

**RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
LONG-RANGE TOURISM MANAGEMENT PLAN SPECIAL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025
9:00 A.M.
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MANTEO, NC 27954**

ATTENDING: Dennis Robinson, Chair; Mark Ballog, Karen Brown, Tim Cafferty, Shannon Castillo, Reide Corbett, Nick Graham, Dave Hallac, Natalie Kavanagh, Lee Nettles, Mike Remige, Chris Sawin, and Ronnie Sloan.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Jessica Barnes, Jamie Chisholm, Donna Creef, Augusta Feldmann, Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy, Elizabeth Morey, Bobby Outten, Tim Sweeney, and Chris Vlahos.

STAFF:

Jeff Schwartzberg, Community Engagement Manager
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist

OTHERS ATTENDING: None

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Mike Remige moved to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2024 meeting. Second by Nick Graham. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

The Chair welcomed the Committee and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Jeff Schwartzberg reviewed the committee's work and accomplishments for 2024 and asked the Committee to set priorities and goals for 2025. The Committee then broke into groups.

The Committee came back together. The first item discussed was the idea to tie the Bureau's Long Range Tourism Management Plan Open Houses to the housing study currently being conducted by East Carolina University. Several members felt that the plan would not get the attention, or public feedback needed, if the two combined. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that Bureau staff could support the ECU efforts as needed, but it was better to keep the Bureau's LRTMP Open Houses separate.

Other topics discussed by the Committee included:

- working with a bottling company to provide canned water at events
- an Earth Day Voluntourism project
- potential to create a similar taskforce for Hatteras Island
- potential to conduct a visitor sentiment study as to what visitors expect the Outer Banks to do regarding the tenants of the Long Range Tourism Management Plan
- continuing to spotlight Voluntourism
- looking more into environmental stewardship and how environmental changes (both natural and manmade) impact different neighborhoods and communities

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES: Chris Sawin noted recent grants awarded by the Outer Banks Community Foundation. Lee Nettles noted the Dare County Tourism Board/Outer Banks Visitors Bureau award of \$1.6 million in Tourism Impact Grants, shared the trailer for the soon-to-be released Outer Edge video series, and noted a public hearing at the Town of Nags Head where all three parcels [the Soundside Event Site, Dairy Queen/ropes course building, and the former Pamlico Jack's] were designated for use as event sites and that the boardwalk and pickleball courts were added as acceptable uses. Reide Corbett noted the open house at Coastal Studies Institute would be May 17, 2025. Mike Remige noted that two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations would be opening soon at Jennette's Pier and that they were waiting on a second grant for fast-charging EV at the Pier. Tim Cafferty noted that occupancy was down but bookings were up 25%. Dave Hallac noted the passing of Darrell Collins, and presentations made to the North Carolina Department of Transportation Multi Modal group and the Coastal Resources Commission. Dennis Robinson announced that Jessica Barnes had resigned her seat on the Committee as she was moving out of state.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS: The next meetings will be Wednesday, February 12th, March 5 (in conjunction with the Student Summit), April 9, June 11, September 10, and November 12, 2025, at 9 a.m.

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Committee. Hearing none, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

ATTESTED:



Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board