NCDENR
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Coastal Management

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

James H. Gregson
Director

Dee Freeman
Secretary

(CRC-10-34)

October 29, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Coastal Resources Commission

FROM: Mike Lopazanski

SUBJECT: Sandbag Stakeholder Meeting Summary

At the Commission's July 2010 meeting, staff was requested to engage stakeholders in an effort to facilitate the implementation of the Commission's sandbag policy. A meeting was held prior to the September meeting in which some specific issues were discussed including the removal of sandbags prior to nourishment projects, the covered and vegetated requirements and the possible use of other criteria in the permitting and removal of sandbags. In addition, there was a suggestion and discussion of allowing communities to once again be responsible for management of sandbags as a part of a shoreline management plan.

While no discrete actions were taken as a result of the stakeholder meeting, the Commission did direct staff to resume enforcement of sandbag time limits and to continue to engage stakeholders in a discussion of the issue. A second stakeholder meeting was held in New Bern on October 4, 2010. In addition to a review of the previous meeting, the group discussed how houses on the beach continue to be the core issue. There was general agreement that something similar to the Upton-Jones Amendment to the Federal Flood Insurance Program was needed to remove structures from the beach before they are destroyed. The group discussed methods of dealing structures that are condemned frequently such as considering piling depths, permit conditions for removal and a repetitive loss trigger. Mayor Oakes was asked about Nags Head new ordinance for condemned structures but he reported that it had not been tested as of that time. The previous suggestion of local government management of sandbags was reviewed, including whether or not the same pitfalls that currently exist regarding removal of structures could be avoided. Sam Pearsall (Environmental Defense Fund) suggested an idea for an innovative strategy that involved a conservation tax credit in exchange for advance agreement on removal of structure. He has offered to more fully develop the idea and present it to the group at future meeting. Mac Paul (K&L Gates) as also offered to develop some ideas for a community sandbag management strategy. A third stakeholder meeting is scheduled for November 17th in Beaufort prior to the CRC meeting. I will provide additional details following that meeting to the Commission.

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