



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes
Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall
October 22, 2018, 2 pm

Attendance.

Commission Members A.B. "Trace" Cooper (chair), Ken Jones (vice-chair), Harry Archer, Larry Baldwin, Larry Corsello, Douglas Guthrie, Joel Fortune, Jim Normile, John Wooten, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Member Jimmy Farrington was absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** - Chairman Cooper welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (August 27, 2018).** – Chairman Cooper asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the August 27th regular session minutes presented in the agenda packet. Member Archer subsequently made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, which was seconded by vice-chair Jones and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Room Occupancy Tax (ROT) and "Beach Fund" Update.** – Before discussing the possible impacts to the occupancy tax collection from Hurricane *Florence*, Secretary Rudolph reviewed the collections from the months of July and August, which signify the first two collection months of the "new" fiscal year (FY 2018-19). The Commission may remember July had what seemed like an unprecedented, steady stream of rainfall for days on end, which was coupled with rough surf. This translated into a -3.5% decrease in the July 2018 collection compared to that of July 2017. Last July, the collection eclipsed the \$2 million total for the first time in the history of the occupancy tax for any month. The July 2018 collection however puts us back in sub \$2 million category. The August 2018 collection on the other hand was down by -0.4%, which is basically "even" ([Power Point slides 1 - 2](#)). Collectively, this puts the collection down by -2.4% for the first two months of the fiscal year – and this is obviously before September and therefore the overprint *Florence* will likely compound the losses experienced in July and August. In fact entering July, the occupancy tax was up by +8.5% for the calendar year, and is now at +2.4% at end of August.

Chairman Cooper and the secretary continued by highlighting that *Florence* is painting a complex picture for the rest of the year. Obviously tourism and occupancy tax collections will be down significantly in September, October, and the remaining part of the year. However any hotel/motel that was not damaged by *Florence* and is still in operation is experiencing full capacity as space is limited for workers, displaced families, etc. But as even a counter measure to that, long term rentals are not subject to the occupancy tax, which in turn will mute that aspect of the collection. Secretary Rudolph continued by showing two graphs demonstrating the degree of impact of the last four months of the calendar year – roughly \$1.2 million of the \$7.5 million overall

collection. Again this year will almost certainly be less. The secretary concluded the beach nourishment reserve fund was estimated to be at \$21.2 million at the conclusion of August.

- (4) **Post-Florence Beach Assessment & Nourishment Update** – Subsequent to some introductory remarks from the Chairman, the secretary noted he would be reviewing the physical parameters of *Florence* and review the documented visual observations ([Slides 3 – 36](#)). Nicole Vanderbeke and Johnny Martin with Moffatt & Nichol (M&N) would subsequently detail the results of the Post-*Florence* beach surveying event, and discuss what changes have transpired to the upcoming nourishment project in East Emerald Isle (EI) and Indian Beach/Salter Path (IB/SP) – [slides 37 - 89](#).

Secretary Rudolph described how *Florence* was the “storm of record” with respect to the all-time high water level at the Beaufort tide gauge; and in terms of duration by investigating wave heights for *Fran* (1996), *Floyd* (1999), *Irene* (2011), and *Florence* (2018). The impacts to the Bogue Banks oceanfront were very consistent west of the Circle to Bogue Inlet – loss of the incipient dune field, which ultimately protected the large frontal dune and infrastructure landward. There were no breaches of the frontal dune nor any flood damage to structures along the oceanfront (*sans* walkways). This was in stark contrast to hurricane *Floyd* in 1999 and essentially “pre-nourishment” whereby there was complete removal of the frontal dune and flood damage to oceanfront structures. The profiles east of the Circle in Atlantic Beach looks much different in the wake of *Florence* – there was almost no incipient dune erosion at all and there was not a “slug” of sand that was displaced well offshore as you could see in the profiles west of the Circle. The secretary concluded these beach responses demonstrate how beach nourishment has worked along Bogue Banks – (a) for the area west of the Circle, the locally initiated nourishment projects of the 2000s did their job by preventing primary dune erosion and overwash, while (b) the beaches east of the Circle have been nourished three times since 2011 in consort with Corps of Engineers dredging at the Morehead City Harbor, and the impacts from *Florence* were virtually benign.

Ms. Vanderbeke (M&N) continued the topic by re-emphasizing the physical parameters of the hurricane and reviewing the survey methodology. From a volumetric standpoint, Bogue Banks lost a total of over 3.5 million cubic yards (yd) of sand, and the engineered beach area of Pine Knoll Shores, IB/SP, and EI accounted for over 3.2 million cy of that loss, and therefore could be eligible for FEMA reimbursement for this amount. Ms. Vanderbeke also discussed the shoreline change results and went into detail to why there were big oscillations in shoreline loss or gain in discrete areas of the beach. Per our contract extension, we have also instituted laser-scanning technology to gain full coverage of the dry beach area in between profiles. The slides presented provided a more visually captivating image of how the incipient dunes were eroded and flattening of the upper part of the dry sand beach ([slides 68 - 74](#)).

Mr. Martin (M&N) subsequently articulated how our planned nourishment project in east EI and IB/SP was originally for 910,406 cy and was to be solicited for construction the week of hurricane *Florence*. This same exact reach lost -946,446 cy in the wake of *Florence* – just a 35,040 cy or 4% difference. Accordingly, we have adjusted the project to replace the sand lost from *Florence* and have aptly re-termed the project as the Post-*Florence* Renourishment Project (Phase 1). This approach is in-line with our budget, does not run afoul of the permitting we have done to date for a project of this magnitude, and is a more appropriate approach and title for FEMA reimbursement purposes. The bid solicitation was released this past Friday (October 19th) and the

bid opening is November 20th. If less than three bids are received, then the solicitation has to be re-advertised for a week. If we receive an awardable bid, then we can award the bid and hopefully receive FEMA reimbursement. If we don't receive an awardable bid, then we can wait until we do get a decision from FEMA considering reimbursement for all the engineered beach reaches. If that decision is favorable, then we can construct a single project next winter (2019-20) encompassing all 18 miles of beach and incorporating the entire 3.2 million cy of *Florence* loss – all under a single contract, mobilization, etc.

Mr. Martin continued by describing the fill template, which includes a 25 feet wide dune extending seaward from its tie-in to +12 feet NAVD 88. The constructed dune then slopes downward on a 5:1 grade to +6 feet NAVD 88, where a variable berm width is extended seaward from that point – the slope down into the water from the seaward edge of the berm is to be on a 20:1 grade.

After several questions from audience members asking for clarification and/or terminology explanations, Member Fortune inquired to when payments to the dredging company would need to start being made. The secretary replied if we provide a notice to proceed in mid-January (again assuming we have an awardable bid), then we likely won't receive the first mobilization invoice until mid-February and then we will have 30 – 45 days from that point for provide a payment.

- (5) **Public Comment.** – No additional public comment.
- (6) **Other Business.** – None.
- (7) **December 2018 Meeting Date.** – Considering the Commission's regular meeting schedule and its timing with the Thanksgiving holiday; it was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on December 3rd at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall.
- (8) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Cooper asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.