



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 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, August 22, 2019 in the Town Hall Public Assembly.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Chair Vicki Myers, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, Members Ronda Dixon, Dean Thomas, and Tim Gible. Town Manager Hewett and Assistant Town Manager Ferguson were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Chair Myers asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Town Manager Hewett said administratively approval of minutes from the prior meeting should come before the long-term plan just in case there was an argument about what happened. He recommended switching items #3 and #4.

Motion to approve the agenda (with changes suggested by Town Manager Hewett) by Member Gible; second by Member Dixon; approved unanimously.

Motion by Member Thomas to approve the minutes (6/27/19); second by Vice Chair Pearson, approved unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PLAN

Member Thomas' comments that were included as part of agenda packet were discussed (hereby incorporated into the minutes). Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained that Cathy Foerster can't be present today because she took another position in the company and that the board is past the timeline that was originally set for plan completion. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson shared with the board Ms. Foerster's feedback of the first suggestion from Member Thomas. She stated that Ms. Foerster said she took her wording straight from the language of the ordinance that created the board. It was discussed that this was the final time the IBPB would see the plan. It would go to the BOC for their next meeting. The board discussed going through the comments one by one.

Chair Myers asked that the date be changed to update the cover page from July. In Section 1.1 it was decided to leave the language the way the ordinance reads. Member Thomas' #2 was accepted. In Section 1.1, number #3, was accepted. Section 1.1.1 Geographical setting was discussed. Mr. Way explained how the two inlets differed. Mr. Way said he thinks we are getting too detailed. Member

Thomas said we could strike that one. Member Thomas wanted to reword Section 1.1.2 and made a wording suggestion. Mr. Way said he was good with that. The board agreed.

Chair Myers asked about a map of descriptions for the stations. She said on page 1-4, the Beach Renourishment Association plantings were not included. Town plantings for the year were not included either. It was asked for that to be added on.

Member Thomas said there may be a need to have a lead in sentence for the dune enhancement and inlet management. Mr. Way said he was fine with that change. Member Thomas asked about it being at a high level. He said we need specifics and it might take staff input or input from Mr. Way to make a higher level lead in sentence.

Chair Myers had a question on 1-5, and asked about a discussion and map of the vegetation line that was a result of the Central Reach Project. Town Manager Hewett said he thought we made a conscious decision of staying out of regulatory impacts of the static vegetation line as part of this plan because it is part of building development. Chair Myers asked why we wouldn't address it. Mr. Way said he hasn't seen it being an issue. He said the setback line is enforced differently based on how it is on the beach. He said it hasn't been an issue. Town Manager Hewett asked if she had existing language because this was a new introduction to the document. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that is what worries her because the board was asked to look at the changes they asked for last time. Member Thomas suggested to take it as action that comes the next time there is an update. Mr. Way wondered if we might be opening a can of worms. Chair Myers stated that at the top of page 1-5 might be an option. At the end of the sentence it could possibly say that also as result of the project the static vegetation line was established. Town Manager Hewett said it needs to say that NCDRCM established the vegetation line. Mr. Way said it is almost like you need to have something that references the regulatory framework. Town Manager Hewett asked if she desired to have a map. It was decided to put it in the list at the end that you can refer to. She mentioned in the bottom paragraph that stations might need clarification with an address. She also had an issue with the last paragraph on page 1-6. She wanted property before infrastructure and beachfront before dunes.

Back to Member Thomas' comments, #6 Section 1.1.4, the board was okay with. For #7, Section 1.2 he offered suggested language for a change. Mr. Way said he was okay with it. The board was okay with it. Chair Myers said on Figure 1-2 the last item on the legend doesn't show on the map. She said it either should come off the legend or the line should be added to the figure. She inquired about a legend for the map. Mr. Way suggested citing the Corps' navigation district and the website if it is not included. Town Manager Hewett said the legend material that is showing is captured in the boxes. On page 1-12 on #14, Chair Myers asked if it should be clarified to say LWF Inlet because of not getting easements for the west end. She suggested "if needed" be added to the sentence. Mr. Way explained his description of low-lying areas.

Member Thomas' comments suggested changes for the focus areas section to include suggested language including triggers having its own paragraph. Chair Myers had a question about triggers as well. She wanted to ask about it being measurable and some action. Mr. Way said he could remove static vegetation line. Member Thomas said he would like to see the UNCW arrangement continue into the future to monitor vegetation. Chair Myers said that a 10-year storm was mentioned at the last meeting. Mr. Way explained different metrics that are used. He said it is not an on/off thing and you can't look at it that way. He said there is a big grey area, especially in looking at hotspots. He said it is difficult to try

to quantify all triggers. Triggers were discussed at length. Chair Myers talked about not having dry beach at high tide before Central Reach. Annual monitoring was discussed. Town Manager Hewett said fundamentally you want to have a shovel ready project. He said in a lot of regards it is a subjective decision by the BOC because they are the ones that would be entering into budgetary/finance decisions. He said the elected body is going to be responding to the comments from the population on having a place to lay their towel. He suggested including language about the governing body decision, but not talking about more specifics regarding triggers. Consensus to both points of Member Thomas' comments for #8.

Member Thomas' #9 talked about enhancing Section 2 for Projects/Actions to achieve goals. Mr. Way said that was okay. The board agreed. Chair Myers had a question on page 2-4. She wondered if a #9 should be added to include the bend widener so that it coordinates with the table. She said there is a typo under 2.2.1 in the second paragraph that should say experiences instead of experience. On page 2-7 in 2.3.2, she said we talk about our activities and wondered if vegetation should be added. Mr. Way said it is almost like you could say nourishment beach activities. Mr. Way said he will think about how to do that. Chair Myers said we can ignore. On page 2-9 actions to achieve the goals she wondered if we should add a #8 because we talked about extending the engineered beach to the west. Town Manager Hewett talked about the process to create an engineered beach. He talked about design changes in the existing permit. Mr. Way said it would take evaluating moving the template down the beach. Town Manager Hewett said you need to have a permit, have to construct it, and have to have monitored it. In order to do that we would have to modify our existing permit. Member Thomas said he remembered talking about wanting to extend the beach in the future. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if West End is extending to the last houses or if somehow some of those houses are in the inlet. She referenced 1367 OBW. Member Thomas asked if that was broken down in the geographic settings section. Town Manager Hewett said the inlet vacillates with the tidal influence. He said the shoreline to the west is ephemeral. He said it changes. Mr. Way said five different scientists could disagree. Town Manager Hewett asked for verbiage for #8. It was discussed. Town Manager Hewett suggested language that said evaluate the efficacy of modifying the engineered beach template to the west. Chair Myers asked if we could add a #9 to 2-6 so that it can be done going east as well. The board agreed. On 2.4.3, on page 2-8, a typo was pointed out in paragraph one. Chair Myers had a question on 2.5.2 regarding Ocean Isle and shoreline changes after dredging. Mr. Way explained what happened with erosion in 2001. Mr. Way suggested language that large Shallotte Inlet dredging projects using a borrow area have the potential to cause detrimental changes to the Holden Beach shoreline. Town Manager Hewett said the extra transects were added to monitor the terminal groin projects, not the inlet dredging on the Corps' project. He asked why we would point out that inlet dredging projects cause erosion when we are really talking about monitoring the terminal groin. Chair Myers asked about transects being added because of changes going down on the west end with erosion as well. Town Manager Hewett asked if in additional transect monitoring at the top of 2-10 it could say additional transects due to either groin placement or dredging impacts. Chair Myers asked Commissioner Kwiatkowski about changes being seen at the west end. Commissioner Kwiatkowski discussed seeing changes that folks say they haven't seen before. Mr. Way discussed higher water levels and how the slope makes things more noticeable than in the higher erosional areas where it can get masked. Chair Myers asked if we could just have Mr. Way add his comment.

Member Thomas asked about his #10 in section 2.7. He said he needed to retract the title comment. He thinks table 2.1 should come after the major table. He wanted to know if there was some way to highlight which projects are currently active. Town Manager Hewett said what is active today would not be active tomorrow. He wondered what that gives you. Chair Myers said there is an estimated begin date and asked if that works or if he wants it say active in some way. Town Manager Hewett said whatever needs to happen needs to take place today. Member Dixon talked about it being about a year before it gets updated. Chair Myers asked about adding an asterisk for ones that have kicked off and are currently active at the bottom. This was discussed at length. Town Manager Hewett said he thinks it has enough information contained for him to interpret and if people have questions they should contact him for clarification on what the project status might be. The board decided to leave it the way it is.

Chair Myers had a question about #3 on Table 2-2. She wondered if East End should be added to the Focus Area column and if the description should say Eastern Reach. She also stated County contribution for #4 is known now and should be updated. For project #14 she didn't know if expanding engineered beach should get a separate line or change the information for #14. Mr. Way worked on changing the description for #14.

The GRR was discussed and where it should be included. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson referenced the approved minutes where it was stated they were going to wait until the next year's update to focus on it. It was discussed where a statement should be added. Member Thomas said if it goes in the table it should be mentioned in each of the sections. He said he thinks there shouldn't be much wordsmithing in the sections. The board decided there were a lot of uncertainties but it should be included. Mr. Way said it was difficult to just touch on it without opening a can of worms. He said he can put something in the table and mention it but it is going to be hard to reference more information in the document. Vice Chair Pearson asked about possibly putting it on page 3-2 instead of expanding on the bullet. He said where it is, it's out there but there is still a study that has to be done. Chair Myers said her only concern is that the Town did take positive action by writing a letter of intent. Member Thomas said he would envision a year from now you would evaluate your status and where you are with opportunities. Town Manager Hewett asked if under 3-2 the parenthetical reference should be rephrased to say the currently pending possible funding for study under the appropriations act. Chair Myers asked if he meant public law 116-20. Chair Myers asked the pleasure of the board. Member Thomas said he agrees with that but the engineer in him wants to see it in the table as well. It was decided to be added as #19 on Table 2-2. They agreed to use Town Manager Hewett's language under 3.2 and then add to the table.

To recap, Member Thomas suggested edits, #1 #4, and #10 were turned down or removed by him. All others were accepted as referenced above in discussion.

Motion by Vice Chair Pearson to accept, second by Member Thomas; approved by all.

Chair Myers had a typo on page 4-1, strategist should be strategies. She had a question about federal funding opportunities in table 5.2. She wondered about including the GRR project as part of the table. Town Manger Hewett mentioned these were standing programs but the study was a one-time funding appropriation. Chair Myers asked about the two tickets referenced by Christine Braymen with the Corps and study versus construction. She discussed pools of money. Mr. Way suggested mentioning Corps' funding specific to Hurricane Florence.

Motion by Member Dixon to finalize document with the changes that ATM will make to submit to the commissioners; second by Member Thomas; approved unanimously.

Status of the Beach, Inlets, and Issues

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson gave an update of the status of the beach and inlets. In regard to the LWF Inlet Crossing Bend Widener Project, she said the county is only contributing 25% toward the local match for the upcoming project. The Biological Opinion from Fish and Wildlife is still not in, but the program manager with the Corps, Brennan Dooley, has informed us that there is low risk of not receiving the Biological Opinion in time to award it as part of the alternate bid. Chair Myers questioned opinion versus assessment. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson read aloud from the Corps' email. She continued that the bid opening is scheduled for this Friday, 8/23.

She stated that the east end is continuing to show erosion. As far as the rest of the beach goes, there seems to be a lot of people and a lot of turtles enjoying the beach this summer.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that the Florence/Michael worksheets continue to be stuck in environmental review. Mr. Way provided additional information on Essential Fish Habitat to help FEMA. She stated that the Town does have a new project coordinator on the federal level. We are currently working four storms at the same time.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reported that the sand search was going to start hydrographic surveys the week of August 14th, but was delayed due to seas. It is scheduled for next week. The vibrocore sampling will also begin. She said we should be hearing back from the Corps regarding a federal 50 year project study in the next couple of weeks. Because of disaster supplemental funding, if the Town of Holden Beach is selected, the study will be funded at 100% federal money. If the project goes to construction it would be 65% Corps and 35% local. Member Thomas asked about 15 years versus 50 years. Mr. Way said he thought that discussion was about the extension of the existing 50 year project. Town Manager Hewett said he thinks it is not up to us to say what it is named. Chair Myers said that is not what Christine Brayman said. She said the tape is very bad because Ms. Brayman did not stand close to the microphone.

Chair Myers asked about the two tickets referenced by Ms. Brayman. She said one was they would do a study where they would look at a way to create a project. Town Manager Hewett said he would prefer to look at the report we got from McIntyre on Tuesday night in order to be certain he is responding correctly. He said he is not prepared to dialogue on how the process works from being able to get funding and then how the process flows with the consequences of constructing a federal project and FEMA reimbursements. Town Manager Hewett said he thinks this board needs to read the report and then bring it back up at the next meeting if there are questions. Member Thomas asked about the 1966 plan and if any of that is included. Chair Myers said she went back and summarized what she could glean. Town Manager Hewett said they should go to the clerk's office and read the report like the commissioners do. Chair Myers asked about parking requirements. Town Manager Hewett said it's ½ mile, accessible every 400 meters. He said an access has to be within 400 meters. Chair Myers asked how that lays out on our beach. Town Manager Hewett said in the Recreation Benefits of the GRR it is laid out in there. Mr. Way said the parking passed for the 2012 project. He said it died on the vine. Town Manager Hewett said the official party line was that before the GRR could be taken across the

finish line there was a residual need for \$500,000 of funding, a \$8 million decision arrangement on how that needed to be recouped and that's where it lays according to correspondence we received.

Chair Myers asked if the LWF Inlet Crossing would be approximately 80,000 cy and if it was included in the base amount and the 135,000 cy would be the bend widener. Member Thomas said he heard that Oak Island was going after the sand again this year. Mr. Way said that the contract is out so the sand is supposed to come to Holden Beach. Town Manager Hewett said he wanted to make a comment that just because there is a base contract and an option, the project may not happen, the numbers could come in not favorable. The environmental windows also play a part. He said just because there is a contract out there, there are a hundred things that could cause a project not to happen. He said it is not a done deal.

Chair Myers asked if there was any pressure Poyner Spruill could bring to sort out the stuff on the inlet. Last year was the easements, this year it was the biological opinion. She wondered if there was anything they could do. Town Manager Hewett said it was more a function of the congressional liaison office. Town Manager Hewett said we have to allow Fish and Wildlife to fail us. Chair Myers said she wished we could be more proactive. Town Manager Hewett said with the easements that was a result of the local Corps' office. Mr. Way said there was a project that went bad related to an easement and there was really no way to see that. Town Manager Hewett said as far as the biological opinion he thinks that Fish and Wildlife is trying to secure funding and we are not the only people feeling that. He said we have to be real particular about how to proceed.

Chair Myers asked about the status of the UNCW collaboration. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that she reached out to get a scope of work and is waiting on them to present one to the Town. Chair Myers mentioned a coastal resiliency grant and if UNCW might be able to help if we had projects that fit.

Chair Myers asked about mats and signs. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said she was waiting until after season to order mats but she could work on signs. Chair Myers read a memo she wrote as part of her trip to the Brunswick County Shoreline Meeting. Items from the meeting were discussed. She had a question about Oak Island getting sand from a possible upcoming navigation project. Town Manager Hewett said we received additional information regarding financial layout. Town Manager Hewett said we have confirmed there is not a hopper dredge available during that time. The price of hopper versus sidescaper dredge was discussed. The CRC meeting date was discussed. Chair Myers asked questions about potential grant funding.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Nomination of Vicki Myers to serve as chair by Member Dixon; second by Vice Chair Pearson; approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Pearson nominated Member Thomas; Member Thomas nominated Vice Chair Pearson. Vice Chair Pearson was approved by consensus.

INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CRC meeting in September was mentioned. The ASBPA will be in Myrtle Beach October 22-25th, and Holden Beach will be presenting. The NCBIWA will be November 12th and 13th. Town Manager Hewett said they should consider if the ASBPA conference will replace their meeting for October or if they are going to cancel.

CONSENSUS OF SHORT REPORT TO THE BOARD

The Inlet and Beach Protection Board met August 22, 2019 and the following issues and topics were addressed:

Comprehensive Long-Term Plan- Work continues and was the major thrust of the meeting. A final draft of the plan was reviewed. Changes will be made and the report will be submitted to the BOC for approval. Mr. Way said he anticipates it being at the September BOC meeting.

Staff provided an overview of the beach and inlets. The status of the \$25 million Florence/Michael was discussed. Required worksheets are being held up in environmental review.

The GRR 50-year/15-year study was discussed. The board will follow up with this after reviewing the report and will discuss at the next meeting.

Sand Search- The sand search needed for the CRR project is moving forward. Acoustic testing will begin the last week of August.

CORP Engagement GRR versus 50 plan versus 15-year plan were discussed and reviewed. The board will follow up after reading the report and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

LWF Inlet/Bend Widener Project current status was discussed.

UNCW Collaboration- The faculty is preparing a scope of work for a dune vegetation study and inlet changes.

Blue mats and keep off the dune signs will be ordered this winter to be ready for spring. Upcoming meetings were reviewed. Chair and vice chair for the upcoming year were elected.

Member Dixon needed to leave.

Motion to approve the report by Vice Chair Pearson; second by Member Thomas; approved by all

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 12:40 p.m. by Member Gible; second by Vice Chair Pearson; approved by all.