



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 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, April 25, 2019 in the Town Hall Public Assembly.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Present were Chair Vicki Myers, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, Members Dean Thomas and Ronda Dixon.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

STATUS OF BEACH AND INLET

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that the Corps announced an AIWW Inlet Crossing contract with a possible piggyback of the bend widener for the upcoming fiscal year. She said the Town was engaged with the Corps to make them aware of the Town's interest in the project. She continued that ATM plans to present the sediment transport analysis data at the May meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

In regard to the Deeper-Wider Project, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the project will not be occurring in the upcoming fiscal year based on a decision by the Board of Commissioners at the April 12, 2019 budget workshop. She told the board that staff was called to a meeting on April 3, 2019 with the county. The county had concerns about liability and wanted the Town to take the lead as the primary beneficiary of sand from the project. She explained that the upfront cost to the Town to take over the project was \$4,132,000 plus, and secondary to the county de-obligating the grant funding, the Town would have to apply for a grant and receive reimbursements. She said the project would require a major permit modification to the Town's SDI-5 permit. She also said the project was in opposition to the Town's resolution and would place the liability for erosion on the East End solely back on the Town.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the Town's information as far as damage assessments for Florence and Michael is in to FEMA. She continued we are awaiting approved project worksheets from FEMA. She told the board that the Board of Commissioners decided in the April meeting that the

Florence/Michael Remediation should be referenced as CRR instead of CRP2 as the IBPB had discussed last month. She said the long-term plan will need to indicate that change. Town Manager Hewett said everything is submitted on the storms from the Town at this point in time but FEMA could ask for additional items.

The board discussed the obtainment of remaining easements as relates to the AIWW Crossing Project. Chair Myers said she is up to speed but asked the board if they were up to speed on Inlet Hazard Areas.

COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PLAN

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Cathy Foerster as the long-term plan facilitator. She said this is technically the last working meeting before a draft plan comes back. She said she wanted to look at her notes and outline (hereby incorporated into the minutes) to make sure there were no edits that were needed. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson pointed out that CRP2 now needs to be CRR. Chair Myers mentioned that on page two of four, goal #1b talks about bed taxes. She said Ms. Foerster mentions occupancy taxes and bed taxes. Ms. Foerster said Florida had both. The board said that we don't have a bed tax at Holden Beach. Member Thomas asked about the word strengthen under #3, 6, and 7 of goals. Under #9, other towns were mentioned and that was discussed to be intergovernmental. Ms. Foerster said she can elaborate on what non-governmental organizations mean to this board and be more specific in the goal. Member Thomas said in any of the goals he doesn't get what the plan is actually going to do for us. He gave examples of wording that would address that issue. Ms. Foerster said she plans to address that in the why, but if they want it succinctly spelled out as a goal there is no harm and no foul in doing that as well. Town Manager Hewett said from the operator's standpoint he doesn't mind it replicated. Chair Myers asked about overall plan goal #5 and wanted to look at living shorelines along marshes. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson asked about data sources #7 (Holden Beach East End Shore Protection Project) exclusion based on some data being used in a recent discussion on the Deeper-Wider Project. She said she didn't know if they wanted to tie themselves down to saying they didn't want to use that document. Town Manager Hewett said there are six alternatives evaluated in the document and he didn't know if those will come up in the future. Member Dixon said she was not in favor of using it because she thinks the information is dated at this point and was dated a long time ago.

In regard to the annotated outline, Chair Myers asked about what the blue color means. Ms. Foerster explained it was a color coding system for her use. Chair Myers asked about Section Six and if the historic ratio amount of cost sharing could be included. Under Appendices FTP was discussed as file transfer project. Ms. Foerster said there would be a link to one website and the plan would be downloadable. Member Thomas said he struggles with the heading Focus Areas in Section Two. Ms. Foerster explained that 1.2 in Section One (Introduction) is the map with the actual sections of the study areas. Member Thomas said he also struggles with the order. It was also discussed if the flow should be east to west with descriptions or west to east. The board decided it should be east to west. Member Thomas says he struggles with the term borrow area and he would like a description early in the plan that borrow area means sand source. Town Manager Hewett said it might be prudent to look at existing permits to see what the permits reference it as. Ms. Foerster said she wants to talk about Section Four to make sure she has the board's wishes in her outline. She asked if there are other agencies/organizations that she should reference under 4.3. Member Thomas asked why Section Four (Adaptive Management) would come after Section Three (Short-Term and Long-Term Projects and

Initiatives). Ms. Foerster said in Section Two (Focus Areas) she is identifying projects. Section Three will be a pull out take along of the projects again but delineated by area or timeframe. She said the Adaptive Management Section refers you back to the project. She talked about moving Section Three up as part of Section Two with a subsection that has the projects. Member Thomas said that in essence he is thinking that Section Four should become a part of Section Two, but it would be a smaller scale version of Section Two. Ms. Foerster discussed why it might be a wrap up and one of the later chapters in the plan. Adaptive Management would be covered under 1.1.4 as a concept and refer to the later section for elaboration. Under Section Four, Member Thomas would like it to be Evaluate/Update progress instead of just Evaluate progress. He asked as we continue to meet how things will be updated and modified once it is finalized. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson talked about how the funds are budgeted for the yearly update and that it was not included in the FY 19/20 budget. Town Manager Hewett said the board might want to look at the Evaluation/Update after the annual monitoring report comes out. He thinks the monitoring report is the foundation document. In regard to Section Five (Emergency Management), Ms. Foerster said that she separated out emergency measures after a significant storm event. Member Thomas said for this plan, he thinks that the fact the disruptive event happens, effects how we respond and prioritize against the already happening work. Town Manager Hewett asked if it should be called Critical Event Response. Ms. Foerster said we would discuss how to respond to events under this section, as well as our ongoing activities. Section Six (Potential Funding Sources) should include cost-sharing and policy statements. Under Appendices (Technical Data) she asked if there was anything else that needs to be included other than the web link discussed. Chair Myers asked if dredging data could include costs. Town Manager Hewett talked about cost burden share and asked if we are trying to articulate costs in total as compared to dredging costs to the Town, because those are different. The board discussed the history of projects with the information that is known and trying to include a summary for total costs and a breakdown of cost per yard.

In looking at a recap of the goals, Ms. Foerster said she would revise the goal about Emergency Management to Critical Event Response. Under #1b she would remove the reference to bed taxes and for #3, 6, and 7 she would add the word strengthen. She would also include marshes as part of living shorelines, #5. Non-governmental organizations would be spelled out in #9 and she would add #11 to include providing framework for the management, maintenance and restoration of inlets and oceanfront. Member Thomas said he struggles with avoiding the use of hard erosion control devices and gave an example of things used in the Netherlands if sea level rise happens dramatically. Town Manager Hewett said the short answer is that those are not legal today here. The board discussed favoring softer techniques. Town Manger Hewett said in interpreting what he has heard from the BOC they don't like the term hardened erosion control devices. Chair Myers mentioned inclusion of other local governments in long-range regional planning. Member Thomas said that the staff should be getting credit for what they do and there should be an area for mentioning attending meetings. Town Manager Hewett said he likes the idea of including meetings as behaviors we should be perpetuating to further the Town's agenda. He continued the networking results that come out of meetings are not always directly attributable to those. Ms. Foerster said she would add encourage and participate in intergovernmental long-range planning under #9.

The map for focus areas was discussed as the management plan study area. Ms. Foerster said the edit Mr. Way made was a change to include the three mile line per Town Manager Hewett. Chair Myers brought up that the map needs to match the numbers that align with the portions of the beach. Chair

Myers asked about the west end going past 1337 OBW to 1357 OBW and McCray Street having a physical address. Having sand sources that we would use and own in one color and other possibilities we don't own in different shades was discussed. It was also suggested that the legend needs to be simplified and maybe label it sand sources or borrow areas. Ms. Foerster asked if we really want to just include those that are available to use. Town Manager Hewett discussed the sites that he knew were viable. Ms. Foerster said she will make a note for Mr. Way to review and make comments and she will bring that information next month. Chair Myers said people get confused about the main ebb, the throat, flood channels, the inlet crossing and the bend widener. Town Manager Hewett said if you are going to do the Lockwood Folly Inlet in those terms, then you need to do the Shallotte Inlet as well. He said there are better diagrams in the 2009 plan. He suggested checking with Mr. Way for a map and description of the Ocean Isle project.

Ms. Foerster referenced the worksheets that she and Mr. Way prepopulated based on existing information and previous meeting notes. She talked about the descriptions, actions, and metrics. It was discussed doing them east to west for the plan but in the order they were in the agenda packet for this exercise. Central Reach was discussed first. Chair Myers had a question under actions about walkway improvements. Vice Chair Pearson said the Town-owned walkways look good, but private walkways may need work. He doesn't see how the Town can regulate what private property owners can do. Member Dixon said she had problems over the last eight years with private walkways and determining ownership. She discussed deeds and having access. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that walkways fall under the Building and Inspections Department. Chair Myers talked about people walking over dunes but it was discussed that property owners do not have to build walkways. Under Actions Needed, Town Manager Hewett said we need to make sure that there is capability to have an annual budget to react to critical events. Ms. Foerster asked about the dune vegetative monitoring and if it had been approved. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated we would not know until the budget is passed but the vegetation contractor had been made aware that we wanted to look at a possible variety this upcoming year. Number Four in vegetation enhancements was discussed. Coordination with Brunswick County Soil and Water or NCSU was discussed after vegetation is identified by UNCW. Number Five primary dune enhancement/secondary dune placement was highlighted by Member Thomas as a section to talk about breaches, the dune situation and how to evaluate where those are occurring. It was discussed by Ms. Foerster to be part of our wish list. Walkways were discussed again. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said we currently budget one repair and one rebuild per year for Town walkways. She said she wasn't sure the board could do anything about private walkways. Ms. Foerster suggested it be Town-owned by definition. Vice Chair Pearson said it should focus on Town-owned and then a statement that encourages private property owners to keep up their walkways. Ms. Foerster said she and Mr. Way would talk through triggers and metrics for upcoming projects related to the plan and bring something back to the board.

The East End Section was discussed next in regard to upcoming projects. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that the engineered beach status for the East End in the short-term was directly tied to the Deeper-Wider Project which is now not occurring. The AIWW Inlet Crossing Project and piggybacking on the bend widener was suggested as the closest possibility of a short-term project for the East End. Chair Myers mentioned it was in the LWF Inlet Section now. The board discussed it going in both sections. The role of lobbyist under #3 was discussed and possibly using the word advocate instead of lobbyist. Monitoring as a permit condition was discussed. An "engineered beach" staying in

as a wish list item even though the Deeper-Wider Project has been eliminated was examined. Town Manager Hewett explained how an engineered beach status might occur including adding a template for the East End in the permit renewal process. Chair Myers questioned if current and proposed erosion rates should be included in a description. Town Manager Hewett advised against including anything that was proposed because it might not happen and hadn't been approved yet. Member Thomas suggested the current rates be included in the intro section in the table. Town Manager Hewett suggested adding the word "beach" under description when discussing erosion rates to differentiate beach erosion.

Ms. Foerster asked about monitoring in action #1 and Assistant Town Manager Ferguson answered that additional monitoring for the West End was proposed in the upcoming fiscal year budget. Engineered beach status at the West End was discussed. Town Manager Hewett said he thought it would be a hard sell because of how far it is to the houses from the high tide mark. The sand that is put on the East End moves to the west. Item #6, the Island Forest with NCSU, was discussed.

The LWF Inlet Section was to include reference to the upcoming AIWW Inlet Crossing Project. Ms. Foerster asked about changes to the inlet under Action #4 and if it was included in the upcoming budget year. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that was included but ARGOS cameras would not be. The board wanted to put those on the wish list for the future. Town Manager Hewett said he would like to see it worked in that if easements are required for projects, they are perpetual in nature because it is a waste of money and waste of time to go back.

In the Shallotte Inlet Section monitoring was discussed. Ms. Foerster said she wasn't sure how status of Terminal Groin for Ocean Isle would translate into a project. Town Manager Hewett said it is a matter of keeping an eye on it, if it is constructed, in regard to monitoring. He continued that we are including additional transects in the budget to provide a historical perspective. Past dredging of the area was discussed.

In the Borrow Areas Section/ Sand Sources, Ms. Foerster talked about the actions section identifying areas because the proposal for the sand search was executed. The increased monitoring was discussed for transects again on the West End. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that the additional monitoring that the board requested, if approved in the upcoming fiscal budget, would not show up in the October 2019 report but in the October 2020 report. Ms. Foerster mentioned the funding policy statement and said based on today's feedback it would include referencing budget in place to react to critical events and monitoring. Town Manager Hewett said he thought about significant legislative efforts and wondered if the avenues to do this should be specified. He listed examples. He asked for the board's feedback on the level of detail or leave it alone in regard to legislative efforts. Ms. Foerster asked if it should be in the goal statements instead of in the funding policy portion to have more weight. Town Manager Hewett said he likes the idea of having high visibility on it because those types of things would be integrative efforts that are legislative and they are public body policy issues. Ms. Foerster said she would update the table of proposed projects and initiatives.

INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Myers said she attended the Brunswick Shoreline Protection Consortium. Holden Beach was well represented. The Corps was not there and other beach towns had limited attendance. She would like to see this group flourish. The next IBPB meeting was announced to be May 23rd. It was stated that the NCBIWA Local Government Meeting will be April 29th and 30th in Emerald Island. The next Brunswick

Shoreline Protection Consortium meeting was announced to be June 5, 2019. The NCBIWA regular meeting will be November 12th and 13th. Chair Myers said that Member Richard Rice sent his resignation from the board to her and she will send it to the Town Clerk. ASBPA was discussed to be October 22-25, 2019 in Myrtle Beach.

CONSENSUS OF SHORT REPORT TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair Myers stated that the IBPB met April 25th and the following issues and topics were discussed:

Staff provided an overview of conditions and issues relative to the beach strand and inlets. The status of the Florence and Michael remediation project, recently named the Central Reach Reimbursement Project, including sand sourcing, was discussed. The Deeper-Wider Project has been canceled. Work continues with obtaining easements from East End property owners to allow sand placement in the future. The main thrust of the meeting was the long-term plan led by Cathy Foerster, AICP, Senior Planner and Facilitator with ATM. Meetings board members attended, including the Brunswick Shoreline Protection Meeting, and upcoming meetings were discussed. Member Rice plans to move to Florida and has submitted his resignation, effective April 30th. Member Thomas suggested adding that excellent progress was made on the plan and a first draft would be upcoming for the next meeting.

Chair Myers asked if there was a motion to adopt this as amended. Motion by Member Thomas, second by Member Dixon; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Chair Pearson to adjourn at 12:14 p.m., second by Member Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.