

**House Select Committee on the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on
Cape Lookout National Seashore
Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Crystal Coast Civic Center, Main Hall
Morehead City, NC**

MINUTES

The House Select Committee on the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Cape Lookout National Seashore met at 3:00 PM on October 29, 2014, in the Main Hall of the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City. Representatives McElraft and Millis attended.

Representative Pat McElraft, Chair, presided over the meeting.

The Chair recognized the staff, Jennifer McGinnis – Research, Jennifer Hoffmann – Fiscal Research, and Ray Starling – Speaker's staff, Sergeants-at-Arms – Barry Moore, David Collins, BH Powell and the Committee Assistant. Rep. McElraft also welcomed the many visitors who attended, as well as a member of the Governor's staff, Hugh Johnson. The Chair also recognized Senator Sanderson who attended the meeting.

Jennifer McGinnis – Research, began the meeting by reviewing the Committee Charge, which in summary is to study the economic impact of the National Park Service's proposed rules for off-road vehicle management on the long term health of the travel and tourism industry in Carteret County as well as county level employment, payroll and tax revenues. In addition, Ms. McGinnis briefly reviewed the National Park Service's (NPS) Draft Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Plan) and the five alternatives for managing off-road vehicle (ORV) use proposed under the plan: the no-action alternative, three action alternatives allowing ORV use, and one action alternative prohibiting ORV use. She also reviewed the protocol for the public hearing, including the three minute time limit for each speaker.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a public forum to hear directly from private businesses, local government, and other stakeholders impacted by the National Park Service's Draft Plan.

25 individuals spoke in total, with 24 expressing concerns that: the ORV Plan would pose a hardship for visitors to Cape Lookout by limiting their ability to reach and observe the beauty of the remote areas of the island, and/or would have a devastating economic impact on Carteret County small business owners, including ferry businesses, ice plants, bait houses, boat maintenance yards, restaurants, lodging facilities, etc.

An attendance list and speaker sign-up sheets for the meeting are attached to these minutes as Exhibits 1 and 2 respectively.

The speakers are listed below in the order in which they presented before the Committee. Written comments provided by speakers are attached as exhibits to these minutes. The meeting was recorded.

Speaker number:

1. Ann Beeson –opposes the Draft Plan (See Exhibit 3)
2. Todd Roessler - opposes the Draft Plan (See Exhibit 4)
3. W. James Keene - opposes the Draft Plan (See Exhibit 5)
4. Danny Shaw - opposes the Draft Plan (See Exhibit 6)
5. Arthur Noyes - opposes the Draft Plan (See Exhibit 7)
6. Faye Harper - opposes the Draft Plan
7. Bud Doughton - opposes the Draft Plan
8. Jonathan Robinson – Board of Commissioners – opposes the Draft Plan
9. Kari Martin - opposes the Draft Plan (See Exhibit 8)
10. Victor Tucker - opposes the Draft Plan (See Exhibit Speaker #10)
11. Bruce MacLachlan - opposes the Draft Plan

*Rep. McElraft takes a minute to let the people know that Governor McCrory and Speaker Tillis are very much in support of the people in Carteret Count.

12. Jeff Geisler – Attorney for Southern Environmental Law Center – Mr. Gisler indicated that an ORV Plan must meet federal requirements to minimize impacts to wildlife, and that such a plan would not have adverse impacts on Carteret County, and provided additional information.

(See Exhibit Speaker #12)

*Rep. McElraft takes a point of privilege to say that all NC occupancy tax has gone up.

13. Senator Sanderson gave thanks to Speaker Tillis, Rep. McElraft and Rep. Millis for putting this meeting together so quickly to address the concerns of Carteret County.
14. David Scarborough - opposes the Draft Plan
15. Shirley Powell –Carteret Economic Dev. Council - opposes the Draft Plan
16. Craig Harnes - opposes the Draft Plan

17. Carol Lohr - opposes the Draft Plan
18. Paula Dailey - opposes the Draft Plan
19. Clayton Fulchur - opposes the Draft Plan
20. Chris Chadwick - opposes the Draft Plan
21. Ann Beeson speaks for the second time. - opposes the Draft Plan.

*Rep. McElraft breaks for 30 minutes to reconvene at 4:45 pm

22. Jody Smith - opposes the Draft Plan
23. Russell Overman – Carteret County Commissioner- Reads Resolution opposing the Draft Plan (See Exhibit 9)
24. Cecil Little - opposes the Draft Plan
25. Daniel Harper - opposes the Draft Plan

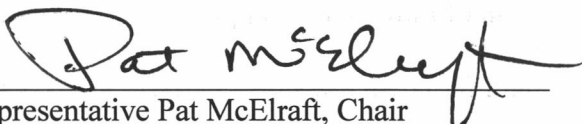
*Rep. McElraft recessed meeting until 5:50 pm

*Additional items were submitted by Mack Best to be included into the record. (See Exhibit 10)

*Additional information was submitted by Vince Becton to be included in the record. (See Exhibit 11)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Fox on November 3, 2014.


Representative Pat McElraft, Chair
Presiding