

**Minutes**  
**Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**  
**Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater**  
**Thursday, April 19, 2007**

The meeting of the Atlantic Beach Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater (ABACOWS) was held Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room.

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

**Members Absent:** Thomas Lenweaver

**Others Present:** Larry Moolenaar, Facilitator; Mayor Tootsie Vinson; Council Member Jim Bailey; Marc Schulze, Public Services Director; Tommy Combs, Interim Town Manager; Sabrina Simpson, Town Clerk; Dave Harvell; WK Dickson staff members Dan Dawson, Raymond Cordon, and Tom Murray

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

**1. 4/6/07 and 4/13/07 Minutes Discussion**

Mr. Moolenaar began the meeting with a discussion of the minutes for the April 6, 2007 and April 13, 2007 meetings. These minutes have not been completed by staff due to time constraints. Mr. Moolenaar stated that by the May 3, 2007 meeting, all minutes should be completed and ready for review and acceptance.

**2. Public / Committee Comments**

Mr. Richardson requested the Committee create a list of quick fixes to specific stormwater problem areas and give the list to Council within a few weeks.

Mr. Moolenaar replied that by the May 3, 2007 meeting, the Committee will have had a chance to review both stormwater and wastewater in depth, as well as taken tours of similar systems as the types we are considering. The goal of the Committee is to be prepared to provide Council with final recommendations within two or three more meetings.

Councilman Bailey informed the Committee that the Council is currently working on the low impact ordinance and plans to develop a universal development ordinance (UDO).

Mr. Richardson stated, and several Committee members agreed, that the Committee would like to see a formal report from the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding their response to the three identified problem spots on DOT property.

Councilman Bailey stated that DOT has acknowledged the problems exist. He reiterated that the Town staff has been in contact with DOT representatives for years regarding the flooding issues.

Mr. Richardson suggested the Town hire a contractor to fix the problems on the DOT owned locations if DOT will not cooperate.

Mr. Clements replied that he isn't comfortable with taxpayer monies being used fix a road when the responsibility belongs to the Department of Transportation.

The Committee was reminded that the Town has no jurisdiction to work on the DOT owned roads.

Dan Dawson said that if the consensus is to discontinue Town funds being spent on the DOT areas, then he needs to know that so his staff isn't still working on them as well. No consensus was made by the Committee.

Tom Murray explained that before the Department of Transportation can be expected to react, the Town would need to propose a plan of action. This plan would include what areas need fixed and why, the proposed solution, the costs involved, and show the benefits of what the recommended changes would bring to the Town and to DOT.

### **3. Stormwater Discussion and Questions – WK Dickson**

Raymond Cordon told the Committee that they are there tonight to have an open dialog and answer questions the Committee has on stormwater.

Mr. Moolenaar asked if the eleven problem areas listed on WK Dickson's table, E-1 "Capital Projects Summary and Prioritization", list could be solved independently from each other.

Tom Murray stated yes, with the exception of Fort Macon/Cedar Lane and Bogue Boulevard. These two projects are intertwined.

When asked about piping the water to Fort Macon, Tom Murray answered that piping to Fort Macon would be difficult on a regulatory standpoint. Some water could be taken, but not enough for a 10-year storm.

Mr. Lotspih asked about pumping to the dunes. Tom Murray said the Town could pump between the dunes as long as we stayed behind the CAMA lines.

Jim Willis had two questions for the engineers. When the project first started, the engineers proposed to correct the wastewater issues first. That would cause the stormwater to be less contaminated, and with a little cleaning the water could be discharged to the sound. Mr. Willis would like to know why the current plans do not include discharging to the sound. He also questioned why Wilson Avenue was left out of the Phase I Wastewater Plan.

Mr. Cordon answered that Wilson and Terminal were left out of Phase I because of the way the backbone system was designed. He also stated that the intent was not to tie wastewater and stormwater to be able to clean stormwater enough to discharge it to the sound. The intent was to have a collection system in place so any area in Town could be easily served. He also added that Wilson and Terminal could be added very easily to the Phase I Plan if that was what the Town wanted to do.

Several Committee members began providing explanations and recommending solutions to some of the flooding problem areas. Mr. Moolenaar explained to the Committee that the Town hired the engineers for that aspect of the wastewater and stormwater planning process. The Committee's goal is to provide local knowledge on problem areas that the engineers may have overlooked and to take the information provided and form a recommendation to provide to the Council. The Committee's goal for tonight is look at the priority list on Table E-1. The list is to be reviewed to see if the ranking may need to be re-ordered and to see if any locations needed added or deleted.

Tom Murray explained that the priority list was ranked by looking at the needs of each area, public safety, the availability of permits to be obtained, and funding availability.

The following list shows the areas and ranking on the proposed Capital Projects Summary and Prioritization list, which is table E-1 from the March 1, 2007 Capital Improvement Plan from WK Dickson.

1. Hope Hole Creek
2. Fort Macon – Cedar Lane
3. Bogue Boulevard
4. Dunes Avenue
5. Wilson – Terminal
6. Greenville Avenue – Boardwalk
7. West Boardwalk
8. Asbury Avenue
9. Old Causeway
10. Fort Macon – Charlotte Avenue
11. Fort Macon – Raleigh Avenue

Tom Murray explained that due to discussions between WK Dickson staff and Town staff, the two areas that recommended elevating the homes (Wilson – Terminal and West Boardwalk) will be separated from this list and grouped by themselves to show a clear separation of costs.

The Committee members agreed to de-prioritize Wilson – Terminal and West Boardwalk. The members agreed to add to the bottom of the priority list Fort Macon – AB Causeway and the retention ponds along the entire portion of Hwy 58 in the town's city limits. The members also agreed to ask the engineers to re-study Asbury Avenue due to recent changes made to the area.

**(Clerk's Note: A copy of Table E-1: Capital Projects Summary and Prioritization is attached and hereby made a part of the minutes.)**

#### **4. Wastewater System and Plant Visit Schedule**

Councilman Bailey recommended the Committee schedule a half-day visit to see the systems in place in New Bern and Trent Woods. Both of these systems are vacuum systems. He then recommended a full-day visit to Holden Beach in Brunswick County and to Bald Head Island. The Holden Beach system is a vacuum system. Bald Head Island has a SBR plant. This plant is located in a pristine area. The Committee would be able to see and smell the operational aspects of the plant. All available Committee members were encouraged to attend both site trips.

An audience member recommended the Committee speak with Zachary Taylor, a resident of Trent Woods, while they are in the area.

Tommy Combs was tasked with contacting the Town Managers of each of the locations organizing the meetings as follows:

- Trip 1: Half day trip to New Bern and Trent Woods. Proposed on the afternoon of either Wednesday, April 25, 2007 or Thursday, April 26, 2007.
- Trip 2: Full day trip to Holden Beach and Bald Head Island. Proposed on Tuesday, April 24, 2007.

#### **5. Meeting Schedule**

Larry Moolenaar confirmed the scheduled meeting on April 26, 2007 has been cancelled. He advised that the next Committee meeting would be on May 3, 2007 at 6:00 pm in the Board Room

#### **6. Public / Committee Comments**

Tiffany Woodard feels we have more of a stormwater problem than a wastewater problem. She provided the Committee members with a handout titled "Sewer & Shellfish", which she stated mentions Atlantic Beach several times. Mrs. Woodard would also like to know the status of the DNA testing.

**(Clerk's Note: A copy of the "Sewer & Shellfish" article is attached and hereby made a part of the minutes.)**

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Mr. Cordon said more rain events are needed so more samples can be obtained. Currently, only one sample has been able to be taken.

Paul Woodard informed the Committee that the Citizens for the Orderly Development of Atlantic Beach, NC Board of Directors voted and they are in favor of a stormwater plan and against wastewater.

With no further business before the Committee, Mr. Moolenaar adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Sabrina Simpson, Town Clerk