

**Minutes**  
**Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**  
**Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater**  
**Thursday, April 5, 2007**

The meeting of the Atlantic Beach Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater (ABACOWS) was held Thursday, April 5, 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 James Willis, III.

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Larry Moolenaar, Facilitator; Mayor Tootsie Vinson; Council Members Ruth Barnes, Eddie Dawkins and Mike Warren; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Kelly Nash, Administrative Assistant

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

**1. Minutes of March 29, 2007 Meeting:**

Mr. Moolenaar began the meeting with a discussion of the minutes for the March 29, 2007 meeting. Mr. Lenweaver & Mr. Willis noted minor changes to pages 2 and 4. With changes being noted to all, the committee agreed to accept the minutes as written.

**2. Establish Outline of Future Committee Activities**

Mr. Moolenaar reminded the members of their mission statement to provide advice to the Town of Atlantic Beach as a way forward on Wastewater and Stormwater issues. He asked the committee their thoughts on how to get from where the committee is at this point to a point of recommendation to the Town.

**Mr. Don Clements** feels that during this meeting the members should hold a discussion amongst themselves regarding the information that has been gathered already to see where they are at. He also stated that he would like to hear Mr. Jim Willis' presentation on the "Breese Theory".

**Mr. Thomas Lenweaver** would like to visit Trent Woods to see first-hand their vacuum system and get a feel from the citizens of Trent Woods on whether they like the system that was installed and what type of hurdles or obstacles they have had to deal with.

**Mr. Alan Shelor** feels that if a visit to another municipality is what they are going to do, then he feels the committee should find a locality that has had a system installed and operating for several years and if possible find localities that have different systems that they can look at.

**Mr. George Richardson** would like to keep research and discussion of the two (2) projects (stormwater and wastewater) separate if at all possible. Also he requested a copy of Figure 8.1 diagram from the Wastewater Master Plan presentation that the engineers of W.K. Dickson had omitted.

**Mr. Thomas Lenweaver** feels that the committee does not have to wait until their last meeting or when the committee dissolves to make a recommendation. He also stated, regarding stormwater, that maybe the Town could start enacting some of the ordinances already in place where it would help eliminate some of the stormwater issues.

**Mr. Don Clements** stated that the stormwater runoff regulations are strict and if Atlantic Beach starts duplicating the State's efforts he feels that Town will be spending a whole lot of money for very little return.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** wanted to clarify that one of the recommendations the committee should make to Council is to look at some of the Town codes and see if some low impact development can be started for preventative purposes.

**Mr. John Lotspih** feels the Town should start looking at these possible preventive measures even before the committee makes a final recommendation.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** wanted to know if the committee could start pursuing any possible grants that are available and find out what Atlantic Beach is eligible for.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** advised that the Eastern Carolina Council is involved, to a degree, with grants. He stated that when it comes to grants you do not know whether the Town can obtain a grant or how much can be obtained until an application is submitted. He pointed out that there are a lot of variables involved, including per capita income. Mr. Moolenaar suggested the committee include seeking grants as a funding option in their final recommendation to Council.

**Mr. George Richardson** commented that after speaking with Mr. Turney, from Trent Woods, the Town of Trent Woods applied for all grants they could prior to a definitive decision being made on a town-wide sewer system. He feels that Atlantic Beach should look at this aspect.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** questioned whether or not there are any monies that could be tapped into from the twelve percent (12%) taxes that are charged to anyone that stays at a motel, etc. in Atlantic Beach.

**Mr. Moolenaar** stated that those monies are already “promised” to someone else. He then went back to address the grant option issue. He advised that, yes applying for grants before beginning a project can be done, but you have to be able to describe the type of project being done. But before this can be done, the committee has to come to a decision as to what type of project should be done, present it to Council and then they need to make a decision, then the application process can begin.

**Mr. George Richardson** stated there were three (3) projects outlined in the stormwater presentation from W.K. Dickson that are handled by the Department of Transportation (DOT). So he feels maybe an early recommendation to Council should be for Council to start getting with DOT, show them the engineering report and the three (3) areas outlined, the problems involved in those areas and encourage them to take the entire responsibility for those three (3) projects.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** summarized by saying that what Mr. Richardson is recommending is for the Town to get with DOT to address the projects that are under their jurisdiction that they can fix.

**Mr. Jim Willis** began his “presentation” on what he calls the “Breese Theory”. He sketched a drawing, on the blackboard, of a section of Bogue Banks in the area of the old Food Lion store. Mr. Willis stated that Denny Breese is a seadozer who pushes sand around below sea level. The “Denny Breese” theory claims, according to Mr. Willis, that most of the erosion on Bogue Banks comes from septic tank water. Mr. Willis wants to know where the water from the underdrains will be going. Due to Mr. Willis not being at a microphone during his “presentation”, the majority of his comments and statements were unavailable for these minutes.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** feels the committee needs to find a coastal community, similar in size to Atlantic Beach, that has a vacuum system, visit it, talk with the actual operators of the system and what is being done. He feels the committee needs to look at all negative and positive aspects of this type of system.

**Mr. Don Clements** feels that if the committee limits their visits to beach communities only they may not gather as much information as needed.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** clarified that one (1) of the future activities for the committee is to visit various localities. He also asked the committee if they wanted to address stormwater and wastewater separately or inter-mingle them.

**Mr. Thomas Lenweaver** feels that the committee really needs to have a copy of the Figure 8.1 diagram so they can look at options of possible construction in phases and the costs attached to those options. He feels the town does need a sewer system, but not sure if a town-wide system is the answer.

**Mr. Jim Willis** commented that you have people who are for pump and haul who can afford a higher connection and user fee than the average home owner can. He feels that if the “smaller” owners do not want to come along, leave them out. He would like to see the ones that really need this system and can make money off of it by hooking up, get it and the ones that will lose money stay out.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** suggested that a determination be made as to how many sections or areas need to be picked up that are problem areas and go from there.

**Mr. John Lotspih** stated that the Health Department has a good idea of what residences have problems and he volunteered to contact the Health Department to get a list of the areas that need to be picked up for this system.

**Mr. Alan Shelor** questioned a theory where if you take a section of the Town where one (1) resident in that particular section wants the system and the rest of the residents in that particular section do not - do you go through all the construction and cost to run lines to that section for that one (1) resident or do you say to that one (1) person your section does not get the system whether you want it or not?

**Mr. Thomas Lenweaver** feels that maybe you could create numbered sewer districts to where you have the first district pay for basically a stage of the construction, then if other residents want to come in and expansion is needed, create further sewer districts and maybe this way it would alleviate the problem of everyone paying for something that everyone is not getting.

**Mr. George Richardson** stated that there are fixed costs associated with this type of option.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** wanted to summarize the meeting thus far. The committee agrees that Atlantic Beach does have a problem with both stormwater and wastewater in some areas and something needs to be done. Also the committee is questioning whether the wastewater problem can be approached in stages, options for a partial system for commercial areas on the Causeway, and the costs associated with those options.

**Mr. John Lotspih** wanted to know how many units are in The Sands.

**Mr. Thomas Lenweaver** responded that there are 90 units in The Sands and 50 units in Island Quay.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** instructed the committee to go to page 86 in the Wastewater Master Plan booklet where it shows various implementation options for a wastewater system and the varying costs attached to each phase or option.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** directed a question to Don Clements, asking him if Atlantic Beach was implemented into Phase II Stormwater by 2011, what would it do to us?

**Mr. Don Clements** response to this question was “Nothing”. He then proceeded to state that stormwater only applies to new construction and areas where you disturb over one (1) acre of land.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** then asked how does Phase II affect us as far as wastewater is concerned, or would it?

**Mr. Don Clements** commented on this by stating since Atlantic Beach does not have any sites that are not probably going to be one (1) acre, as far as new construction is concerned, it would be redevelopment.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** once again summarized the meeting thus far regarding recommendations for future activities and topics:

- 1.) Determination has been made that there are problems with stormwater and wastewater in certain areas and something needs to be done.
- 2.) How does the committee get to a point of recommendation?
  - a.) Look at other systems that are in place
  - b.) Answer questions about developing a wastewater system in stages; partial system costs
  - c.) Low impact development
  - d.) Contacting DOT regarding the three (3) outlined areas of their jurisdiction.

**Mr. Bruce McFerren** suggested that the committee needs to address the earlier survey that was sent out to citizens regarding their opinions on a town-wide system.

**Mr. John Lotspih** suggested making a recommendation to the Town when contacting DOT to clear out the brush along Fort Macon Rd. so the sun and air can dry up some of the areas.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** then suggested the committee decide what the next meeting should entail. The suggestions made by the committee members were as follows:

- 1.) Missing Figure 8.1 of the Wastewater Master Plan;
- 2.) answers to questions that have been submitted by citizens and committee members; and
- 3.) discuss possibility of visiting other localities.

**Mr. Billy Brewer** suggested that the committee stays focused on stormwater and wastewater issues only, not state issues or anything else.

**Mr. Larry Moolenaar** confirmed the next meeting will be April 12, 2007 at 6:00 pm. in Town Council Boardroom. With no further business before the committee, Mr. Moolenaar adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Kelly L. Nash, Administrative Assistant