Town Manager Hewett said it is a hypothetical and he would loathe to make a dangerous guess on where the inlet hazard area would end up. Chair Myers said to rephrase you can't put FEMA sand in an inlet hazard area. Town Manager Hewett said the inlet hazard area is a N.C. rule. He said the Corps' authorization to the navigation project is pretty much Amazing Grace back toward town hall and the SDI-5 permit mimics that. Chair Myers asked if the inlet hazard area changes and moves further west does that affect our placement of sand in that area. Town Manager Hewett said he would rather not speculate. He thinks our efforts on the inlet hazard area would be more wisely spent by engaging in the process of the inlet hazard review.

Chair Myers asked about a modeling update from Fran Way. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that he was working on it but from the information she had just received, his mother has passed. Town Manager Hewett said it should be complete by the end of January.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CALLOBORATION WITH UNCW

Member Thomas said he met with Professor Backstrom from UNCW and that he has a list of things the professor might be able to help the Town with. He said Professor Backstrom was asked about the possibility of coming to the next meeting to present the list and Member Thomas asked if Chair Myers could send out the list of possible items UNCW may be able to assist with. He also asked if the professor could receive a beach tour. Chair Myers asked him to explain how the collaboration started with UNCW. Member Thomas gave some background on meeting Professor Backstrom at the meeting in Carolina Beach where he gave a presentation on Hurricane Matthew's impact. He discussed buoy data off the coast of Wilmington and a map showed a buoy near Holden Beach. He continued that Commissioner Freer and he went up to meet Professor Backstrom to talk about storms and buoys. Member Thomas said they tried to stress the Town already has an engineer and organization that does a lot of good work and this would be to enhance those efforts. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the information should be sent to her and she would get it out to the group and facilitate an invite to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION AND PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PLAN

Chair Myers said when the agenda setting meeting was held, Town Manager Hewett had some ideas. The links for sample plans were discussed. Town Manager Hewett said the Town's plan goes back to 2009 and it is dated a bit now. He continued that it is and was a foundation document for a lot of the things we have done. He said it probably has a lot of now historical and source data to evolve into a new version. There was a discussion of other plans. Town Manager Hewett said from the minutes of the previous meeting, Member Dixon had stated that she wondered how the group would work on it. Town Manager Hewett stated it would be important to have a facilitator as the board is coming up with ideas. He thinks otherwise it can get confusing. Town Manager Hewett said he spoke to Johnny Martin at the Shallow Draft Inlet meeting the day before and he is the person who facilitated Carteret County's plan. Town Manager Hewett said from his experience of working on master plans you have to have someone run that. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that she liked how North Topsail Beach included ideas of costs in their plans but she thought it was bold to state sources of money and she would hope this board would not reference getting grant funds ahead of that occurring in the Town's plan. Chair Myers liked how North Topsail had alternatives in their plan to send to their commissioners. She agrees with what Assistant Town Manager Ferguson was saying about listing funding sources. Town Manager Hewett pointed out that ATM is also North Topsail Beach's consultant engineer. Member Thomas said he thought the plans the board reviewed were lacking in the future. He would like to see five and ten year goals. He said they had what they have been doing up until now. He said it says what they are going to do it every two years. He thinks there should be some sort of framework for the future. Chair Myers said as a Town, for example, 10 years from now we are going to have a big expense that we need to be planning for. Member Thomas said sea level rise needs to be addressed. Chair Myers said another thing she didn't see that she thinks needs to be a part of a plan is goals and future state. She gave examples of what goals might be like enhance the beach, dune and inlet systems; create a strong healthy, vegetated dune system from inlet to inlet to protect life and property. Discussion came up about how goals should be handled among the group. The board was tasked with sending their goals to Assistant Town Manager Ferguson so she could include them in the next agenda packet. Town Manager Hewett said he would suggest as a short-term goal you should get your goals in for the next meeting. He said the prime directive from the Board of Commissioners was to create a master plan. He said he didn't think it was fair to put it on the backs of the board or the staff to develop a document. He said the technical aspects of assembling the document is a big thing. He went into how big a project it was. He said the Carteret County plan took two years to develop. He continued that it is not going to be able to be done outside a public meeting. Member Dixon said she wanted to understand at a basic level how they are going to physically work on the document. Town Manager Hewett said you guys are not going to be able to do it outside a public meeting. You are going to have to have someone put that together for you. Chair Myers said she guesses what she is hearing is that Town Manager Hewett needs to get a cost for a facilitator. Member Dixon asked if it would be ATM since they know the most about our beach. Town Manager Hewett said ATM is our engineering firm. Chair Myers explained how it happens with the Land Use Plan (LUP). Town Manager Hewett said the difference in the two is that the LUP is really a new start document because the information in it is really old. He said with the beach plan, you have year old data with the surveys that have been collected. Chair Myers said the method would be the same, the process would be different but we would be saying what the outline would look like. Member Thomas said there are goals but before the goals there is a

framework. Chair Myers talked about the inlets and three sections of beach that were referenced at the last meeting. She said she feels there would be a lot of appendices with hurricane information and dredging history. Member Thomas said the framework is before the goals list. Chair Myers said she completed an outline that she can send to Assistant Town Manager Ferguson to send out. She discussed items that were on her outline. Member Thomas said he would love to see that and give feedback, but that it sounds like we have to get someone in to do facilitation. Town Manager Hewett said he wants to see what he can do with the plan and ATM. Chair Myers said if Mr. Way with ATM doesn't have the capacity, or the funds are not there, she has background working on plans. Member Thomas asked how we move forward and how it would work. Town Manager Hewett said that he is going to advise against the chair preparing the document because it is going to degrade her capacity as a member of the board in contributing to the plan. He said it is important for Chair Myers to divorce herself from the process as the chair so that she can participate. Town Manager Hewett said he will figure out how to deal with the costs if it's an issue.

Chair Myers asked for any additional pros and cons of the Town's plan. Town Manager Hewett said that the data in the Town's plan is dated. He said it has good baseline with functionally, relevant material. He doesn't think it is the best outline. He continued the organization of it is probably not as articulate as we would like it to be. Chair Myers said it is not as robust as other plans either. Town Manager Hewett said it was the first attempt at crafting one, but is not the template that he believes is worthy of this attempt. This is the outline of the Town's existing report. Member Thomas said it was a good start. He said ATM is usually so thorough he goes right to the summary and he thinks it is a good beginning. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson asked that whatever needed to go out to the group be sent to her today or tomorrow if the group wants it before the holidays.

DISCUSSION REGARDING BUDGET ITEMS FOR FY 19-20

Chair Myers said it is budget season coming up and they have talked about things that they would like to see. She would like to discuss things they would like to see make it into the budget. Chair Myers referenced seacoast plants of the Carolinas. She mentioned adding a variety of plants to build dunes better. She questioned if we should add in bitter panicum or seashore elder in particular. She talked about wanting more plantings and repair of the areas damaged by the hurricane. She spoke about the blue mats. She also referenced the trenching that occurs with low spots and the effect of storms in those areas. She wondered if additional mats were a solution. She mentioned additional monitoring on the west end and any collaboration with UNCW. She suggested the signs that say keep off the dunes be replaced. She suggested that the board compile a list of what they would like to see. Further examples were discussed including pre and post measurements with mats. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson spoke about the mats that the Town purchased this year and their costs. Town Manager Hewett said we do make considerations each year for the budget. He said you have varying types of situations and perhaps there is an additional perspective the board can provide. He said it is more than putting money in the budget for plantings, it is considering the holistic, broader benefit and having dialogue regarding that. Member Dixon said she assumes overall we do find that the mats help with trenching. Town Manager Hewett said that we are limited with handicapped access to the beach and it was initially to help with ADA compliance and mobility challenge issues. He said we started out experimentally and they were well received. He asked with the wider beach and the ordinances, do we need to add more mats and have we done something well intended that has a consequence. He said it is worth dialogue. Chair Myers said her thought is when you watch the budget process for the Town it is good to get the

items in ahead of time. She talked about amounts and mixes for plantings. Town Manager Hewett said a lot of times we think it's the right thing, but we can take suggestions. Chair Myers said the Beach Nourishment Association is doing fertilizing in the spring but asked what if the Town wanted to fertilize in the fall. She said she is a huge fan of fertilization because she can see on her dune how effective it is. Chair Myers said if you pick different plants they grew different types of dunes. Member Thomas stated that one of UNCW's proposals is to do a complete island survey so there was a map to know what is growing where to facilitate this conversation in the future. Town Manager Hewett said that dovetails well into the ATM monitoring report. He said there are more than 50 acres that are owned by NC State on the west end. He continued that some collaboration to do those types of investigations may be good. Vice Chair Pearson said he has done some research on mats on our beach. There is definitely trenching if you don't have mats. How locations were determined was discussed to be based on CAMA guidance from Town staff. Chair Myers said if an access does not get used often there may not be a need to have one there. Town Manager Hewett said there may be opportunities on private walkways to mimic our mats but its case dependent. He said we get inquiries quite frequently from subdivisions. If we have a programmatic in a document it could be helpful in regard to suggestions for private accesses. Chair Myers said her goal is if you say you want a strong vegetated dune it is because you are building a dike in case a storm comes. She said you have to look at how to achieve each goal. Member Thomas stated that we don't have a plan yet, and don't have goals yet, and asked how they can give recommendations on the budget for the upcoming year. Town Manager Hewett said he thinks you can, if you focus on near-term things being taken care of. An example was given of the current beach contractor giving an estimate on incorporating a variety of plants. Town Manager Hewett said it might be beneficial for the contractor to come in and give a general presentation to the board. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said she would also suggest this board do a field trip to the facility in the spring.

Member Thomas asked for a break. The group took a break at 11:10 a.m.

The board reconvened at 11:16 a.m. Vice Chair Pearson said he will look at mats. Chair Myers will come back with something on plants. Member Thomas said there is some hourly costs for assistance from UNCW. Chair Myers mentioned additional monitoring on the west end. Town Manager Hewett said he will look at additional surveys. He found it ironic that the satellite pictures that are in the portfolio specifically for the Shallotte Inlet give a really good perspective. Chair Myers said they needed to indicate how many people are going to attend conferences. Member Thomas proposed they talk about each of the meetings ahead of time and decide who goes and query the Town folks. Member Dixon said she thought the Carolina Beach meeting was good for everyone to be there. Town Manager Hewett said we try to marry those training programs up with our professional development hour requirements and develop program costs that way. He said we would like to make some assumptions that there would be appointed board presence of one or two at each meeting. He said from a budgetary standpoint that is how we would handle it. Chair Myers said she did think it was beneficial to attend North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Water Association (NCBIWA) and Charleston.

IBPB ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER GROUPS

Chair Myers suggested a point person for groups. She queried the board if they would you like to do it on a case by case basis. Member Thomas said they all sort of seem the same. He said AIWA was a more broad meeting where the local meetings are where the agencies are talking dollars and cents. Town Manager Hewett said the more intrinsic benefit is the practical matter on a broader scope; the people

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that are attending are not the same people. He continued the value is not what happens during the meeting presentations but the relationships that are established in the hallways during the meetings. He said it is critical we have a presence in those forums. He said beach nourishment and inlet issues are long-lived matters and we need to do whatever we can do to associate Holden Beach in those organizations. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said they use to make project rolodexes that can build a list of people that can be beneficial to everybody. Town Manager Hewett said he thought what they were trying to do was to determine who would be the belly button. Chair Myers said if you take NCBIWA for example and the person can't go, then someone else needs to take it. Member Dixon said that people in the audience can go. Member Thomas said let's put some names on the list.

The assignments were as follows:

UNCW- Member Thomas

Brunswick County Shoreline-Chair Myers

North Carolina Beach Inlet and Waterway Association-Vice Chair Pearson

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association-Member Thomas

Coastal Resource Commission- Town Manager Hewett said it is really land use and CAMA- Chair Myers

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association- Member Dixon

South Atlantic Coastal Study- Member Dixon

Conversations with neighboring beach towns were discussed as occurring at the Brunswick County Shoreline Meeting. Chair Myers brought up legislators. Town Manager Hewett said the legislators should be left up to the BOC.

Shallow Draft MOA meeting-Vice Chair Pearson

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Chair Myers said we have a draft of the first version that we have to send out. Member Thomas said it was too high level. He said people care about where they live on the beach and he wants to go to the different sections of the beach. He said the costs seem like they may be startling. Town Manager Hewett said it was an initial fly-by of the newsletter. Member Thomas said it is very high level. Member Thomas asked if you are you going to get people who want to know more. Town Manager Hewett said if this serves as a teaser to get people to get involved with it then that is okay. He continued that we could use this on a trial basis and if we see that something more is needed then we can add additional stuff. Member Dixon said she thinks somebody who doesn't normally participate in Town business will have questions. Chair Myers said she thinks the message she wants everyone to understand is that FEMA will take care of it because we are an engineered beach. Member Thomas said maybe we try it and if we get bombarded then see what happens. Town Manager Hewett said he sees this as a journalism aspect, and as news, and it may not be good news. He stated there are about 10 layers below this and if people want more then they can ask us. He continued that he wants to look at it as an

opportunity to engage with them if they want more information. He said hopefully we get feedback and then we can get information back. He stated he wants to send it out and see what the feedback is. If the board has ideas for what they want to incorporate for the future as topics for importance, they can get those to staff.

Motion by Vice Chair Pearson to send it out; second by Member Thomas. Member Dixon said as a sales person she would have packaged it differently. The board discussed minor changes. Motion passed 3-1 to send out with corrections, with Member Dixon opposing.

INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Myers said the Brunswick County Shoreline Meeting will be January 23rd. She continued that the next meeting of the IBPB will be January 24th at 10 am. The board asked for a spring calendar of meetings for outside groups. She said the links for NCBIWA and AIWA are up for the conferences that were held.

CONSENSUS OF SHORT REPORT TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Inlet and Beach Protection Board met December 20th and the following was discussed:

- Status of Beach and Inlets- the staff provided an update on the beach and inlets
- UNCW- Member Thomas gave updates on his meeting with UNCW. Member Thomas said the next step is to have a UNCW representative attend a meeting
- Comprehensive Long-term Plan- sample reports were reviewed and discussed and use of a facilitator was discussed. A recommendation will be forwarded on
- Budget Items for FY 19-20 - the board discussed budget items they would like to see in the upcoming budget
- Engagement with other groups-in order to increase awareness and efficiency, members volunteered to be representatives to outside groups and keep other board members updated.
- Newsletter-first draft was reviewed and will be distributed
- MOA meeting- members of the board, staff and BOC attended the meeting

Town Manager Hewett asked if the board wanted to add that Steve Mercer would be asked to attend a meeting and a field trip to see his facility would be conducted in the spring. Chair Myers said she would add that under vegetation.

Member Thomas asked about what happened at the BOC meeting with the deeper and wider project. Chair Myers said we had our special meeting and we discussed it in detail and sent a memo. She said she gave a presentation on the memo. She continued there were no questions asked and no vote was taken, but Town Manager Hewett said he is going to communicate our position to the County. Member Thomas said it was discussed and closed.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Commissioner Butler said pertaining to the newsletter update, sometimes it's the good, the bad, and the ugly; but it's a matter of education, transparency, and awareness. He said it is great that the board is going forward to alert the public about what is going on. He said when you go to these meetings things are very strange. He said we had a person coming up to us after the MOA meeting who was from Senator Tillis' office and we took the opportunity to talk about it. He said he got the point. Hopefully he will have an opportunity to discuss it with Mr. Tillis.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Thomas to adjourn at 12:02 p.m.; second by Vice Chair Pearson; approved unanimously.