

To: NTB Board of Aldermen

Subject: BISAC Monthly Meeting Report

From: Larry Strother, Chair

Date: February 20, 2024

Manager's Update. Manager Derian, *ex officio*, updated the committee on the status of the shoreline projects.

* The contractor continues to work on the Phase 5 project Monday through Saturday to haul and place sand. We are on track to complete the project by the end of the current environmental window which ends on April 30th. We are awaiting information from the contractor for the start date to finish up the Phase 1 nourishment project with 20,000 cy. There may be additional work here depending on our coastal engineer. The Phase 4 project will start once the Phase 5 project is completed, could be April or not until November.

* The Town has submitted a memorandum of support of the temporary Coastal Resource Commission rules. Comments on this matter were being accepted by the Division of Coastal Management through February 22nd.

A few of the most pressing issues are:

- The proposed temporary rules are necessary under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The loss of these rules could trigger a re-view of NC's Coastal Area Management Act program and we could potentially lose federal benefits, such as those utilized for beach nourishment projects.
- The rules are necessary to protect valuable state resources. This includes unique geologic formations and significant coastal archeological resources that protect heritage sites such as Permuda Island.
- The rules are necessary for the evaluation and issuance of CAMA permit applications. Loss of these rules could impact local governments ability to collect permit fees and process permit applications in a legally defensive manner.
- The rules create and explain necessary policies. Without these rules in place, the state may not be able to engage in consistency determinations, impacting their ability to govern beneficial use of dredged materials.
- In short, the entire CAMA permitting and implementation system may fail.
- Our beach nourishment plans could be negatively impacted by potential loss of federal benefits which we have relied on extensively in the past few years. The 10.5 million dollar grant we received from the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation fund is a prime example. Our near future plans call for a new project that would nourish an additional 5 miles of shoreline, but this project is dependent on coordination between the USACE and NCDCEM especially for both CAMA and federal permitting.

Mike Benson added that the Rules Review Commission negated these long-standing rules, thus the need by the CRC to re-establish the rules as ‘temporary’. Chris Gibson added that rules are reviewed regularly, but they didn’t get them done on time last year.

NTB BOA action following the BISAC 5-year report-

Chair Strother, Members Benson and Grant reported on the presentation to the BOA by Chris Gibson of TI Coastal, Engineers at their February meeting. We reported that it was well received and of the approval of the initial funding for engineering, permitting, etc. we then commented on the success of BISAC bringing the plan to the BOA and getting the permit funding in place.

5/30 Year Beach Plan-Next steps –

Chris Gibson reviewed the next steps and went into the details of the testing, permitting and time frames he is estimating for getting to the point of being able to get started.

The overall plan is to get Phases 1,2, and 3 as engineered beaches which along with Phases 4 and 5 will mean that all NTB shoreline will be an engineered beach and eligible for federal aid following storm damage. The borrow area for Phases 1, 2, and 3 will be DA143 at the southwest corner of of Cedar Bush Cut and the ICW. There is enough sand in DA 143 to construct a 60 to 70 cubic yard/ft beach. He discussed the details of that process. We hope to put in a matching Shallow Draft Inlet grant in March or April , 2025 to aid in the development of the disposal area. This will facilitate a 2026 start to the project. We want to have plans and grants in place so that we can have have a ‘One-Stop-Meeting’ in June or July. We will need to explain to regulators, the Army Corps, and other state and federal agencies how we can harvest sand from this disposal site in a competent manner that protects the environment. We would also have our beach construction plan in place for the ‘One-Stop-Meeting’.As part of the construction plan, we will be putting in a ‘Temporary Retention Structure’ to protect the inlet so there is no navigation impact. This component may need a section 408 review to determine impact on navigation, a review that takes 6 months to a year to complete. Hopefully by March of 25 we will have permits in hand so construction can start in 2026. We also hope to have special state grant support.

Chris then went into how our 5-yr plan dovetails into a 30-yr plan. At this point there are too many variables to start work on a 30-yr plan. If we tried to permit a 30-yr plan that effort would hold up work on Phases 1, 2, and 3. The 30-yr plan will also require a BOA approved financial plan.

The committee, by consent, agreed that in lieu of a public meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2024 that we will take a tour of the recent beach nourishment project in Topsail Beach to see what our beach might look like when completed. Chris Gibson offered to lead the tour.

Chris Gibson suggested that we hold a public meeting after the One-Stop Meeting to let the public know the details of the 5-yr Plan. Member Grant and Strother noted that the BOA would need to approve such a meeting.

No Public Comments

The next BISAC meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 10:30 am

This will not be a public meeting as the committee agreed to tour th recent beach nourishment project in the Town of Topsail Beach.



Town of North Topsail Beach
Beach, Inlet, and Sound Advisory Committee