

**ASSOCIATION OF COASTAL TOWNS**  
**May 9, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Association of Coastal Towns was held on May 9, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. in the Margaret Rollins Community Center Lewes Meeting Room with the following present: Chairman Lewes Mayor Ted Becker, Henlopen Acres Mayor Joni Reich, Fenwick Island Mayor Gene Langan, Bethany Beach Mayor Lew Killmer, Dewey Beach Mayor TJ Redefier, Rehoboth Beach Mayor Paul Kuhns, South Bethany Mayor Tim Saxton, ACT Consultant Tony Pratt, and Recording Secretary Jackie Doherty.

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. welcoming Sussex County Council members Mr. Doug Hudson and Mr. John Rieley.

**2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 1, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

**ACTION:** *Mayor Killmer made a motion to approve the April 1, 2019 meeting minutes as presented; Mayor Redefier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**3. FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Mayor Reich reported the current balance is \$6,190 with two checks outstanding. A budget proposal for 2020 was provided for review. There was a request to have the amount for dues increased to \$4,000.

Mayor Becker stated there would be a very minimal or no increase for the Chubb Insurance policy this year.

**ACTION:** *Mayor Kuhns made a motion to accept the amount of \$4,000 for dues; Mayor Killmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**4. UPDATE FROM TONY PRATT**

Mr. Pratt spoke about an article in the Delaware News Journal today by Ms. Liz Keller, Director of the Tourism Office, regarding Delaware tourism that states the following:

- Tourism industry contributed \$3.4 billion to the State GDP in 2017;
- Without tourism each Delaware household would have paid another \$1,468 in taxes for 2017;
- Tourism is the fourth largest private employment sector in the State with 43,000 jobs in hotels, restaurants and businesses;
- In 2017 there were over 9 million visitors.

- **Legislative Update**

Mr. Pratt stated Mayor Redefer made a presentation at the SCAT legislative breakfast meeting two weeks ago. At that time, Mr. Pratt spoke as registered lobbyist for ACT to our representatives regarding the need for investment in and protection of the resources so important to Delaware tourism including coastal waters, beaches, Inland Bays, and waterways.

Mr. Pratt reported he has been contacted by the offices of Senator Coons, Representative Lisa Blunt-Rochester, and Senator Carper to speak about how they may help ACT in the protection of our coastal communities and resources. Funding for the Back-Bay Study is in place but language changes to the Letter of Agreement are needed before it is signed.

Mr. Pratt stated he has spoken to Senator Coons' office regarding the Water Bill funding and additional studies for follow-up on this issue. Mr. Pratt also spoke to Lieutenant General Semonite, chief engineer for the Civil Works Programs, about his work in trying to modernize and streamline the program. There will be a meeting next week in Washington D.C. for further discussion.

## **5. PRESENTATION BY GREEN STREAM**

Mayor Becker introduced Judy Rolfe of Lewes who made a movie titled "Tidewater" regarding the sea-level rise issue. Ms. Rolfe has been very active in the Lewes community about these concerns and requested this presentation to ACT by Green Stream.

Ms. Karen Lindquist and Mr. Jim Gray, co-founders of Green Stream Technologies, provided a PowerPoint Presentation and spoke about how their business was formed.

The PowerPoint Presentation, comments, and questions included:

- How climate change has increased flooding in cities across the United States;
- Sensors installed to monitor smaller creeks, wetlands, intersections, underpasses; all are recorded in real time and sent to public dashboards;
- Monitors are small enough to be installed in backyards and on lampposts; also provides rain gauges, storm drain sensors;
- Data is provided to each municipality to be installed into their alert systems (CodeRED); unincorporated areas will also need an early-warning notification system;
- Green Stream will maintain the equipment for the first year with future discussion on a year-to-year basis;
- Monitors by DelDOT with sensors and cameras on roads that are chronic flooding areas in the Dewey Beach/Inlet locations; coordination with DelDOT; University of Delaware has coastal flood monitoring from Dewey/Rehoboth to New Castle County;
- Importance of integrating the monitoring systems into the alert systems for the County and State including Smart 911; discussions to continue with DelDOT and DNREC.

## **6. DISCUSSION RE: GOVERNOR CARNEY'S 'DELAWARE LITTER FREE'**

Mayor Kuhns stated he was one of the speakers at Governor Carney's event and spoke about the problems in areas where litter is left on the side of the roads, which is a larger issue in the northern part of the State.

City Councilman Hudson stated funds have been budgeted for overtime pay to correction officers who accompany prisoners during roadside trash cleanup.

Mayor Becker stated there has been discussion about House Bill 130 to ban plastic bags. Many of the restaurants in Lewes including the Cape May/Lewes Ferry have eliminated the use of plastics and straws.

Mayor Kuhns stated many of the restaurants in Rehoboth are now using paper straws and wooden stirrers. The Rehoboth Farmers Market opened last week and will no longer be using plastic bags.

Mayor Langan stated some of the restaurants in Fenwick have also stopped using plastic straws and styrofoam containers. There is new technology available to help with this problem including plastic straws that disintegrate in hot water.

Ms. Helen Henderson of the American Littoral Society was present today and spoke about the work by Champions of the Coast for a resolution to oppose offshore oil and gas activities and an ordinance to prohibit the intentional release of balloons. Ms. Henderson also spoke about MARCO and their resolution to support Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning. There will be an event on May 18<sup>th</sup> for 'Hands Across the Sand' from Delaware into Maryland.

## **7. UPDATE SEA GRANT**

- **RASCL Coffee 5/29/2019**

Ms. Danielle Swallow stated the next RASCL event will be on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Center for Inland Bays to speak about water quality products. Ms. Swallow spoke about the need for representatives from the County to attend RASCL events.

## **8. DNREC UPDATE**

- **Creating a Flood Ready Community 5/17/2019**

Mr. Jesse Hayden reported the following:

- Rehoboth/Dewey Beach Nourishment Project schedule remains the same for late Spring bids and construction to begin in Fall 2019; DNREC and the Corps have completed inspections for stormwater areas, dune fence and grass repairs; DNREC has provided the Corps with the cost-share for the bidding process and are ready to submit their check for the construction phase;
- Massey's Ditch Dredging Project pre-bids (8 were received) opening on May 31<sup>st</sup> with dates for construction time from November 1, 2019 to March 1, 2020;
- Kitts Hummock and Pickering beach nourishments have been completed;
- Back-Bay Study includes the attorneys for DNREC and the Corps reviewing language in the agreement;

- There was a discussion at the January Beach Nourishment Finance meeting regarding having municipal staff do some of the minor repair work. An application process is being developed including training and oversight inspections.

Mr. Pratt stated there were concerns in the past regarding liability if there were injuries when DNREC materials were being installed by other workers.

Mayor Killmer questioned if DNREC is able to prevent the building of a boardwalk over wetlands as was done recently by a developer in Bethany Beach.

Mr. Hayden stated he will provide contact information concerning this question to Mayor Killmer.

Mr. Dave Warga, Regulations Program Manager for DNREC Coastal Relations, stated there is a course being offered by the University of Delaware on 'Creating a Flood Ready Community' to be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Kitts Hummock St. Jones Reserve Center from 9:00 A.M. to Noon for \$55.00 with topics to include flood risks and hazards.

## **9. UPDATE ON RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PARTNER GRANT**

Mr. Evan Miller, Projects Coordinator for Rehoboth Beach, reported:

- Meetings continue with city councils and commissioners for an overview of the Coastal Programs Office and their past and present work through the Resilient Communities partnership; April 25<sup>th</sup> was South Bethany, May 3<sup>rd</sup> was Fenwick Island, and June 14<sup>th</sup> will be Henlopen Acres;
- KCI is currently working on information for an ordinance to address impervious surface;
- AECOM is working on the survey distributed to the community to include past and present practices, outreach methods, and assembling the Nationwide Proactive Guide;
- Will study impervious surface coverage from 2007 compared to 2017 when the GIS 2007 information is available at the end of May; 2017 information will not be available until August or September and an addendum will be added to the final report;
- Next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

## **10. CIB UPDATE**

- **Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan**

Ms. Michelle Schmidt provided information on the project summary for economic valuation of the Inland Bays and an economic valuation sample from 2016 with a review of the scope and importance of the study for the value of the Inland Bays.

Ms. Schmidt continued stating the study will be conducted by Dr. Jerry Kauffmann of the University of Delaware Water Resources Agency. The work will begin in Summer 2019 and will take 12 months. CIB is requesting a contribution of \$2,000 from each coastal town to fund the study and will speak to city council if needed.

Mayor Killmer asked for an official request to be sent to each town to present to city council.

## **11. ABC UPDATE**

Jim Bailey was not present today to report.

Lewes City Manager Ann Marie Townshend spoke about the problems at the beaches concerning people being impaled by beach umbrellas when blown around by wind and the need for public education.

## **12. SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M.

Mayor Becker adjourned the meeting at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Doherty, Recording Secretary  
Association of Coastal Towns