



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The Inlet and Beach Protection Board met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Present were Chair Myers, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, Members Ronda Dixon, Dean Thomas and Tim Gibble.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Vice Chair Pearson to approve the agenda; second by Member Dixon; approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Member Dixon to approve the minutes (September 25, 2019); second by Vice Chair Pearson; approved by all.

STATUS OF BEACH, INLETS AND ISSUES

Reporting on the MOA meeting, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that Dr. Coley Cordeiro is taking a new role as the Assistant Director of Water Resources. She will be hiring someone for the Shallow Draft Inlet Coordinator position. Dr. Cordeiro gave a presentation on the current status of the Shallow Draft Inlet Aquatic Weed Fund and on the Dredged Material Maintenance Plan. The Corps gave an overview of pre and post storm surveys for the inlets. Brennan Dooley gave a project report on the upcoming inlet crossing contract. A schedule was not available at that time, but a pre-construction meeting was held. Mr. Dooley communicated with staff the day before. He said that the Merritt will begin work today and the contractor will mobilize and begin to work on the crossing project in late November to late December. Chair Myers asked if they were mobilizing from the south. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that was her understanding. Town Manager Hewett said starting in the south there is a yin and yang. He said historically we've placed that sand after the winter gales. He stated it is happening four months earlier this time. Chair Myers asked if it's both parts, the bend widener and the crossing. Town Manager Hewett said yes. She asked about sand fencing in that area. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said Town Manager Hewett had been in touch with the Holden Beach Renourishment Association. He concurred and said the group is looking to put about 1/3 of the fence that is needed in the area. Volumes for the project were discussed.

In regard to FEMA Florence and Michael, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said they have cleared environmental and we have rejected the fixed cost offer due to the variability of the dredge market. They are in the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) waiting for review. We have communicated this to Chance Lambeth with Congressman Rouzer's office. Town Manager Hewett elaborated on rejecting a fixed cost offer. He said we don't think it is good business to accept because of the highly variable nature of the dredging industry. He said when you sign up for the fixed cost offer you are obligating yourself to the production amounts in the project worksheets. He wanted the board to understand that doing it the standard way is a cash flow issue, but it can be accommodated. The fixed cost in terms of a beach nourishment project is too risky. Chair Myers said there are several communities on the same glide slope because of the storms. She asked about the two-year window and how that impacts us. Town Manager Hewett said he can see this lasting up to five years. We might have to get extensions. He can see us having to get alternate bids for better rates. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson mentioned the process of going to OLA.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reported on FEMA Hurricane Dorian. She said the Town completed our recovery scoping meeting to include federal and state officials on Thursday, November 14th. We will be required to go to depth of closure on surveys. Initial reports have been entered into the portal and the process is underway for their review to begin. We were complemented on our early start with entering information into the system based on past storm experience. Town Manager Hewett explained what depth of closure meant. He said after a storm we can quickly do surveys to wading depth to get an approximation. He stated we can then share that in order to get a declaration made. He continued that what we've seen in the last couple of storms, because we had repetitive losses, is that we are having to go out further.

In a report on the sand search, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the offshore investigation is moving forward and is on schedule. She said the engineer is coordinating with surveyors to collect side-scan sonar and bathymetry for the proposed borrow area (as required). Data collection will be in the next 6 weeks or so. In addition to the borrow area, we are also collecting side-scan sonar in a 500-meter (1,640 ft) buffer for hardbottom. Once all this data is collected, we can develop and submit the permit modification to DCM and USACE. This is assuming all continues to go well but we can't make any guarantees either. Chair Myers said that Town Manager Hewett had mentioned that a spot had been identified that was south southeast of the inlet. She was looking at the report and trying to figure out which one it was.

In discussing the UNCW scope of work, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the scope of work was signed and encumbered. They sent a formal contract and we made minor corrections. We are awaiting its return for execution.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said we are still waiting to hear about project study selection for supplemental funds and if Holden Beach was selected. Poyner Spruill is tracking the project and coordinating with the federal and district level of the Corps.

In a report on other beach items, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that we can't do anything with sand fence until FEMA Dorian is approved as far as project worksheets. Steve Mercer with Coastal Transplants has been out harvesting seed from our beach the last couple of weeks. She spoke with the mat distributor we usually use at the ASBPA conference and is waiting on a price quote. They agreed to give us our discount early this year. She stated that in general, the beach looks good right now. We did

an inspection this week. The sand fence looks worse down at the east end as far as needing repair post storm and most of it is at least 70% buried along the east and Central Reach sections. It looks like the wrack line came up to the sand fence and vegetation along the Eastern Reach section and moving toward the pier, but not as far up on the beach as you moved from the pier west. Lots of shore birds were taking advantage of the quiet strand. Town Manager Hewett said subjectively speaking it didn't look like there was any erosion. He said he saw pinkish shell. He said on the east end where there was a scallop, it looks like it filled in. The berm on the front all the way down has humped up. He didn't see any scarfing. He said the water was still stirred up and the waves that were braking had sediment. He said that is a deposition process. It appeared this weekend was not an erosional event for us. Member Thomas asked about an escarpment near the west end around the 1100 block. He said it is probably 100 feet out. Town Manager Hewett said that is an ephemeral kind of thing not related to erosion. Member Dixon said on the east end it was a very unusual storm with the length and strength of wind. Member Thomas said based on looking through the projects in the plan the only thing he sees left to complete is easements and permitting. Staff replied that the easements were done. They said that permitting is part of the sand search process. Chair Myers asked about perpetual easements and reports she had seen on other communities where the Corps was requiring them again. Town Manager Hewett said he was only cognizant of what is going on here at Holden Beach. Extending the engineered beach was discussed on the west end. Town Manager Hewett discussed not doing anything different with the permit to possibly cause a problem with the process. He said the more times it's mentioned the more opportunity to confuse the current permitting with federal involvement and FEMA. Vice Chair Pearson asked about flooding during the weekend nor'easter. Town Manager Hewett said we didn't get any reports from police or public works that there was major flooding.

INLET AND BEACH PROTECTION BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Myers stated the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association Conference was excellent. She stated that she, Member Dixon, Town Manager Hewett, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson and Commissioners Freer and Butler attended. There were over 120 sessions one could attend just on Wednesday. She mentioned her take-aways that included beach nourishment and a study in Florida where sand was tracked based on quantities, but it stays in the system. She spoke about a session on sea-level rise and said what the beach nourishment communities are doing will be enough to help, but the risk to communities is from back-bay flooding. She said she attended a session on Inlet Hazard Areas (IHA) given by Spencer Rogers and she said Holden Beach will be widely affected by the IHA. She spoke about the science. She talked about the west end exploding in size. She said there were no good answers on why the rate was proposed the way it was for the west end. She said there were too key themes from the meeting, resiliency and regional sediment management. She thanked the Town for sending them. Member Dixon concurred that it was a good conference.

Chair Myers talked about the North Carolina Beach Inlet and Waterway Association Meeting. She said that she, Vice-Chair Pearson, Mayor Holden and Town staff attended. She liked that it was more local as compared to nationwide information. Vice Chair Pearson said he wanted to thank the Town for letting them go. He said a lot of the information is repetitive but if you can pick up one thing that is new, it is always good. He touched on Teresa Carter's presentation (APTIM). He talked about how she spoke about FEMA and how there are a lot of gotchas that can happen with contracting and the FEMA process. It requires the Town staff to be up on the process and trained. He said the other presentation he found interesting was on the energy landscape. He talked about the amount of energy moving from coal to

natural gas. He said it was something new and something different. Chair Myers said one of her take-aways was the Teresa Carter's presentation and how she spoke about how difficult it is in working with FEMA. She said this project we are working on is huge. She said Town staff is going to have to have some help. She stated with budget requests coming up in the budget season, the IBPB needs to be asking for extra funds to prepare for the project. Vice Chair Pearson said he totally agrees. He said we need to plan on training for Town staff and listening to this type of thing gives you more appreciation for what the Town staff does. Chair Myers said Ms. Carter mentioned FEMA being in flux and it is getting harder and harder to work with FEMA. She wants the board to be aware of that and provide all the help the staff needs to get this done.

In discussing the quarterly newsletter, Chair Myers said that it will be less than quarterly because we are moving it to the end of the year and letting it be a wrap up of the year. Town Manager Hewett asked if she had an outline of topics.

Chair Myers said the Brunswick Beaches Consortium meeting was moved from December to January. The board asked that they be told when the meeting is going to occur. She continued that the annual beach monitoring report was presented to the BOC last month. The slides are on the website and can be viewed. She told the board to bring their calendars to the December meeting to look at next year's dates. The next IBPB meeting was said to be December 19, 2019.

Vice Chair Pearson touched on Christmas trees that were left over and discussed how the Town will work with the boy scouts to do a project. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson talked about the stores that she spoke to already.

In an update on the state's Long-Term MOA meeting, Vice Chair Pearson said that he, Town Manager Hewett, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson, and Commissioner Butler was there. He said he wrote a memo but the biggest thing was the database they are going to set up for dredge material for disposal. The state wanted everyone to put in their information as far as capacity and location. Town Manager Hewett said they got a grant to set up and house that database. He said this is part and parcel of a larger issue in trying to scope existing capacity. He referenced an event that happened in the Houston ship channel that caused the problems we are dealing with in NC. He said we are involved in this and are participating. He stated it is another example of being at the table when these issues occur. He said this is how helping at the state and federal level should locally benefit us and enable us to do our canal dredging projects. Vice Chair Pearson said the Corps gave a presentation with pre and post Dorian surveys of the inlets. He said in these meetings he tries to relate what they are telling him to Holden Beach. Chair Myers said she always dials in to the meeting so if other board members are interested, she can share how to do that.

Member Thomas said that Commissioner Kwiatkowski mentioned feedback from boards as far as the BOC agenda item on interactions between subcommittees and commissioners. He said he thinks the board should look at it to provide feedback to her. It was discussed how to find the information online.

Member Thomas asked if the list of projects that are active in the Beach and Inlet Plan could be followed for the status of the beach and inlet reports. He said that way this becomes a working document that they have before them every month. Chair Myers said a lot of the projects were touched on today. The table in the plan was referenced.

Vice Chair Pearson asked about the Ocean Isle Terminal Groin and if it was appealed. Town Manager Hewett said the court ruled for Ocean Isle and there was a 30 -day appeal period. The SELC filed an appeal.

CONSENSUS OF SHORT REPORT TO THE BOARD

The IBPB met November 21st and the following issues and topics were addressed:

Status of the Inlets and Beach- The staff provided an overview of current and future projects, efforts and conditions, and issues relative to the beach strand and inlets. Highlights included:

- **CRR FEMA Reimbursement-** the approved project worksheets have cleared environmental review and are currently in OLA.
- **Sand Search-** The sand sourcing needed for the FEMA/CRR project is moving forward. All borings have been taken and are being analyzed. Next step is an archeological assessment and a check for hard bottom.
- **Hurricane Dorian-** The scoping meeting has been completed with the state and numbers have been transmitted to FEMA. We have been notified that we will need surveys out to depth of closure. Member Thomas added that the Town has been complemented on their efforts to get numbers in a timely fashion. Town Manager Hewett mentioned the expertise in navigating the grants portal. He mentioned having a hard copy aspect as well.
- **Lockwood Folly Crossing/Bend Widener-** The pending projects were detailed and discussed. The Corps had previously reported approximately 135,000 cy for the widener and 80,000 cy from the crossing on the east end and funds were secured from the Town, county and the state. The proposed schedule of work has been provided and is late November into late December. While adding sand to the system there was a concern about the early timing and the downside is possible winter loss due to storms. Sand fence will be placed after project completion. That is critical because of all of the fines.
- **Merritt Dredging-** The Lockwood Folly Inlet is experiencing shoaling due to Hurricane Dorian. The Town is participating in a county/state partnership initiated by the Corps to dredge the outer bar. The budget amendment was put through on the 19th.
- **CORP Engagement-** GRR 50-Year Project/15-Year Project and the 1966 Dune and Berm Construction Projects precipitated from the Wilmington District of the Corps of Engineers and the lobbyists' efforts were touched on.
- **UNCW Collaboration-** representatives from UNCW have presented a contract and scope of work. Town staff has reviewed the contract and is ready to move ahead.
- **Other Updates-** signs ordered, mats to be ordered this winter, Steve Mercer has been harvesting seeds. The IBPB received a hardcopy of the Oceanfront and Inlet Management Plan dated October 2019.
- **Annual Beach Monitoring Report-** was presented at the last BOC meeting and is being reviewed by Town staff.

Meeting Updates- The IBPB was represented at the October Brunswick County Shoreline Protection meeting. Members, commissioners and staff attended the ASBPA conference in Myrtle Beach. Town Manager Hewett, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson and the Town's engineer, Fran Way of ATM, presented on the Central Reach Project at the conference. The Quarterly MOA meeting in New Bern was attended by IBPB members, staff and a commissioner. Attendees heard that the bid for this

winter's dredging of the Lockwood Folly Crossing and Bend Widener has been awarded. Chair Myers will look at details and cut down on verbiage for this section based on it being covered in a previous bullet. IBPB members, the mayor and staff also attended the North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association's Annual Meeting in Wrightsville Beach, November 12-13, 2019.

The board's next meeting will be December 19th, a week early because of the Christmas holiday.

Motion by Member Gibble to accept with edits, second by Member Thomas. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNEMENT

Motion by Member Thomas to adjourn at 11:40 p.m., second by Vice Chair Pearson, approved by all.