

Synopsis of Meeting with Staff from the Office of the Governor

July 22, 2011

Mayor Andy Sayre and Shoreline Protection Manager Chris McCall had the opportunity to sit down with key members of Governor Bev Purdue's staff on July 20, 2011 to discuss the dramatic impact of the accelerated non-natural erosion occurring at the Point of South and West Beaches as a result of the realignment and deepening of the channel.

The Mayor centered the meeting with Mr. Britt Cobb, Chief of Staff, Mr. Al Delia, Senior Advisor to the Governor, Mr. Mike Arnold, Policy Director, and Mr. Jim McCleskey, Director NC Governor's Washington Office on three main points:

- a thorough explanation of the current situation at the Point from 2000 to present
- requesting the State's assistance and support in securing necessary funding of the Wilmington Harbor Project at both the State and Federal levels
- and to recognize the diligent work of the Department of Coastal Management and the Coastal Resources Commission

The last dredging cycle completed by the Army Corps of Engineers which placed sand on Bald Head's beaches occurred in 2007. Since it was underfunded by the Federal Government, both the State and the Village paid for a portion of this renourishment. The 2009 dredging cycle placed sand on Caswell Beach and Oak Island necessitating the Village to fund its own private sand placement spending approximately \$17 million to place sand on the beach in winter of 2010. Eighteen months later, 40 % of this sand has been lost due to accelerated erosion. It is critical to Bald Head that the Federal Government fully fund the Operation & Maintenance dredging of the Wilmington Harbor Navigational Channel for 2011/2012 to include the +/- \$15 million to dredge the Inner Bar which provides the much needed sand placed on BHI's shoreline. If this is funded, Bald Head could see a significant quantity of sand in the winter of 2012. Therefore, the State's assistance and support to secure funding would be extremely helpful in this matter.

This year's State budget included funding for their portion of the first year of the Feasibility Study on possible improvements (which may include harden structures, or relocation of the channel among other things) to the Wilmington Harbor Project. While this Study could take 4-5 years to complete, it may hold promise in providing a long term solution to our erosion issues. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for this funding.

Both the Department of Coastal Management and the Coastal Resources Commission have been very responsive to the Village's needs as a result of the crisis situation that has occurred at the Point. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the Department's and the Commission's diligence in pursuing the Variance Request for a sand bag revetment wall in a timely manner and requested whenever possible for the State to support an expedited process.

The Emergency Hearing for this Variance Request has been set for **July 29, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** While this is a quasi judicial hearing, the public is invited to listen to the proceedings via conference call. The number is **(919) 571-4162**. There also will be limited space at the BHA Association POA 2nd floor conference room to listen as well.