



## Draft BEAT Board Minutes 5-3-21

### Call to Order

President Pete Key called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:06 pm with the following Board members in attendance: Linda Eastman, Dan George, Pete Key, Marilyn Priddy, and Jennifer Swift. Bob Jakus joined after the meeting was called to order, and Sybil Murray Burgess joined the meeting during the New Business discussion. Ted Janes and Dwight Willis were absent.

Pete asked if there were any changes to the draft agenda; there were none. He asked if there were any additional changes to the draft minutes for the March Board meeting. Dan made a motion to accept the minutes, and the motion carried with no objections following a second by Pete.

### Old Business

Members reviewed the April 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held via Zoom. Marilyn said she was disappointed with only 17 participants, but thought the meeting went well and complimented Pete on his efforts. Dan asked about the Southport officials in attendance; Pete said they were Mayor Joe Pat Hatem and Alderman Karen Mosteller. He said he had invited several others from local town governments, but none attended.

Before a brief discussion about Jinks Creek, Pete mentioned humpback whales had been seen recently near Caswell Beach and Bald Head Island. Members talked about the recent communication among Board members and Dr. Richard Hilderman following the Army Corps permitting to dredge Jinks Creek. Pete said he and Emily have a meeting scheduled to discuss further action regarding PFAS contamination.

Pete relayed information on bipartisan support of the Polluter Pay bill (HB444) introduced by Deb Butler. Pete said she told him an intensive week long letter writing campaign would help pressure legislators to pass the bill, and members discussed ways to communicate this request. Pete said he could post the request on Facebook and Marilyn asked Bob to include the information on the BEAT website. Dan said we could share to other groups, and Marilyn said she would contact Beth Hansen with the LWVLCF. Pete said letters should have more impact than a petition.

### New Business

Dan described a new bill (ID number not available) introduced by Billy Richardson of Fayetteville to get plastic gill nets, responsible for killing birds, turtles and other wildlife, out of the water. He talked about diminishing flounder populations and the current limits on catches. Dan said he had talked to Deb Butler about the bill and thought with some prodding many fishermen would support it and suggested the sea turtle people might also show support. Pete said he would send the information to contacts for the OKI and Caswell Beach turtle watch groups. Dan said the proposed legislation addresses the use of gill nets up to three miles from the shoreline.

Sybil joined the meeting. Pete and Bob briefly discussed why BEAT's plans to participate in the Oak Island (OKI) Parks and Recreation Departments virtual Earth Day celebration were not realized.



Members discussed how to hold elections during the May 27<sup>th</sup> membership meeting and agreed to publicize the meeting using Facebook, emails and the website. Jennifer said she would email about ten members who were not on the Board.

Marilyn suggested the election would go more smoothly if a slate of candidates were presented in addition to asking for nominations from the floor. Each member present (with the exception of Marilyn) confirmed their desire to continue serving on the Board. All present agreed it was beneficial for Jennifer to continue as a representative for coastal SC issues.

Members discussed how many Board members are required. Marilyn said she would check the bylaws, and Pete agreed to reach out to Dwight and Ted to see if they want to continue. Ted has attended few Board meetings in the last two years, and Dwight now lives in Colorado.

Before adjourning, members circled back to the Jinks Creek dredging issue and talked about how the SELC has paid staff and attorneys to pursue litigation, unlike Clean Cape Fear and BEAT. Dan mentioned avoiding liability, which can be addressed by supporting SELC when they litigate issues.

Summarizing the need to publicize the May meeting, Pete said he would pin a post to the top of the BEAT Facebook page with the date and time and instructions. Dan said he would assist in responding to notifications.

### **Announcements & Adjournment**

Dan had no updates on Superfund meeting in Navassa; he said BEAT's role was to provide visible support. Dan said BEAT can take a more active role in supporting the proposed Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Greenway/Blueway. Marilyn said she would relay communications with Brayton Willis to BEAT Board members. Pete announced the next Board meeting would be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm via Zoom, and he adjourned the meeting at 6:49 pm following a motion by Linda and Dan's second.