

**RECORD OF MINUTES  
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD  
LONG-RANGE TOURISM MANAGEMENT PLAN SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

**9:00 A.M.**

**OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
MANTEO, NC 27954**

**ATTENDING:** Richard Hess, Chair; Mark Ballog, Tim Cafferty, Shannon Castillo, Jamie Chisholm, Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy, Nick Graham, Natalie Kavanagh, Lee Nettles, Mike Remige, Chris Sawin, Ronnie Sloan, and Tim Sweeney.

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Outer Banks Forever Representative, Karen Brown, Reide Corbett, Donna Creef, Augusta Feldmann, Dave Hallac, Elizabeth Morey, Bobby Outten, Ronnie Sloan, and Chris Vlahos.

**STAFF:**

Jeff Schwartzenberg, Community Engagement Manager  
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist  
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager  
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration  
Shannon Halko, Intern

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Spencer Gregory, Public Services Director, Dare County Parks and Recreation

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mike Remige moved to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting. Second by Chris Sawin. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:** The Chair congratulated

**PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION:** Spencer Gregory, Public Services Director for Dare County Parks and Recreation, presented the findings from the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (presentation on file). By gathering detailed information about demographics, existing facilities, and community preferences, the County can identify gaps in service and areas for improvement. The study helped to provide the information needed to guide the recommendation to implement improvements. The Committee asked about timelines, additional needs, and how to help in the process.

**OUTER BANKS VISITOR BUREAU UPDATES:** Lee Nettles reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts. Committee members if there was a way to track Airbnb and the number of adults and children in rentals. Lee Nettles noted that Airbnb was accounted for in the occupancy reports and that tracking the number of adults and children would be difficult as rental agencies usually do not track that information. He then reviewed the North Carolina County by County Economic Impact of Tourism figures that had been released, progress on the boardwalk at the Soundside Event Site, and filming for second season of The Outer Edge.

**LRTMP Updates & Discussion:** Jeff Schwartzberg:

- announced the Inaugural Outer Banks Tourism Week October 11-18, 2025
- ‘Volunteer OBX’ portal, which will connect volunteers and organizations. The portal includes volunteer scheduling, volunteer check in, hours tracking, and text messaging between volunteers and organizations.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Non-Profit Knowledge Series September 26. Chris Sawin gave kudos to the program. Tim Sweeney encouraged attendees to car pool.
- Outer Banks featured in the 2025-26 Trail Towns Guide.

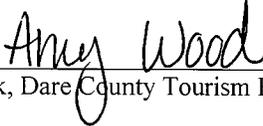
**COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES:**

- Natalie Kavanagh noted that while folks are still shopping, retail seems to be down.
- Tim Sweeney noted that enrollment at College of the Albemarle was up, and that more development courses were being added (CDL Truck Driving for example).
- Mike Remige noted that the wildlife lighting at the pier and parking area was completed and that plans were underway for a new research platform (in conjunction with Coastal Studies Institute), and the pier decking would be replaced over the winter. He also noted that they were looking at conceptual plans for a solar power panel covered parking area.
- Nick Graham noted the Outer Banks Chamber was accepting applications/resumes for the Executive Director position at the Chamber.
- Lee Nettles noted the Small Business Awards and Chamber participation in a Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance program for small business.
- Shannon Castillo noted that the school year was off to a great start and that the CTE program has over 2,000 registrations. She noted that students in Hatteras were building a “schoolie” [bus converted to a tiny home] that would be auctioned off when completed.
- Chris Sawin noted the Community Foundation provided a grant to Everyone’s Playground for an accessible playground.
- Mark Ballog noted restaurants were gearing up for their fall and winter events.
- Richard Hess noted that the Seafood Festival was a month away and volunteer opportunities awaited.

**SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS:** The next meeting will be November 12, 2025 at 9 a.m.

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Committee. Hearing none, Donna Creef moved to adjourn. Second by Reide Corbett. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

**ATTESTED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board