

# **Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board**

## **Regular Meeting and Public Information Meeting Agenda Cape Charles Civic Center June 15, 2016 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order; Roll Call
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Agenda Format
  - B. Approval of Minutes
4. New Business
  - A. Town's approach to beach sand management practices
  - B. Presentation by staff of US Army Corps of Engineers on federal harbor dredge project.
  - C. Public Comment.
5. Old Business
  - A. None.
6. Announcements
7. Adjourn



**DRAFT**  
**Wetlands/Coastal Dune Board**  
**Meeting**  
**Civic Center**  
**June 1, 2016**  
**4:00 p.m.**

At approximately 4 p.m., Chairwoman Ann Hayward Walker, having established a quorum, called to order the Wetlands/Coastal Dune Board Meeting. Board members Russ Dunton, Bob Roche, Brooke Binard and Joe Fehrer were in attendance. Also present were Town Planner Larry DiRe, Assistant Town Clerk Tracy Outten, and Hank Badger of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Chairwoman Ann Hayward Walker welcomed the Board which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion made by Russ Dunton, seconded by Joe Fehrer, to accept the agenda as written. The motion was unanimously approved.**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the December 18, 2013 Public Hearing and Meeting.

**Motion made by Russ Dunton, seconded by Joe Fehrer, to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2013 Public Hearing and Meeting as written. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. *Review Previous Town beach sand management practices.*

Town Planner Larry DiRe gave a brief history of past steps taken to enrich and manage the sand beach. In his briefing he also discussed the upcoming phase of the US Army Corps of Engineers federal harbor dredge project. i) Russ Dunton added some history of the first breakwater being placed in 2001. He went on to give his recollection of past practices; ii) Board discussed the attached packet material; iii) Ann Hayward Walker suggested having Tom Bonadeo, the former town planner, provide a more detailed report of past beach maintenance and asked that he be invited to attend the public information meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>; iv) Board then discussed sand dune specifications for plants and fencing.

B. *Beach sand management practices part of US Army Corps of Engineers federal harbor dredge project.*

Larry DiRe explained the upcoming dredge project as follows: i) Project as awarded to us the last phase in the federal harbor dredge project for navigational purposes not, beach nourishment; ii) 100,000 cubic yards would be placed on the beach; iii) Site "B" excluded due to the following concerns: tiger beetle, aquatic vegetation, and health of the clam beds. Russ Dunton added that the beach was private not public; iv) Larry DiRe mentioned that the Town requested additional options for starting the project from the US Army Corp due to economic development. Four options given: 1) move forward as contract defined; 2) 30,000 cubic yards of sand on the north beach and up to 125,000 cubic yards of sand in the upland site; 3) no sand on the north beach; up to 125,000 cubic yards of sand in the upland site; or 4) terminate contract - no sand. Russ Dunton expressed his concerns regarding no sand placement on beach, and mentioned the cost of sand

replacement. Ann Hayward Walker understood his concerns but, added that a lot of businesses' income relied on tourists. v) Joe Fehrer questioned the actual problem of sand leaving on north end. Russ Dutton stated it has never been filled up so, we don't know.

C. *Next steps and proposed time table.*

Ann Hayward Walker would like to take on this project.

**Motion made by Joe Fehrer, seconded by Brooke Binard, to meet on a regular basis as directed by the Planner and Chairwoman to provide the Town with recommendations as per instructed by the Town to the Board. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Ann Hayward Walker suggested the following: i) public information meeting; ii) more frequent board meetings; iii) board members needed to do some homework to get a better understanding of the history; iv) obtain aerial photos; and v) board members needed to keep thinking about what needed to be done.

Ms. Walker requested all members receive a copy of Mr. Dutton's paperwork and photos.

D. *June 15, 2016 public input meeting.*

Bob Roche suggested the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting title be changed from public input to public information meeting.

Larry DiRe would contact the US Army Corp to attend to give a presentation to the public.

**Old Business:**

A. None.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements made.

**Motion made by Russ Dutton, seconded by Bob Roche, and unanimously approved to adjourn the Wetlands/Coastal Dune Board Meeting.**

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Chairwoman Ann Hayward Walker

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Asst. Town Clerk

# Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board Staff Report

From: Larry DiRe   
Date: June 15, 2016  
Item: 4A – Town's approach to beach sand management  
Attachments: None

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## Background

Over the past several years the Town has taken various steps as part of an overall beach sand management practices strategy. These steps include gathering data on dune physical dimensions and using the public works department to perform regular cleaning and maintenance of the beach. Since March 2015 the Town beach has been the deposit site for approximately 80,000 cubic yards of dredge material as part of the US Army Corps of Engineers' federal harbor dredging project. The final phase in the current dredging cycle will begin shortly and as part of that project an additional several tens of thousands of cubic yards of dredge material will be located on the Town beach. Included in the dredge project scope of work are the installation of sand fencing and the sprigging of the dunes to provide vegetative cover to stabilize the sand. Once the project is completed the responsibility for managing the sand placed on the Town beach will be left to the Town.

## Discussion

Additional sand from the US Army Corps of Engineer federal dredging project will be deposited on the north end of the public beach soon. This may be the last deposit of beach sand from the Army Corps of Engineers, at no cost to the town, for a prolonged period of time. An important goal of the Town is to retain this sand seaward of the boardwalk, i.e., on the beach. The Town of Cape Charles requested that the Board provide recommendations before September 2016, when winds patterns will likely begin shifting and could blow sand landward, west onto Bay Avenue and adjacent lawns, and southward increasing the dunes' height and breadth. The Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board is studying beach sand management practices in the wake of substantial beach sand wind erosion and accumulation on streets and residential properties along the beach front that occurred in spring 2016. The Board is reviewing past and currently employed beach sand management practices and will make appropriate recommendations to Town Council, and provide an opportunity for residents' comments into the scale of the sand's wind erosion problem and potential practices to mitigate future wind erosion events.

## Recommendation

Following discussion provide direction to staff.