



## NHC BEACH TOWNS BREAKFAST MEETING MINUTES

**FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012 at 8:30 am**

**ATTENDEES FROM THE TOWN OF KURE BEACH (KB)**

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mayor Dean Lambeth             | Commissioner Steve Pagley    |
| Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Keener     | Town Clerk Nancy Avery       |
| Commissioner Emilie Swearingen | Deputy T.C. Nancy Hewitt     |
| Commissioner David Heglar      | Town Attorney A. A. Canoutas |

**ATTENDEES FROM THE TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH (CB)**

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mayor Pro Tem Steve Shuttleworth | Town Manager Tim Owens     |
| Commissioner Bob Lewis           | Town Clerk Lynn Prusa      |
| Commissioner Lonnie Lashley      |                            |
| Commissioner Sarah Friede        | ABSENT: Mayor Ray Rothrock |

**ATTENDEES FROM THE TOWN OF WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH (WB)**

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mayor David Cignotti     | Town Clerk Sylvia Holleman          |
| Alderman Darryl Mills    | Alderman Elizabeth King             |
| Alderman Bill Sisson     |                                     |
| Town Manager Bob Simpson | ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Susan Collins |

The Kure Beach Town Council held a special meeting for the purpose of hosting a breakfast for Carolina Beach and Wrightsville Beach Town Councils, Town Managers and Clerks to discuss items of common interest. Notice of the meeting was posted at Kure Beach Town Hall on 2/19/12.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Kure Beach Mayor Dean Lambeth called the meeting to order at 8:55 am and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Beach Nourishment Revenue Sources**

Those who attended the Water Congress meeting in Washington (DC) reviewed what was discussed during their meetings with State representatives. Discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- State and local government officials appreciated that beach town government officials were in attendance.



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- One of the long term goals for beach nourishment should be to get all three beaches on the same rotation for beach nourishment. Wrightsville Beach is on a different rotation and is slated to receive nourishment in 2014. This is a year after Carolina Beach and Kure Beach are slated for beach nourishment.
- A Memo of Agreement (MOA) should be in place by June for beach nourishment.
- We need to stress how important the three beach towns are to the tourist economy.
- It's critical that we get 82.5% contribution from the state and Federal governments for our nourishment projects.
- The beach towns should organize a campaign to request feedback from constituents via emails, surveys, letters, etc., regarding beach protection. If there is a positive enough response from them we will encourage them to write letters to Federal and State legislators.
- The importance of keeping shallow draft inlets open was discussed during the Water Congress meeting in DC.

CB Town Manager Tim Owens was recruited to compose a letter to be signed by all three mayors summarizing what was discussed at the meetings in DC and to reiterate the urgent need for beach nourishment so that the momentum begun at the meeting in DC this week won't be lost. The letter will be sent to Representative McIntyre and Senator Hagan.

### 2. Paid Parking

KB Commissioner David Heglar said that Kure Beach is thinking about instituting paid parking within the town. He gave a brief overview of information he received from Lanier Parking. He asked for input from the other towns regarding their experiences with paid parking.

### **Wrightsville Beach officials made the following comments:**

- Our paid parking is handled by Lanier. We have pay stations and traditional meters.
- We looked at handling parking in-house but found it to be more favorable to have a contractor handle it for us.
- Lanier collects the parking citation fees. We don't have to deal with complaints from violators, but we have an appeals process in place for large grievances.
- We have ordinances in place to prevent visitors from parking in residential areas by creating a residential parking district.



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- We have to revisit some of our regulations and ordinances from time to time and make adjustments.
- During the off season, our police handle parking violations. But, all citation payments are handled by the parking office.
- During the first week of the main season, we only issue warnings for parking violations. After that, citations are written.
- We charge a higher price for replacement passes than for the initial passes.

### **Carolina Beach officials made the following comments:**

- Our paid parking is handled by Lanier.
- Our Town gets a bonus from selling Freeman Park passes which equates to about \$300,000 in revenue per year. Without the Freeman Park, we would break even on revenue versus expenses.
- Families bring a lot of things to the beach. They're going to be looking for something close to the beach, if it's reasonably priced.
- For a family to pay for parking to spend the whole day at the beach is less expensive than for them to have to pay to go see a movie.
- Our pay stations have problems now and then, but they are quickly fixed. Sometimes meters have to be replaced, which is a big project.

Additional revenue and expense information was shared by both towns, as well as the cost of passes and hourly parking rates.

CB Mayor Pro Tem Steve Shuttleworth mentioned that they were meeting with the DOT later today to discuss the possibility of having a bike path/pedestrian walkway integrated on to the Snows Cut Bridge. He also mentioned that the WMPO was hosting a Greenway Planning meeting in April at Carolina Beach Elementary. He said that Pleasure Island already has a "greenway plan" and wants the WMPO to help fund it.

### **3. Changing the Sales Tax Formula**

WB Mayor David Cignotti said there has been talk about changing the sales tax formula. He urged the beach towns to stay the course on not letting this happen because it would be bad news if they changed how the funds were allocated.

### **4. TDA Funds**

Comments made about TDA funds were as follows:



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- Danny McComas has been a good advocate in state legislature about TDA money and what the beach towns should receive.
- Beach nourishment is what the funds were originally to be used for.
- The Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has too much control over the TDA revenue and we want the beach towns to be able to have more control over where it is spent.
- Every inquiry from the CVB website goes to the CVB. The website is a vacation guide for the whole area. Some of our TDA funds were used to develop a website dedicated to the whole environment surrounding Wilmington, not just our own towns.

Additional discussion ensued regarding TDA funds and how they are allocated and directed.

Comment was made that there's a need to advocate for a commissioner on the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners to represent the beach communities. Some felt that the beach communities were under-represented on the board. Mention was made that NHC Commissioner Rick Catlin owned a second home at the beach and that he usually tries to advocate for the beach towns.

### 5. Future Meetings

It was asked if future breakfast meetings with all three towns should be on a quarterly basis. The last meeting was held almost a year ago in Carolina Beach. No decision was made.

It was suggested that each Council narrow down their Town's three key issues for discussion at the next meeting. Then, the whole group will decide at the next meeting which three key issues to present to the County Commissioners for discussion and consideration; beach nourishment being the foremost issue.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Dean Lambeth, Mayor

ATTEST: Nancy Hewitt, Deputy Town Clerk