

**Minutes**  
**Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**  
**Citizens Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater**  
**Thursday, March 8, 2007**

The meeting of the Atlantic Beach Citizens Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater (ABACOWS) was held Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room.

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Mayor Tootsie Vinson; Tommy Combs, Interim Town Manager; Council Members: Jim Bailey, Ruth Barnes, Mike Warren; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Larry Moolenaar, Facilitator; Kim Glover, Deputy Town Clerk; Kelly Nash, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Combs called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All committee members were present.

**1. Welcome and introductions - Tommy Combs, Interim Town Manager**

Mr. Combs welcomed everyone to the meeting. He briefly outlined the contents of the notebook, advised there will be time allotted for public comment at the end of the session with a three minute time limit. Sign-up will be required. Mr. Combs also advised that anyone wishing to submit questions or statements may do so and they will be handled at future meetings. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Moolenaar.

**2. ABACOWS Roles and Procedures – Mr. Moolenaar, Facilitator**

Mr. Moolenaar stated that he would like public comment at the beginning and the end of the meetings in order to address any issues that may arise from those comments during the session. He then suggested that each committee member introduce themselves and give a little bit of background about themselves.

Tom Lenweaver – Mr. Lenweaver is a retired trial attorney. He has been coming to this area since the early 1970's. He also served as a Town Council Member and Planning attorney in New York

John Lotspih – Mr. Lotspih is retired from General Motors and has been coming to the area since 1957, but has been a permanent resident for approximately two and half years.

Bruce McFerren – Mr. McFerren is a former assistant principal and football coach in high school education. He also owns a cottage on Atlantic Beach.

Billy Brewer – Mr. Brewer is originally from Wilson, North Carolina. He retired from Firestone after twenty years of service and has been coming to the area since 1958.

Alan Shelor – Mr. Shelor is a native of Atlantic Beach. He has been in real estate for thirty-two years.

George Richardson – Mr. Richardson is retired from the banking industry. He also owns property here.

Donald Clements – Mr. Clements is a retired land surveyor. He has been in the beach area for approximately thirty seven years. He has served the Town of Atlantic Beach for numerous years.

James Willis III – Mr. Willis has been here since 1934. He attended the first meeting of the Town Council in 1937 and has been involved with sewer and wastewater since 1970. Mr. Willis sees himself as a “Banksologist”.

Mr. Moolenaar started off saying the most important thing to realize is that this is the committee’s meeting and he is the facilitator. His main function is going to be keeping the meetings on track and making sure the committee is doing what they are setting out to accomplish. The issues on the table for this committee are wastewater and stormwater. The committee will start looking at wastewater first. Mr. Moolenaar advised that tonight’s meeting will be an organizational meeting and the second meeting will be an informational meeting with the engineers from W. K. Dickson. The overall mission and task will be to see where the city is on wastewater and stormwater, and come to a consensus and make recommendations on how the community wants to proceed on this issue so there will not be any misunderstandings. Mr. Brewer stated that one of the most important things for this committee should also be about educating citizens on how a septic system works and the proceedings. Mr. Lotspih thinks the community also needs to know what the difference is between fact and fiction. Mr. Willis wondered why wastewater was being looked at before stormwater. Mr. Moolenaar once again advised the committee that this was their meeting and the issues can be looked at on equal footing. Councilmember Bailey addressed this comment and advised that the collection of stormwater data took longer that it did with wastewater and that was the only reason wastewater received the preliminary engineering report first. Mr. Clements stated that both issues should be looked at on equal footing.

### **3. Review of Mission Statement and Process**

Mr. Moolenaar then began to address the mission and vision statements. Mr. Richardson wanted to know exactly what Council is looking for and their expectations. Mr. Combs advised that the suggested mission statement reflects what the Council wants. Mr. Clements requested that Council give the committee a more precise statement as to what they are looking for. Mr. Combs suggested that the committee read the mission statement before them and see if the committee was in agreement. Mr. Moolenaar asked if the committee was in agreement with this. The committee agreed.

### **4. Discussion, Comments and Next Steps**

Mr. Moolenaar advised that the next meeting will be with the engineers and will focus on gathering data. The committee then began to discuss the options for setting up a schedule for the meetings. Mr. Moolenaar feels that it may take anywhere from eight to twelve meetings on a weekly basis to accomplish their goals unless there is a reason to skip a week. But he again advised that this was at the discretion of the committee and where they were at.

Mr. Moolenaar suggested that the meetings be scheduled every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in Council board room beginning with Thursday, March 15, 2007. Mr. Combs interjected that since the next scheduled meeting would be with the engineers of W. K. Dickson, maybe the meeting could be setup for Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. for that week only in the Council board room since the engineers will be in the area anyway for a meeting and then fall into a regular schedule of meeting every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. beginning with March 22, 2007. Mr. Moolenaar asked if the committee was in agreement with this. The committee agreed.

Mr. Moolenaar then began to discuss rules and procedures. He stated that as long as the committee stayed on task, organized and focused, the proceedings should run smoothly. He also suggested allowing people who were interested in the process to make comments in the beginning of the session. Mr. Moolenaar then asked the committee if there were any other procedural suggestions that they would like to make. Mr. Lotspih suggested name tags or tent cards. Mr. Richardson wanted to know if there was any type of budget to bring anyone else in from another city or town to speak about the impacts they have had in their communities regarding new regulations. Mr. Clements stated that Carteret County is exempt from the Phase II storm water state & federal regulations. He stated that he spoke with Mr. Duigiud, Community Planner for Division of Water Quality and Department of Environmental and Water Resources. Per Mr. Clements, Mr. Duigiud stated that Phase II are regulations that are mandated by the federal government and only apply to municipalities that have over a certain population base. Mr. Clements advised that currently there are no plans for Carteret County to be under Phase II. Mr. Clements said that he could obtain documentation of the exempt status. Mr. Clements stated that stormwater has not been amended by the legislature and it currently stands at one (1) acre or larger of disturbed area before stormwater to get involved.

Councilmember Bailey commented that the fifty-seven percent was not discussed in Phase II. It was not a stormwater issue, it was a wastewater statistic. Councilmember Mike Warren agreed with Councilmember Bailey and commented that a study that was done was of fifty-seven percent of lots and they did not meet current code of septic system and stated that this is a perfect example of a charter or what the mission should be for this committee. Mr. Combs advised that the Mayor's office had received a letter stating that the Town of Atlantic Beach was a candidate for designation for Phase II stormwater. He also advised that a copy of this letter will be given to each committee member.

Mr. Moolenaar stated that he would be in attendance of each meeting and that a suggestion was made to him regarding a chairperson. Mr. Lenweaver prefers a facilitator over a chairperson.

Mr. Combs made a suggestion that once the minutes were approved by the committee they could be published on the Town of Atlantic Beach's website for public viewing and that a copy of the previous meetings minutes would be sent to each committee member for review prior to next scheduled meeting. Mr. Lenweaver asked that if the votes ended in a tie, that both views go before Council. Mr. Lotspih stated that he would like to see discussion notes being recorded on flip charts as the session progresses so as not to duplicate issues or for further discussion on a particular issue. Mr. Willis would also like an agenda for the next meeting also sent to each committee member on a weekly basis.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the sewer system that was designed to meet the growth in the proposed Land Use Plan and it is available for viewing and that it is designed for approximately ten percent growth. Mr. Lotspih wanted to define how this ten percent growth was being determined. Councilmember Bailey advised the wastewater plan had to be designed with the single biggest event of the year for Atlantic Beach in mind. Mr. Lotspih wanted to pass along to committee members that North Carolina Coastal Federation is going to have a demonstration on rain gardens and that this might be a good demonstration for Public Services Director Marc Schulze to attend to bring back some helpful information. This demonstration will be held at Cape Lookout at the Carteret Crossroads meeting. Mr. Moolenaar advised Mr. Lotspih to gather more information regarding the demonstration and forward it on to Interim Town Manager Tommy Combs.

Mr. Moolenaar at this time asked if there was anyone who signed up for public comment. Mr. Jay Randall stated that he had read the Wastewater & Stormwater draft and would like to present a list of questions to be answered at some point along the way. Mr. Randall did go into some detail about a concern he has with possible hidden costs (i.e. insurance, connection to system, etc.) from anywhere of \$1,500.00 to \$3,500.00. Mrs. Tiffany Woodard suggested that someone get in contact with other coastal communities and ask what their water quality was pre-sanitary sewer system and after. Mrs. Woodard stated that she has done some research on her own and would gladly offer names and contact numbers for future research. Mr. Willis questioned whether this committee was going to be involved in the stormwater survey that is

going on now and pick the study sites. He stated that he would like the committee to keep in mind that they need to be involved in this process of picking sites. Mr. Combs advised that the engineers are not picking the sites for study, that there is a group out of Chapel Hill that is working with the engineers on the selection of sites. Mr. Moolenaar noted that the issue of picking, testing and survey of sites needs to be handled correctly.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he would like to be in attendance only for the purpose of helping to inform and clarify to the committee any information or questions they may have. Mr. Paul Woodard stood up and stated that he is pleased with what the committee is doing and not “rubber stamping” the issue, but also asked that the committee look at the validity of the survey that is being done, also to look at the wording of the survey because as it is currently worded it goes from one issue into the next issue without missing a beat.

Mr. Moolenaar advised that he has made note of the issues that need to be discussed at future meetings, advised that the next scheduled meeting would be held Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the board room and adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

---

Kelly L. Nash, Administrative Assistant

These minutes were accepted by the committee at the Tuesday, March 13, 2007 meeting of the Atlantic Beach Citizens Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater.