

**Minutes**  
**Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**  
**Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater**  
**Thursday, March 22, 2007**

The meeting of the Atlantic Beach Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater (ABACOWS) was held Thursday, March 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room.

**Members Present:** Billy Brewer, Donald Clements, Thomas Lenweaver, John Lotspih, George Richardson, Alan Shelor and Jim Willis III

**Members Absent:** Bruce McFerren

**Others Present:** Larry Moolenaar, Facilitator; Mayor Tootsie Vinson; Council Member Jim Bailey; Tommy Combs, Interim Town Manager; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Raymond Cordon and Dan Dawson of W.K. Dickson; Kelly Nash, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Moolenaar called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**1. Minutes of March 13, 2007 Meeting:**

Mr. Moolenaar began the meeting with a discussion of the minutes for the March 13, 2007 meeting. The committee members were in agreement to accept the minutes as written.

**2. Public/Committee Comments:**

Mr. Clements requested to make a correction to the March 8, 2007 minutes in reference to Mr. Diuguid. Mr. Diuguid is the Community Planner for the Division of Water Quality and with the Department of Environmental and Water Resources.

Mrs. Tiffany Woodard – 308 Club Colony – presented to the committee brochures from various companies regarding possible options for storm water solutions.

**(Clerk's note: Copy of Mrs. Woodard's brochures are attached and hereby made a copy of these minutes.)**

Mr. James Willis, III – 104 Atlantic Beach Causeway – asked the committee to look at different ways of presenting/offering, regarding the hookup and cost of, a sewer system to all those concerned instead of handing down mandates, which he feels, would draw "battle lines".

With no further comments from either the public or committee at this time, Mr. Moolenaar introduced Raymond Cordon and Dan Dawson from W.K. Dickson and asked if they could go through their Stormwater Master Plan presentation that was presented to Town Council at

their March 19, 2007 meeting because not all committee members were present at the Council meeting to preview it.

### **3. Stormwater Master Plan – W. K. Dickson**

Mr. Cordon stated that the presentation that would be presented is the same presentation that was shown to Council at their March 19, 2007 meeting. He noted the agenda for the presentation would be as follows: 1.) Review the project scoping goals; 2.) Update the project status; and 3.) Identification of the Capital Projects/Capital Improvement Plan.

**(Clerk's note: Copy of W. K. Dickson presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. It also available for public viewing on the Town of Atlantic Beach website.)**

### **4. Committee Discussion:**

Mr. Richardson was questioning if there were any curbing/guttering in the plans for installation. Mr. Cordon advised that there were not any proposed.

Mr. Lenweaver stated that there are not any facts or real figures in all the presentations so far and he is not sure what the basis for priority was. Also Mr. Lenweaver wanted to know if there were any calculations done to show what amounts of stormwater the town gets during a normal storm and how do all these suggestions remedy this? Mr. Cordon stated that there is a Volume II of the stormwater project that deals with the methodology, the modeling and calculations. Mr. Lenweaver stated that there is no way you can comment intellectually or advise the town on options without that information.

Mr. Dan Dawson suggested that the detailed information of the project be brought to the committee if this is what they feel they need in order to move forward. He also strongly suggested that the town and/or committee give feedback if there are areas of the city that needs to be included as a "problem area" that has not been recognized as so. They need to know this to effectively present options.

Mr. Moolenaar suggested to the town and committee, that if there are areas that have been missed, to please submit the locations, intersections or addresses of the problem areas to the town between tonight and the next scheduled meeting so the engineers can have a chance to look at and evaluate the areas.

Mr. Lotspih questioned about some residences being on slabs. Was somebody going to look into insurance for these houses that are on slabs or how is this going to be handled? Mr. Dawson replied by stating that if you compared the cost of building these types of structures or designing a system to get the water down low enough to keep the structure dry, it

would be more cost effective to raise or elevate the home so that it would be above the water. This is one of those areas where options would have to be weighed.

Mr. Clements commented on two concerns. First he commented on Highway 58 and Morehead Ave. that is owned by the Department of Transportation. DOT would be the ones to handle the construction on their territory and putting pressure on the DOT is the only thing that will fix that. Also he commented that when all things are being looked at, he wants people to remember that, as far as the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Department of Water Quality is concerned, a maximum design is for a ten (10) year storm. So they have no need to design for something that is considered "an act of God". Mr. Cordon responded by advising that none of the improvements are designed for major hurricanes.

Mr. Brewer wanted to know if the cost of having to raise some of the structures is included in the \$6 million cost. Mr. Cordon advised that, yes, that cost is included. Mr. Brewer also asked the question if the quality of the stormwater runoff, as it is now, that is being "pumped into the dunes", so to speak, is completely stormwater or has it filtered through into our wastewater and is the wastewater being pumped into that. Mr. Dawson stated that he felt the septic tank is mixing with the stormwater, but additional sampling is being done in conjunction with UNC Institute of Marine Sciences.

Mr. Clements asked if the stormwater that is to be discharged is contaminated by the septic tank, can high powered ultraviolet lights be used to sanitize the water. Mr. Dawson states that the sun takes care of that, but that if you start introducing chemicals you may not be able to obtain permits due to possible chemical residuals left in the water to be discharged. Mr. Clements also stated that he is under the impression that CAMA does not have any regulations on the control of sprinklers in the dune area that is supposed to be prohibited to pedestrian walk. Mr. Dawson stated that, for CAMA, they prefer to grade the ground so that the water can uniformly spread out and impound itself as it is infiltrated. Mr. Moolenaar allowed Marc Schulze to speak on this issue. Mr. Schulze stated that even though sprinklers are the preferred method, there are some problems with the actual piping that goes along with it, but this is an ongoing discussion.

Mr. Willis offered to give up his fifteen minute presentation in lieu of questions he would like to ask. This was agreed to by all.

Mr. Lotspih asked if it was theoretically possible for a house that already has sewer to take the existing septic tank & leachate field, punch holes in the bottom of the septic tank with spiving around the houses and have it drained into it. Mr. Cordon stated that yes this is an option that can be looked at down the road. It would make a significant difference in the runoff.

Mr. Willis stated that fecal chloroform was found around town, where there were not any septic tanks present at all and noted that the longer the rain persisted, the higher the fecal

chloroform, so yes it is mixing. Mr. Cordon once again iterated that sampling is being headed up by Dr. Rachel Nobles at UNC Institute of Marine Sciences. Mr. Willis also wanted to know if monitoring will continue after the stormwater & sewer projects are in to determine how much conditions have improved. Mr. Cordon stated that the intent is for the Town to continue with monitoring after any improvements are made, but not sure how long the Town will continue this practice.

Mr. Dawson stated that water quality is the main purpose here and that he cannot give a number or percentage of improvement, but over time it will greatly improve.

Mr. Moolenaar, at this point, moved on to clarifying the mission statement for the committee. He suggested working on the agenda for their next meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> which would include focusing on some of the questions that have been presented to the committee at prior meetings. He advised that Council, in mutual agreement, has stated that the mission of the committee is: "to study and help the Council evaluate the stormwater and wastewater preliminary engineering reports. The Council has tried to look at all the alternatives and have received the preliminary reports, but seeks input and advice from the committee as to the path forward. They should concentrate on the work that has already been done to ensure it is correct and meets the needs of the citizens of the town." The committee was in agreement with this statement. Mr. Moolenaar proceeded to discuss the agenda for the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Shelor stated that Mr. Troy Dees from the Carteret Co. Environmental Health should be brought in to speak. The committee also suggested bringing in Mr. Steve Burkowitz, from the Department of Environmental Health. Mr. Moolenaar stated that they will also try to look at questions that have previously been submitted to the committee and try to get them, or at least some of them, answered.

Mr. Clements stated that the business community needs to get involved.

Mr. Brewer suggested the committee needs to look at and address the prospect of the business community to pick up more of the \$3,500 a year expense than someone who can not afford the major expense or does not need it. He feels that this issue can be made a little bit more positive than what it is now. Mr. Cordon replied that this expense is pretty much covered by the units that are already set up for the water system at \$3,500 per unit. And a restaurant does not count as one unit, but determined by the amount of tables it has. Regarding motels, so many rooms are considered a unit.

Mr. Willis wanted to know what is going to be done about the underdrains. Mr. Cordon stated that there are several options that can be looked at regarding underdrainage.

Mr. Moolenaar then turned the floor over for public comment.

Mr. Harold Lyles – Robin Ave. – Mr. Lyles stated that by adding stored wastewater in with the other water seems like it will be increasing the water that will leachate and unless the

septic tank problem is removed, we will just continue to have that water quality surrounding this island. Myrtle Beach and some other beaches have done this and he finds it very discouraging that Myrtle Beach was ahead of the game and now they are backing up with huge towers. This is a major tourism factor. It seems we are trying to send this wastewater right back into the sand where there is already a lot of stuff in it. Mr. Moolenaar suggested that Mr. Lyles submit his question to the committee at some point for further investigation in order to get a correct answer.

Mr. Bill Taft – 1115 Ocean Ridge Dr. – Mr. Taft opposes the plan and commented by stating that the report that W.K. Dickson gave tonight, seems to him, is the biggest building of a case for the fact that this small barrier island that Atlantic Beach is a portion of has had about all it can take. He feels that anything we do to add more development to it and magnify the problems brought out tonight is a big mistake. He also feels that the recommendation of the committee and Town Council should be to put more stringent restrictions on development and control the situation we already have.

Mr. Jeff Van Buren – 147 Bayview Blvd. – Mr. Van Buren opposes the plan. He addressed concerns regarding the cost of the stormwater projects; pollution and the sewer system

**(Clerk's note: Mr. Van Buren's concerns are attached and here by made a part of these minutes.)**

Mr. Jay Randall – Robin Ave. – Mr. Randall held a discussion back and forth with Mr. Cordon and Mr. Dawson from W. K. Dickson. As none of the participants in these particular discussions were at a microphone, minutes for this discussion are unavailable.

Mrs. Tiffany Woodard – 308 Club Colony – Mrs. Woodard wanted to clarify that the storm water cost is \$6 million in addition to the \$60 million which will be a total of \$66 million. Mrs. Woodard then stated that last year 200 million gallons of raw sewage went to North Carolina waterways. Mrs. Woodard read a report from the Environmental Protection Agency website regarding a distinction between human and animal pollution.

Mr. Jim Bailey – 517 E. Fort Macon Rd. – Councilmember Bailey wanted to advise the committee on a few issues to think about. Prior to his comments, Councilmember Bailey did advise the committee that he had spoken with Mr. Troy Dees earlier and he is willing to come and speak. His suggestions and comments were as follows: 1.) for the committee, at some future date, to visit other towns that have gone through the similar processes that Atlantic Beach is proposing; 2.) regarding the underdrain issue Mr. Willis spoke of earlier, a reuse, parallel system was built into the plan where the underdrain can go back for various uses (lawn irrigation, etc.); 3.) Developmental control concerns were addressed by way of passing a resolution at a previous Town Council meeting; 4.) even though a town-wide sewer system does not have to be done or implemented for the whole town, it would be remised if the Council, as elected officials, did not design a town-wide system; 5.) stormwater projects will

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be evaluated in great detail by the information that has already been obtained and that which will be provided by the committee; 6.) Regarding the \$6 million cost, over \$3 million is allocated for raising the houses; and 7.) The Institute of Marine Sciences does have the technology to identify whether or not the pollutants they will be sampling for are human pollutants which is part of the program.

With there being no further public comments, Mr. Moolenaar confirmed that the next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 29, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Council Board Room. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Kelly L. Nash, Administrative Assistant

These minutes were accepted by the committee at the Thursday, March 29, 2007 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater.