



Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Item No. 9

Meeting Date: 5/5/08

Item Title: Oregon Inlet & Waterways Commission Resolution

Item Summary:

OIWC has prepared a Resolution to be send to all of the North Carolina congressional delegates regarding funding for dredging in Oregon Inlet. We have addressed the 2009 budget as well as requesting that a continual resolution be established by the federal government that would fund this project for at \$12 million annually.

(Use additional Paper if necessary)

Number of Attachments: _____

Will your presentation require audiovisual equipment? Yes No

Note: All audiovisual materials must be submitted in digital format to the Clerk of the Dare County Board of Commissioners with this sheet. Acceptable formats include: VHS, DVD, audio CD, Word document, Adobe Acrobat PDF files, PowerPoint files and jpeg files.

Specific Action Requested:

Adopt this Resolution and forward it to all of the NC congressional delegates as well as sending it to all of the eastern NC counties that share an interest in the inlet, asking them to adopt a similar resolution and forward it too to all of the NC congressional delegates

Submitted By: Jenny Gray Jones Date: 4-28-08

Dept. Head

Comments:

Shore + Waterways

Signature

Jenny Gray Jones

Date: 4-28-08

Finance

Comments:

[Signature]

Signature

Date:

4/28/08

County Attorney

Comments:

Signature

[Signature]

Date:

4/28/08

County Manager

Approval:

[Signature]

Signature

Date:

4/28/08

Commission Action:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Oregon Inlet acts as a "flushing" mechanism for the Albemarle, Currituck, Croatan, Roanoke, and Pamlico Sound systems and all tributaries of these systems, allowing these bodies of water and rivers to properly flush, thus ensuring regional water quality, and

WHEREAS, Oregon Inlet is vital to the economy of Dare County and the surrounding region with an annual documented economic impact of over *\$682 million, and

WHEREAS, in May 2003 the Bush Administration's US Council on Environmental Quality, the US Department of the Interior, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration issued a decision not to move forward on the construction of the Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay project (jetties) but did promise to "improve navigation of the channel," "and to continue working with the local elected leaders on other actions that can be taken toward these goals",

WHEREAS, the US Army Corps of Engineers, whose duty it is to maintain the Oregon Inlet channel, acknowledges that as much as \$20 million per year is needed to properly dredge these channels to ensure dependable navigation through the inlet and provide for the safety of fishermen and boaters, and

WHEREAS, federal budgets have continued to provide inadequate budget levels for Oregon Inlet maintenance dredging, including a proposal of only \$4.1 million for fiscal year 2009 and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the US Army Corps of Engineers have re-located a permanent survey team in Dare County which enables daily and weekly surveys of the Oregon Inlet channels, the Bar channel and the internal channels that provide a route for the commercial and recreational fishermen of this region, and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledge that the United States Coast Guard Aids to Navigational Team has established new residency in Wanchese, NC to assist in monitoring and locating navigational aids on a daily and weekly schedule as conditions require these actions; and

WHEREAS, the only United States Coast Guard response team located within 70 miles of either direction is situated at Oregon Inlet . They too depend on this navigable channel in and across the bar and channels at Oregon Inlet to respond to emergency needs of boaters, and fishermen, and

WHEREAS, it requires a balance of all three of these maintenance options to maintain safe passage through Oregon Inlet as has been confirmed and attested to, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners calls on the federal government and Congress to keep its promise and follow through with its commitment to make Oregon Inlet safer. We are requesting that the federal government establish a continual resolution for annual funding of dredging costs for Oregon Inlet that will include a minimum amount of \$12 million annually.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners supports increased federal funding to at least \$12 - \$14 million for the dredging of Oregon Inlet in fiscal year 2009.

This the _____ day of _____, 2008

(Study of the Benefits of Oregon Inlet to the Economy of Dare County, NC and the Surrounding Region; Moffatt and Nichol – July, 2006)