



Approved BEAT Board Minutes 12-7-20

Introduction

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

1. No changes were suggested to the draft minutes from the October board meeting, and they were approved following a motion by Dwight with a second by Dan. The Board did not meet in November.
2. Pete's motion to approve the draft agenda passed following a second by Bob.

Old Business

1. Pete reported BEAT sent two letters on environmental issues since the October meeting. One was addressed to the NC Department of Air Quality and concerned Dominion's proposal to generate methane from hog waste from CAPOs. The other was to the US Army Corp of Engineers regarding the dredging of Jinks Creek in Sunset Beach.
2. Pete mentioned that sending letters and emails were actions BEAT could continue during the pandemic. He said it was important to keep up the fight against offshore drilling, citing a recent sighting of a humpback whale off of Kure Beach.
3. Prior to the meeting, Pete emailed Board members a 2015 letter from the NC Coastal Federation to the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding a proposed terminal groin for Ocean Isle Beach. Members discussed the negative impacts of terminal groins. Jennifer and Linda both referenced their failed use along New Jersey's coast. Dwight said a terminal groin in OIB would negatively affect Holden Beach and Sunset Beach. He said County Commissioner Marty Cooke was a proponent of a terminal groin proposal on Holden Beach, and that two or three town board members were ousted over the issue, which was defeated. Dwight said he thought that the US Court of Appeals (Fourth Circuit) was scheduled to hear the Audubon Society's appeal of the decision to allow OIB to build the terminal groin on December 8th. Pete said the SELC was also involved in the litigation. Linda provided some insight into OIB town hall meetings, and Marilyn suggested it would help if BEAT members who live in various communities in Brunswick County could attend their town meetings to monitor environmental issues.

New Business

1. Pete said Michael Lee, who was recently elected to the NC Senate (District 9), emailed him and said he would like to catch up on water quality issues. Pete is a member of the Republican Libertarian caucus and provided some questions on environmental issues at an



2. event Mr. Lee attended before the election. Pete said he would share BEAT's letters to the DAQ regarding CAPO waste. He indicated Mr. Lee had not been aware that NC reached an agreement with Smithfield to move hog waste lagoons out of the flood zone.
3. Dan said he had spoken with Beth Kline-Markesino with Stop GenX and noted that Brunswick County had experienced a few sewage spills recently, including a 35,000 gallon spill into the Shallotte River. Dan said New Hanover County had similar problems about 15 years ago, but system improvements had reduced spill frequency. Dan also noted that millions of gallons of sewage spilled into waterways during Hurricane Florence. Members noted reports of a fatality and serious injury related to contact with contaminated flood waters. Jennifer asked about moving oyster beds from polluted waters; Dan said permits had been available to do that, and Pete noted approximately 80% of local oyster beds have been lost. Dan also mentioned a discussion about having NC buy dredging equipment to save money on beach re-nourishment projects, but unexploded ordinances in the Camp Lejeune area were an issue.
4. Pete said he plans to reach out the NC Coastal Federation on issues that BEAT could help support. Jennifer said there had been some discussion of relaxing mining regulations in SC and asked members to listen for similar trends in NC. Dan referenced a mining operation that had been stopped in the Castle Hayne area once it became known that the operation was close to buried GE nuclear waste.
5. Pete announced BEAT would hold off on elections for now.
6. Dan said there would be an online meeting on December 15th and Bob noted the link was available on the BEAT website.
7. Pete mentioned that OCEANA had been holding meeting with FaceBook Live.
8. Marilyn offered to invite Brayton Willis to the January meeting to give a short update on his work on the Gullah Geechee corridor with proposed greenways and blueways. Members talked about communities in Brunswick County where freed slaves made their homes. Dan described a lawsuit involving property tax increases between Wrightsville Beach and descendants of slaves. He said the NC Supreme Court ruled that the property owners would not only not pay increased taxes, they would not have to pay any property taxes.
9. Members wished Dwight and Becky good luck for their pending house hunting trip to Denver.
10. Next Board meeting will be held on January 4th at 6pm.

Adjournment

Pete adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.