

Shoreline Protection Committee: Minutes from August 3, 2011 Meeting

Those present: Bob Blau, Tom Hayden, John Jelinek, Joe Brawner, Chris McCall, Ray Webb, Gene Douglas, Suzanne Dorsey, Karen Armstrong, Carrie Moffett, Joyce Fulton

Approved Minutes of 27 JUL 2011 Meeting, approved by Hayden, seconded by Brawner.

Emergency Revetment Wall

- Variance given for 350 foot wall immediately west of groin 16; the 950 foot section running east of Groin 16 was not requested as the result of an on-the-spot-decision by Village attorneys
- Even with the granted variance, formal "OK's" are necessary from the USACE, US-FWS, NC-DWQ, and Marine Fisheries and these will be pursued at priority; the State Attorney General will also have to sign off on the approval to proceed
- FWS is concerned about our movement of sand to fill behind groin 16 during turtle nesting season and the Village will likely receive an NOV
- The revetment wall contract has been let for less than \$300,000 and 175 sand bags are on hand; construction will proceed once all approvals are received
- The CRC was obviously supportive of the BHI variance request and found that BHI "was not at fault" and that there was accelerated erosion; their investigation found that 400 feet of beach/dunes had been lost (versus the long term average erosion rate of 8 feet annually)
- The Village will issue a communication with property owners outlining the beach problem and the variance approval

Raleigh Visit:

- Please see report from Lobbyist; the Mayor and Chris met with Governor's Chief of Staff and others (but not Governor)
- People were generally not aware of the "BHI problem"
- The observation was made that the letter to the Governor was perhaps not pointed enough or demanding enough; it was suggested that State Agency support was likely also needed

Washington DC Visit:

- The Mayor and Chris, along with Akerman staff, met with the staff from the McIntyre, Burr, and Hagan offices and also with OMB, USACE, and others in pursuit of funding and support for 1) dredging the inner bar this winter and for 2) appropriation of federal funding for the next step of the 905(b) Wilmington Harbor Improvements project
- The Mayor was not in attendance so full details were not presented
- WRDA bill unlikely to be progressed any time soon
- All Harbor maintenance revenue is going into the General Fund

USACE Change of Command:

- Col. Ryscavich has now been replaced by Col. Baker; the outgoing Col. Will be assigned to USACE-HQ staff in Washington

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Hagan Visit to BHI Aug. 13, 2011:

- Senator Hagan will be on BHI on vacation and for a fund raiser and a meeting and beach walk to learn more about the BHI erosion problems; the Senator will be staying in the Carr home adjacent to the accelerated erosion area
- An informational booklet will be developed

Emergency Planning Activity

- Tropical Storm Emily is headed north and should not threaten BHI
- Village emergency plan are in place

Congressional Inquiry:

- Joyce Fulton asked if formal Congressional Inquiries from BHI property owners to their congressional representatives would be of help in increasing awareness of BHI problems
- This suggestion will be investigated and the USACE is especially active in answering inquiries that are processed through the Congress
- The GAO might be another governmental group that might become be involved if the right questions are asked

Meeting with USACE:

- A routine “technical meeting” is needed with the Wilmington District to discuss a number of topics including the most recent hydrographic survey

Court Case:

- No progress to report; an administrative hearing has been scheduled for next week wherein a Magistrate will “hear” the status of the case
- There has been no reported decision in the matter of jurisdiction

Other:

- Harbor groin construction is progressing and should be completed by early Sept.
- The “Yes Port” meeting drew a large crowd and reportedly, the Mayor attended
- Permits are in hand to dredge the mouth of Bald Head Creek should such action be necessary; the permit is for the turtle nesting window this winter

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM
- There was no need for executive session