

CRC Proposes Cutting Out Emergency Repair Permit Fee

Members of the state's Coastal Resources Commission plan to do away with a fee the state charges people making emergency repairs to storm-damaged homes.

At its next meeting May 27 and 28, the commission will hold a public hearing on the proposal, acting in response to a letter written to the division by a Camden man.

After voting unanimously last Friday to do away with the \$50 fee, commissioners were advised by an assistant attorney general that a public hearing would be required.

That hearing will be just one of three at the next meeting, said Jeanette Johnson, public information officer for the N.C. Office of Coastal Management, which serves as staff to the CRC. Others are set for creating a general permit for modifying mooring facilities if there is no increase in the "footprint" of the project or the number of slips; and changing the management objective to "conserve and manage" for the estuarine system, coastal wetlands, estuarine waters and public trust waters.

Commissioners are also interested in cutting the average turnaround time for coastal development permit applications. They voted Friday to ask two agencies, the state's Division of Environmental Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to speed up their review of applications. The two are among 16 agencies that routinely review applications for permits for proposals larger than one acre.

Sunset Beach's land use plan update was certified by the commission and immediately put to use by the N.C. Office of Coastal Management in reviewing permit applications. Land use plans must be updated every five years.

As it looks at ways to deal with coastal highways threatened by erosion, the CRC is asking the N.C. Department of Transportation for a per mile cost estimate of bridge construction. N.C. State University researchers John Fisher and Marjorie Overton reported last week that they have identified 15 sections of coastal highway

as vulnerable. Possible responses by the state include abandonment, relocation, ferry service or bridge construction.

At the start of the two-day meeting last Thursday at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel in Wilmington, nine people spoke during the commission's first public comment period, addressing coastal concerns from ocean erosion to development standards. Issue-oriented comments are encouraged, but speakers cannot discuss certain business before the commission, such as pending applications and contested cases. "I was impressed with the content of their comments," said Johnson.

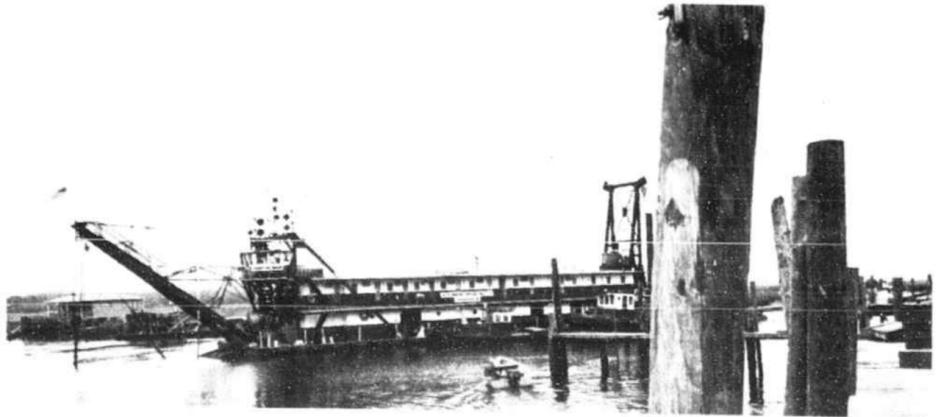
In other business, CRC members were advised last week of that interim district manager Bob Stroud has been appointed Wilmington District Office manager by Secretary Roger N. Schechter. Stroud has been with the agency since 1978.

Also announced was availability of \$145,000 in federal funds for two special projects, a functional assessment of wetlands and developing resource and growth impact coefficients. The state office has four years in which to develop coastal management improvements in four areas under a 309 Enhancement Grant Program: wetlands, cumulative impacts, ocean policy and special area planning.

With the assistance of the N.C. Nature Conservancy the state will soon own 128 acres of maritime woods on Bald Head Island, with an additional land purchase expected this summer. Acquisitions in Buxton Woods and of Masonboro Island also are continuing.

Eugene Tomlinson of Southport, a member since 1977, is interim chairman of the 15-member CRC. Two seats are vacant on the board following the resignations in January of Aurora Mayor Grace Bonner from a local government seat and former chairman James Harrington from his at-large seat.

April 15 is the deadline for local governments in coastal counties to nominate people for those seats. Gov. Jim Hunt will make the appointments.



STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON
THE HAMPTON ROADS dredges in front of the Varnamtown fish houses late last week. The dredging will continue another two miles upriver until the \$1.4 million project is finished in an estimated two weeks.

Lockwood Folly Channel Dredging Halfway There

The Hampton Roads steamed in front of the Varnamtown fish houses last week to clear the Lockwood Folly River channel as far upriver as it has been dredged in two to four decades.

Longtime residents said they could remember the channel being dredged that far only once in two to four decades, and that they had never seen it dredged as far as it will be this time—3.6 miles above the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

The \$1.4 million project is about half finished and is on schedule, ac-

ording to Sheila Jack of the U.S. Corps of Engineers Wilmington office. The work, which began March 17, is expected to be complete within two weeks, Jack said.

"It'll give people somewhere to take their boats in storms," said Judy Varnam at Garland's Seafood. Upriver from the fish houses is a traditional safe harbor where boats can be tied to trees and protected from the wind during hurricanes.

However, extensive shoaling upriver—particularly at an area known as Mary's Shell Bed—has made that impossible in recent years. Past the

area currently being dredged, the channel is adequately wide and deep, Jack said.

Fishermen are hopeful that the resulting increased water flow in the channel will help clean up pollution which has closed many shellfish beds over the years.

About 180,000 cubic feet of dredge spoil is being pumped 25,000 feet to Long Beach, to an area beginning a mile east of Lockwood Folly Inlet and continuing east for about 5,000 feet. The area includes a section previously used for dredge material disposal.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Two County Students Win At Fair

A South Brunswick Middle School student as well as a South Brunswick High student earned recognition at the 1993 Southeast Regional Science and Mathematics Fair held March 13 at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Megan Jeans, a student at South Middle, placed first in the junior technology division and also won special awards from the American Nuclear Society and the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corp.

As reported in last week's *Beacon*, Justin Rohde of South Brunswick High placed second in the senior biological science division. He also received the Senior Award from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center and the U.S. Navy/Marine Corps Biological Science Award.

They were among students from 14 counties competing for awards at the fair. Both will go on to compete at the State Science Fair April 16 in Greensboro.

Area Women In Show

Works by three Oak Island artists were accepted in the Orange County Women's Center art show in Chapel Hill.

They are Ortrud M. Tyler of Long Beach with an abstract painting, "Through the Door;" Shirley Little of Caswell Beach with an abstract painting, "Untitled #2;" and Lauer Brown from Yaupon Beach for her painting, "Rape of the Bosnian Women."

The exhibit will be on display April 1-16 at the Women's Center, Chapel Hill.

On Coast Guard Cutter

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Raymond H. Bitney, son of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Bitney of Southport, is deployed aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Jarvis, homeported in Honolulu, Hawaii, to the Western Pacific.

The vessel is conducting a laws and treaties enforcement mission and a training and nation-building mission.

Recently, the cutter arrived at the island of Chuuk, one of four states in the Federated States of Micronesia. The crew trained in areas such as outboard engine repair, diesel engine preventative maintenance and troubleshooting, basic air conditioning and refrigeration systems maintenance, team firefighting and damage control, welding and shop practices and training in repairing aids to navigation.

Additionally, the cutter commanded a search-and-rescue case involving an 18-foot fiberglass boat carrying five fishermen that was overdue to arrive at Satawal Island. Jarvis coordinated the search patterns for several aircraft for nearly two days until the vessel was found.

Bitney is a 1982 graduate of the University of Idaho at Moscow with a B.S. degree and a 1983 graduate of Washington State University.

Vaught Re-Enlists

Senior Airman Timothy E. Vaught has re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for six years.

Vaught, a production control specialist, is the son of Mary O. Vaught and the brother of Rudolph Vaught, both of Winnabow.

His wife Karen is the daughter of Ernest and Carrie Faison of Wilmington.

The airman is a 1985 graduate of South Brunswick High School.

On Submarine Duty

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul S. Brown, son of Donald J. Brown of Leland, recently reported for duty aboard the submarine *USS San Juan*, homeported in Groton, Conn.

The 1984 graduate of LaFargeville Central High School of La-

Fargeville, N.Y., joined the Navy in October 1989. Brown is a 1987 graduate of Mansfield University, Mansfield, Pa., with a B.S. degree.

Two Attend Classroom

Two Brunswick County high school students recently saw the federal government in action as participants in Presidential Classroom's 1993 Senior High Program in Washington, D.C.

Attending were Jennifer Hardee, a junior at South Brunswick High School, and Dan Martin, a student at West Brunswick High School.

Jennifer is the daughter of W.T. and Carol Hardee of Winnabow.

They were among 374 juniors and seniors from 44 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Haiti, Canada and Japan. The students spent a week meeting with government leaders and transition officials, and learning firsthand about the democratic process.

The students attended seminars, met with legislators and/or their staff and attended committee hearings and Congressional sessions.

Seminar speakers included investigative reporter and columnist Jack Anderson and George Noroian, international economist, Office of European Community and Regional Affairs, the U.S. Department of State.

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Proposed Precinct Changes Bound To State For Review

BY SUSAN USHER

Plans for realigning precincts in western Brunswick County are on their way to Raleigh for review by the state.

Monday night the Brunswick County Board of Elections approved a plan that creates five precincts from four in Shalotte Township (four south of U.S. 17 and one north of U.S. 17) and consolidates the two precincts in Waccamaw Township into a single precinct, said Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt.

"These boundaries are so cut and dry they are going to be easy for people to point at a map and say, 'This is where I live,'" said Britt. "It's going to make it easier for the people who work with them to locate them in the correct precinct."

The revisions must be reviewed by the N.C. Legislative Services Office, which will make its recommendations to the State Board of Elections, which must approve the

precinct changes and maps.

"In Raleigh they may want to change something," Britt said, "and now they have the authority to do it."

Below U.S. 17 the precincts are Frying Pan, Grissetown, Shingletree I and Shingletree II; Longwood Precinct is above U.S. 17, stretching from the U.S. 17 bypass of Shalotte to the South Carolina state line. The designation of Shingletree I and II reflects Shingletree having been the largest of the precincts affected.

The changes follow "Plan C," one of three options taken to public hearing, with one exception. The boundary for Frying Pan Precinct was shifted from N.C. 130 West (White-

ville Road) near Shalotte to Mc-Milly Road. That will allow voters who live just northwest of Shalotte to continue voting at the N.C. National Guard Armory instead of traveling to Longwood.

The dividing point along U.S. 17 for Shingletree I and II will be Thomasboro Road, with the line following N.C. 179 and then Calabash Creek.

Once the state elections board gives its nod, or changes the maps, the local election board can begin updating voter registration records to reflect the change. Britt said she would like to have the changes completed in time for the November elections.

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