

**RECORD OF MINUTES  
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD  
LONG-RANGE TOURISM MANAGEMENT PLAN SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024  
9:15 A.M.  
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
MANTEO, NC 27954**

**ATTENDING:** Dennis Robinson, Chair; Jessica Barnes, Donna Creef, Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy, Nick Graham, Dave Hallac, Natalie Kavanagh, Elizabeth Morey, Lee Nettles, Bobby Outten, Mike Remige, Chris Sawin, Ronnie Sloan, and Chris Vlahos.

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Mark Ballog, Karen Brown, Tim Cafferty, Shannon Castillo, Jamie Chisholm, Reide Corbett, Augusta Feldmann, and Tim Sweeney.

**STAFF:**

Jeff Schwartzberg, Community Engagement Manager  
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration  
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Win Bridgers, Division Engineer, Highway Division 1; and Ronnie Sawyer, Deputy Engineer, Highway Division 1; North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Mr. Graham moved to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2024 meeting. Second by Mr. Nettles. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

**NCDOT PRESENTATION:** Win Bridgers and Ronnie Sawyer spoke to the Committee about projects happening in Division 1 (which encompasses 14 counties, including Dare). Discussion included work on and along Highway 12 (north and south) and US 158 to make it safer for both drivers and pedestrians, road work on Highways 64 and 158 coming into Dare County, resurfacing projects, the Alligator River Bridge, Mid-Currituck Bridge, Virginia Dare Bridge, and Slash Creek Bridge projects, Hatteras and Ocracoke Island ferry ramp and dock improvements, ongoing and future traffic studies, and how projects are chosen and receive funding.

**LRTMP GOALS AND STRATEGIES:** The Chair noted Visitors Bureau staff had meetings with county-wide sports groups and travel teams and mentioned the need to prioritize items in the plan to further the implementation of key strategic and tactical items. The Committee discussed a variety of meeting structure options, including continuing to meet as a large group with alternating smaller committee meetings or creating a third smaller group to work with Community Engagement. The Committee discussed leaning towards keeping a large group monthly meeting and incorporating presentations from outside experts throughout the year. The Chair and Community Engagement Manager will work on a plan to move forward.

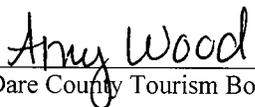
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER REPORT:** Jeff Schwartzberg updated the Special Committee on presentations made to civic and governmental organizations, and efforts being done to promote The Outer Banks Promise.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES:** Donna Creef gave an update on the Dare Community Housing Task Force. Lee Nettles noted the recently released Tourism Economic Impact Report from the state. Chris Sawin noted the Outer Banks Community Foundation recently met with the Outer Banks Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Coalition and encouraged additional engagement by the Committee. National Park Superintendent Dave Hallac noted a strong summer of visitation at the area’s three national parks and reported on the water quality and clean-up efforts surrounding the houses that have fallen along the beach in Rodanthe. Mayor Morey reported that the Town of Southern Shores is applying for a grant for pedestrian and bicycle safety items. Referencing the earlier NCDOT presentation, Mayor Morey also asked the committee to explore available traffic data and to creatively think about recommendations that can be made to the Dare County Tourism Board to further support non-weekend check-ins to vacation rental homes with the goal of reducing the impact of weekend traffic and enhancing efficiency. Mike Remige reported on new wildlife friendly lighting at Jennette’s Pier as part of the NC Aquariums strategic plan. Phase 2 of the project will include lighting changes in the parking lot area. Superintendent Hallac also mentioned that the National Park Service has retrofitted approximately 400 outdoor lights in recent years along Cape Hatteras National Seashore to reduce light pollution. Jessica Barnes reported on an additional grant for updated bathroom and shower facilities at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Ronnie Sloan noted that Outer Banks Health is open to incorporating The Outer Banks Promise into their annual end-of-summer employee celebration in September, as well as an upcoming collaboration with experts from the “Blue Zones” and Dare County Health and Human Services.

**SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. *[This was later rescheduled to September 18, 2024].*

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Committee. Hearing none, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

**ATTESTED:**

  
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Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board