



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 1:00 P.M.**

The Inlet and Beach Protection Board (IBPB) of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a special meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2019 in the Town Hall Public Assembly.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. Chair Vicki Myers, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, Members Richard Rice and Ronda Dixon were present. Member Dean Thomas was unable to attend.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Motion to approve the agenda by consensus.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Myers stated that the minutes of February 13, 2019 should be changed so that the motion under Discussion Regarding Budget Items for FY 19-20 read a list of items above to be “recommended” instead of “considered”.

*Motion to approve with that change by Member Dixon, second by Vice Chair Pearson; approved by unanimous vote.*

**STATUS OF BEACH AND INLETS**

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that the Florence final numbers are in after all additional work requested by FEMA was completed and they have been submitted to FEMA. She said we are awaiting a project worksheet from FEMA on Florence for Category G (Beach Project). She continued the portal opened on Michael and work is beginning on that process as far as FEMA scheduling meetings with applicants. She said that FEMA has been very complimentary of Mr. Way in this process. She continued the Town is awaiting the LWF Interlocal agreement regarding the Deeper-Wider Project from the county. She stated that Mr. Way has completed the modeling runs for the LWF Sediment Project and is working on final analysis points to complete the report that will go to Board of Commissioners. That will be on their agenda for April or May depending on guidance from him. Mr. Way said he is going back to look at the Bald Head Island lawsuit in a separate past project. He wants to conclude arguments. Mr. Way said the data shows the east end of Holden Beach is five times more erosional than the west end of Oak Island. He said at the same time there are times when the Corps is saying wherever the sand comes from, that is where it should go back. He said that shouldn't be the case here. He is looking at other precedents. Mr. Way stated that prior to 2013 when the state came in, least cost method of disposal was the precedent. Town Manager Hewett said since this effort is directly related to budget items, if

there is urgency and it needs to come before the commissioners before the May meeting, it may be presented during a budget meeting. Chair Myers inquired if Oak Island got their permit. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that to her knowledge they got their CAMA permit. Chair Myers asked about Oak Island piggybacking on the AIWW Crossing project. Staff responded they were not sure that timing was going to work out for Oak Island to piggyback based on environmental windows. Chair Myers asked about how much sand was removed and placed with the Murden. Staff responded that the information, including drop points, has been requested from the Corps so that it can be included in our annual beach monitoring report. Mr. Way said the Corps stated that about 24,000 cubic yards was removed with the Murden and that the Merritt moved about 17,000 cubic yards. Member Dixon asked about the Inlet Hazard Areas maps and consequences for property owners. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson referenced the proposed maps in the Coastal Resource Commission's Agenda packet on their website. Town Manager Hewett said it is a function of the planning and zoning department and how it affects building since it is regulatory in nature. He stated there is a public hearing process that the Coastal Resource Commission (CRC) is setting up with a date to be announced. There was discussion on whether beach nourishment would be affected by the changes. Mr. Way said he didn't think that beach renourishment would be affected by the Inlet Hazard Areas. He thinks it is more structure related. He stated the methodology was not great for the west end of Holden Beach for the vegetation line. Town Manager Hewett said the staff's general opinion is that we don't like the science and staff is going to communicate at the CRC meeting level. Member Dixon asked about the public comment period beginning and Town Manager Hewett said that the next CRC meeting would be April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Manteo.

### **COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PLAN**

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Cathy Foerster with ATM as the facilitator. She said today's meeting would be the first of two working sessions. She stated the packet included her thoughts on how the plan could be organized. The long-term plan was discussed in terms of Ms. Foerster's notes/summary from the first meeting, the framework for the plan and overall plan goals. A yearly review of the plan was discussed. Chair Myers asked if it would be done in conjunction with the annual monitoring report or separately. Ms. Foerster said separately. Resource documents that should be considered as part of the plan were discussed. A major point of conversation regarded the Central Reach Project 2 (CRP2) and how that would be defined. There were questions on whether it is a long-term project or is indeed the remediation efforts for Florence and Michael. It was discussed that CRP2 will be the Florence/Michael remediation and it will occur in the Central Reach Project area. Ms. Foerster covered goals and future state. Dredging costs and projects were discussed. Mr. Way stated that separating costs based on the various funding sources could be difficult. Town Manager Hewett said costs may have to be communicated at a macro level. Borrow areas were explored as well as possible usage of the BOEM mineral management system. Chair Myers talked about the previous sand search and asked questions about borings. She stated she is concerned about the timing for the CRP2. She asked about expediting the sand search and Mr. Way stated that the year estimate is expedited. Permitting was discussed. Mr. Way said that subcontractors' schedules had to be taken into account as well.

The background for the plan was explored as well as overall concepts. Town Manager Hewett said the plan should cover why we are undertaking a plan. Ms. Foerster said she would attach the ordinance as an appendix and reference it in the document. Ms. Foerster brought up goals of board members from

previous meetings. She asked if everyone is on board that a goal should be to protect life and provide safety from storms. She continued there was an economic component as well. She discussed providing and protecting habitat for plants and animals and recreational aspects. Town Manager Hewett asked where infrastructure was going to be included. This was discussed to be from a town owned infrastructure aspect. Additional goals were as follows:

- Recognize and prioritize the importance of beach and dune systems.
- Create and maintain a strong and healthy vegetated dune system from inlet to inlet to protect life, property, infrastructure, and the Town's tax base and revenue sources.
- Protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the inlet, beach and dune systems.
- Promote the wise use of the Town's oceanfront.
- Avoid the use of hard erosion control devices along oceanfront shoreline and encourage the use of soft strategies that can provide shoreline protection without potential long-term effects.
- Encourage the use of erosion control techniques for beach and inlet protection, restoration and monitoring that do not adversely impact the long-term health of the beach and dune systems. It was discussed this should be left open to include evolving and emerging techniques.
- Promote carefully planned nourishment as an option for beach preservation and restoration.
- Encourage intergovernmental coordination and collaboration with academic institutions and non-governmental organizations to enhance the preservation of the inlets, beach and dune systems.
- Establish or enhance guidelines for the emergency management of the beach and dune systems following a significant storm. Ms. Foerster said this is usually a separate plan.

Chair Myers said this was in reference to what was done after Florence and if we covered ourselves and focused on avoiding beach scraping. Mr. Way referenced times that might be needed and didn't want to take it off the table as an emergency response to beach erosion. Town Manager Hewett said what we are looking at here is that the Town of Holden Beach supports an engineered beach that will meet the FEMA standards for reimbursements and also the expansion of those parameters that will allow expanding it. The topic of truck hauling instead of scraping was discussed. Town Manager Hewett said these items have been thought about and the intent of the plan can be to memorialize it. Member Rice asked who owns the plan. He said the IBPB supports the plan but the emergency plan belongs to the Town of Holden Beach. He continued it is not this board's plan. He said the IBPB doesn't write the plan but can support the plan.

Ms. Foerster asked if there were any other board goals that needed to be reviewed.

The different sections of the plan were discussed. Ms. Foerster said Section Two would involve the focus areas and be geography based with street names. She also wants to cover opportunities and constraints as well as management activities to date. She asked for additions for each focus area. Chair Myers said she wondered about funding estimates and options. Ms. Foerster said she will add a 2.1.5.

She will talk about funding options that have worked. She wanted the project and initiatives to be in tabular format. Before the next meeting she will know what the sections will look like. Chair Myers said we have broad goals for the whole beach and asked if we should have them for each section. Ms. Foerster said she is using that in the objective section. She then discussed Section Three and short and long-term goals that will be in tabular format with focus area and timeframe. She said in Section Four we talk about adaptive management and she would like feedback on monitoring and reporting, evaluating progress, and parallel planning activities and collaboration. Town Manager Hewett said we mentioned short and long-term and five and ten year windows. He asked if we are saying everything five and less is short-term and everything between five and ten years is long-term. There was a consensus that would be the case. Ms. Foerster said at this point she wants to understand what the parallel planning might be. She needs more guidance so she knows what to bring back to the group as examples from others and price points. Mr. Way mentioned items from Spencer Roger at Sea Grant. He also asked about the new Land Use Plan. Chair Myers said she can't think of anything that has not been discussed. With the timing of the plan, it was decided the Land Use Plan might not work for comparison against this plan. Ms. Foerster asked about vulnerability assessments and planning and management grants. Town Manager Hewett said he was thinking of how other communities have paid for these types of activities. He also mentioned a comparison of how they are doing things in other states. Member Dixon asked about local options. Town Manager Hewett said he thinks we are at a position in North Carolina where we are going to need to look at other templates to elicit new ideas. Ms. Foerster said she looked at things from DEQ on planning and management grants. She gave examples including a flood study, shoreline erosion, access vulnerability to Town structures and sea level rise. She also talked about regulatory falling under Section Four.

Ms. Foerster mentioned Section Five as potential funding sources. She asked if this is where the board would like to see dredging activities and costs associated with dredging. Chair Myers said it could be an appendix to the plan. Mr. Way said he would suggest looking at things that have come out of the research institute as a potential funding source that is a relatively new thing. Chair Myers said she is open and willing to try new things. Chair Myers asked about increasing the engineered beach and if it would be addressed in the west end and east end section. She said she would like to see increases in the engineered beach discussed as part of this document and not tie into the CRP2. Mr. Way discussed the Central Reach project moving west. Town Manager Hewett said in terms of money for policy and goals statements, there needs to be some language that there is going to have to be federal funding mechanisms, state funding mechanisms, and some type of county burden share. He is thinking policy statements to lay out those types of matters. Ms. Foerster asked where to look for existing policy statements. Town Manager Hewett said other than recent minutes where the BOC has made appropriations to attempt to get federal funding for the east end, those policy documents are probably lacking.

A discussion was held on when information would go out to the board.

#### **INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Myers announced that on March 9, 2019, she and Vice Chair Pearson attended a dune repair workshop. She referenced a report on the trip that was in the agenda packet. She also said they went to Coastal Transplants and the report was in the packet. Finally, she referenced the Washington trip memo from Assistant Town Manager Ferguson. Vice Chair Pearson mentioned the New Bern meeting

that was held the day prior. He talked about the redo on the AIWW Inlet Crossing and said we need to stay on top of that. Chair Myers said she attended the meeting online. Town Manager Hewett said there were some technology issues at the meeting and asked how her online experience was. Chair Myers said she had some issues with hearing questions that were asked. Town Manager Hewett said maybe we can pass that along to the facilitator. Chair Myers continued that the Brunswick Shoreline Protection Meeting was moved to April 3, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the county. She said the next meeting of the IBPB would be April 25, 2019. The North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association Local Government meeting was said to be scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chair Pearson said he and Member Thomas plan to attend but they still need to register.

#### **Consensus of Short Report to the Board of Commissioners**

Chair Myers covered what she had written. She said the following issues and topics were addressed:

She talked about staff giving a report on the overview of the beach and inlets and on Michael and Florence (CRP2). Mr. Way gave a status update on the sediment modeling. The comprehensive long-term plan was discussed and was the major thrust of the meeting. Meetings that board members attended and upcoming meetings were discussed.

*Motion by Member Rice to accept the report, second by Member Dixon; approved unanimously.*

#### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn at 2:57 p.m. by Member Dixon, second by Member Rice; approved by unanimous vote.*