

VILLAGE SHORELINE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
Minutes from October 20, 2010 Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance: Bob Blau, Joe Brawner, Tom Hayden, Anne Kane, Dan McConnell, Brooke Williams

Village Council Liaisons in Attendance: Gene Douglas

Village Staff in Attendance: Chris McCall

1. Call to Order/ Review of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

- Chair Williams opened the meeting at 9:00 and presented the agenda which was unanimously approved as written.

- The minutes for the VSPC meeting of October 6, 2010 were approved on a motion from Hayden, seconded by Blau.

2. Shoreline Protection Manager Report: Chris McCall

Communication w/ Corps – Will look to set up initial meeting w/ Bob Keistler next week.

ASBPA Conference – Attended conference in Charleston last week and listened to a number of presentations from coastal engineers, geologists and Corps representatives on a number of topics including regional sediment management, tidal inlets, sea level rise, coastal structures and beach nourishment.

Of particular interest were projects presented from states other than NC that have permitted the use of sea walls, jetty's, break-walls and groins to minimize erosion prone areas. One in particular which I have been e-mailed a copy of and will distribute to the committee is on the "Evolution of Coastal Structures Use & Policy" from Dr. Michael Walther with Coastal Technology Corporation. The presentation highlights various examples of hardened structures along the U.S. coastline and their impacts to coastal shoreline and sediment transport.

Timber Groins – Waiting on permit modification from DCM.

Discussions w/ A&S – With both George House and Rob Andersen on the call, there was final agreement on the draft report language for the FY '11 bill and that has been sent to the Senate staff. They are now crafting the letter for both Hagan and Burr to send to Senator Dorgan, the chair of the relevant Senate Appropriations subcommittee. The same will be done for McIntyre so he can ask the House subcommittee to "concur" with the fix the Senate will make to their bill.

On the FY '12 front, all are in agreement that a letter should be sent to all three (Hagan, Burr and McIntyre) to send to the ACE and OMB regarding the Corps' necessary FY '12 O&M budget. George and Rob are also in agreement on that language although George thinks there may be some additional intelligence forthcoming from the Corps in the near term, so that letter may not go until early November. That may also be a better time for the Mayor to visit and we will also know the outcome of McIntyre's race which we all are aware is much closer than usual.

Appropriation Requests Modification Update – Language concerning our appropriation requests to fund the Recon Study has been revised and reviewed by Baldwin, House & Anderson, see below:

Based upon all of the comments, the following language will be used for submittal to the Hill and for the proposed letter.

For the Hill:

"Wilmington Harbor, North Carolina - The Committee recommendation includes \$600,000 over the budget request for two studies: \$100,000 for a reconnaissance study as identified by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District memorandum dated July 30, 2010; and \$500,000 for the study of improvements needed to manage excessive sand shoaling and beach erosion occurring in the Wilmington Harbor Channel Project."

For the letter:

"Last year, the President's budget included just over \$12 million for continuing Operations and Maintenance projects of the Wilmington District of the US Army Corps of Engineers to cover the District's needs. The \$12 million leaves unfunded the requirements of the Sand Management Plan to dredge and dispose of sand within the three Bald Head Island/Oak Island/Caswell Beach ranges. Historically, this work costs around \$16 million every two years. This work is needed not only to keep the channel clear for navigation, but to mitigate erosion to area beaches and avoid environmental harm."

In addition, the proposed language has been sent to the Energy & Water Appropriations staffer to be sure he is o.k. with the language. Once Rob here's back he'll send the letter to our Congressional delegation.

Summary of Permitting Considerations for Use of Terminal Groin Structure – LMG has provided me with a memo summarizing the permitting conditions that will be applicable for the use of a terminal groin structure (See attachment).

BHI Beach Nourishment Post-Dredge Monitoring – LMG is on island today to conduct another round of benthic monitoring as required by our dredging permit.

Important Dates:

1. BBC Meeting in Holden Beach 10/21.
2. Meeting w/ Chad Paul 10/28 – Public Meeting, needs to be publicized.
3. Meeting w/ Jeff Warren on IHA 11/3.

CONTINUING ISSUES

3. Communication Piece: Brooke Williams reported that suggestions for improving the communication piece intended to be distributed to stakeholders had been incorporated into the draft. A few additional suggestions were offered and it was agreed that Williams, Brawner, and Hayden would meet to work out the “final” wordings. The document will then be provided to Charles Baldwin for his legal review. Production and distribution will be the responsibility of the Village Communication Committee, chaired by Tom Hayden.

4. OMB Funding: Bob Blau and Brooke Williams reported on their meeting of 10/19/10 with John Dyer, formerly in a management position within the Office of Management and Budget. The meeting objective was to seek guidance on how BHI’s funding case might be carried into the President’s FY12 budget. John was very helpful leading to the conclusion that the committee needs to take up this issue with its federal lobbying firm, Ackerman Senterfitt.

5. South Amelia Island Shore Stabilization Association (SAISSA): Williams reported on his telephone conversation with Mary Brannen (904-491-3187), chair of SAISSA concerning the value of “connecting” with that organization in some way. There are several common circumstances and challenges that might provide an instructive example to both groups. Ms. Brannen intended to speak with Erik Olsen, their in-house engineer, to develop this idea further. Williams will follow up.

6. Alternative Funding: Brooke Williams reported on his recent conversation with John Knott, Chair of the BHI Finance Committee, concerning the effort spear-headed by John to discover sources of alternative beach funding. John has nearly completed the phase of this effort identifying the aggregate amount of “sales tax” paid to the state and county. John also mentioned the possibility of funding our beach fund from sources recovered from county taxes, lowered by re-valuation of real property. Hoped for savings could, if acceptable to Village Council, be incorporated into the Village tax rate as a beach fund. This is an idea in its early stages.

7. Timber Groins: The Village still awaits the CAMA permit. Chris McCall shared the letter written by Land Management Group on behalf of BHI Ltd. to CAMA providing input.

8. FY '12 Funding: The Committee did not consider adequate the letter received from Ackerman Senterfitt, dated September 27, in laying out the detailed strategy and tactics to successfully gain funding for channel dredging next year. We agreed to more precisely define our expectations and needs and then to have telephone conversation with AS conveying both. Furthermore, we agreed we needed to have a similar conversation with our NC lobbyists. The matter was not discussed in detail absent Mayor Andy Sayre who was not in attendance.

9. Briefing of new Bald Head Ltd. CEO: The Committee agreed it was sensible to meet with Charles A. "Chad" Paul, III, the newly appointed CEO of Bald Head Island Limited to "brief" him on the status of our beaches. Having healthy and secure beaches is an important business variable to his organization's future, as it is to all other stakeholders. The meeting with Mr. Paul has been postponed until a more convenient date.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 on a motion by McConnell, seconded by Kane, and unanimously approved.