

RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2014
9:00 A.M.
OUTER BANKS WELCOME CENTER ON ROANOKE ISLAND
MANTEO, NC

ATTENDING: Monica Thibodeau, Chair; Tim Cafferty, Vice Chair; Jodi Hess, Secretary; Dorie Fuller, Treasurer; Ervin Bateman, Assistant Treasurer; Jamie Daniels, Ernie Foster, Natalie Kavanagh, Donny King, Virginia Tillett, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Sheila Davies, Susie Walters and the Hotel/Motel Association representative.

STAFF:

Lee Nettles, Executive Director
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager
Aaron Tuell, Public Relations Manager
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist

OTHERS: Elizabeth Teague, Town of Nags Head.

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. The Board then recited the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Cafferty moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Bateman seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Hess moved to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2014 meeting. Mr. King seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Elizabeth Teague reviewed the proposed boardwalk which would span the area near Sugar Creek, through the Event Site, and to the Town owned property north of the go-kart track.

Legal Counsel noted that, at this time, there was no conflict of interest with the boardwalk planning process and Board member Ervin Bateman but there might be in the future. The Board would need to excuse Mr. Bateman from voting if this was a problem in the future.

Following the review, Mr. Daniels moved to grant permission to George Wood of Environmental Professionals Incorporated to access the Event Site to take soil samples and do any additional work needed to complete permitting and application processes. Mr. King seconded. Mr. Cafferty asked if a time limit was needed. Staff will work to make sure all work is done in a timely manner after the access is granted. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed that the Short Term Restricted Fund Grant Program was the most suitable place for Board funding for the boardwalk and that the Board has an established line item within the budget for the development of the Event Site, which could include the construction of piers/sidewalks on the site.

Mr. Cafferty moved that the Board support the recommendations of the Town of Nags Head Boardwalk Advisory Committee. Mr. Daniels seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT: Ms. Fuller reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2013-2014 to date are up 4.35% from the same time period in fiscal year 2012-2013.

Ms. Fuller reviewed the 2013-2014 budget amendment, which moved the Travel Guide and Merchandise from their respective Enterprise Funds into the General Fund. Ms. Fuller moved to approve the budget amendment. Mr. Cafferty seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Fuller reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. After review, Ms. Fuller moved to set the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget for May 15, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. The hearing will be held at the Outer Banks Welcome Center on Roanoke Island. Mr. Bateman seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES: Lee Nettles reviewed:

- Bike Week. Mr. Bateman asked if the organizers had considered reducing the length of time of the event (four days rather than 10). Lee Nettles will talk to the organizers.
- Outer Banks Tourism Summit.
- Welcome Center and Administration building is being painted.
- Year Long Visitor Profile Study now online and in person surveys should begin soon.
- Inquiry and Fulfillment numbers. Web numbers are lower but this could be due to changes within Google. Staff will continue to monitor this. He also announced that Facebook 500,000 Fans Sweepstakes winner has been chosen.
- The Board discussed the pending release of the tourism impact numbers for the state.

Lorrie Love reviewed recent sales mission to the International. She also reviewed upcoming events throughout the community and at the event site.

Aaron Tuell reviewed upcoming media familiarization tours, media missions and recent articles.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: The Board reviewed Resolution 2014-1, Dare County Tourism Board Resolution Opposing Seismic Testing As Proposed By The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement-Alternatives A and B. Mr. Daniels moved to approve the resolution [2014-1] as presented. Mr. Bateman seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

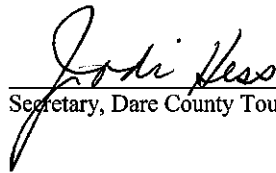
BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Board members reviewed the dredging situation at Oregon Inlet. The Chair noted that the June meeting might be held on Hatteras Island.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments made at this meeting.

SET TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. and the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 at 9:15 a.m. Both will be held at the Outer Banks Welcome Center on Roanoke Island.

Mr. Bateman moved to adjourn. Mr. Foster seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Attested:



Secretary, Dare County Tourism Board

**DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD RESOLUTION OPPOSING SEISMIC TESTING AS
PROPOSED BY THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT-ALTERNATIVES A AND B**

WHEREAS, seismic testing as proposed in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement alternatives A and B have the potential to harm marine life; and

WHEREAS, seismic testing as proposed in BOEM Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement alternatives A and B have the potential to negatively impact recreational and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, Dare County's major economic force is tourism related to the coastal environment; and

WHEREAS, according to visitor research, the clean ,open-access beaches are the number one reason visitors come to Dare County, and 2012 tourism expenditures totaled more than \$926,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic testing as proposed in BOEM Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement alternatives A and B are not yet fully understood by scientists, the Oil & Gas industry, or BOEM, and

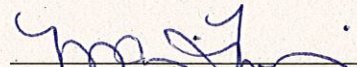
WHEREAS, the Dare County Tourism Board believes that more research should be done to fully understand all impacts of seismic testing and options for mitigation of those impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Dare County Tourism Board has previously opposed offshore exploration for natural gas and/or oil along the coast of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Dare County Tourism Board is opposed to seismic testing as proposed in alternatives A and/or B of BOEM's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement until such time as all testing options are evaluated and proper assurances for the protection of marine life are established.

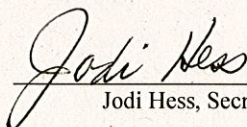
ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF APRIL 2014, by unanimous support of the Dare County Tourism Board.

DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD



Monica Thibodeau, Chair

ATTEST:



Jodi Hess, Secretary