

**House Select Committee on the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Cape Lookout
National Seashore
Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Dare County Campus, College of the Albemarle**

MINUTES

The House Select Committee on the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Cape Lookout National Seashore met at 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM on December 16, 2014 at the College of the Albemarle, Dare County Campus.

Representative Pat McElraft, Chair, presided.

The Chair recognized the staff, Jennifer McGinnis-Research, Jennifer Hoffmann-Fiscal Research, Chris Saunders-Research, and Ray Starling-Speaker's staff, Sergeants-at-Arms, Barry Moore, David Collins, and Committee Assistant. The Chair also recognized Representative Paul Tine for attending the meeting.

Jennifer McGinnis explained the purpose of the meeting and the agenda, which included several presentations addressing economic issues related to the National Park Service's (NPS) Draft Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Cape Lookout National Seashore (Draft Plan) and cultural and ecotourism generally, as well as opportunity for public comment.

The Chair recognized Tom Allen to speak on the socioeconomic analysis included in the Draft Plan. Mr. Allen is the Vice-President of Research for Southwick Associates, on behalf of the American Sportfishing Association.

The Chair then recognized Carol Lohr, Executive Director of the Crystal Coast Tourism Authority. Ms. Lohr spoke on the anticipated economic impacts to Carteret County in light of the Draft Plan.

The Chair recognized Brent Lane, Director of the Carolina Center for Competitive Economies, of the Kenan-Flagler School of Business, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Mr. Lane spoke on the economic value of cultural and ecotourism. There was debate and questions were posed to Mr. Lane, which he answered.

*The Chair indicated that the Committee would recess briefly and then receive public comment.

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.

1. Commissioner Warren Judge, Commissioner of Dare County, speaks on the access issues being explored for Cape Lookout has already taken a toll on the residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. (See Exhibit 3)
 2. Al Adam, Vice president of U.S. Municipal Supply- opposes ORV Plan. (See Exhibit 4)
 3. Harry Nash, NC Beach Buggy Associates, Nags Head, NC. (See Exhibit 5)
 4. Mallory Martin, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
 5. Bob Davis speaks on effects of beach closures by the National Park Service.
(See Exhibit 6)
 6. Frank Folk – Citizen of Buxton, NC. Opposes ORV Plan
 7. David Scarborough, Treasurer of the Outer Beaches Preservation Association.
(See Exhibit 7)
 8. Larry Hardham, President of Cape Hatteras Anglers Club, Buxton, NC. Speaks on Cape Hatteras National Seashore Sea Turtle False Crawl to Nest Ratio. (See Exhibit 8)
 9. Jim Keene, NC Beach Buggy Association. Opposes ORV Plan (See Exhibit 9)
 10. Representative Paul Tine spoke briefly indicating his support for the community.
 11. Jim Clark, citizen from Nags Head. Opposes ORV Plan.
 12. John Couch, president of OBPA. Opposes ORV Plan.
- * The Chair recognized and thanked Dean of the Dare County Campus of the College of the Albemarle, Tim Sweeney, for the use of the campus facilities for the Committee's meeting.
13. Beth Midgett spoke on behalf of the Hatteras Island Property Management Group. (See Exhibit 10)
 14. Bob Davis spoke for a second time (See Exhibit 11)
 15. Commissioner Warren Judge spoke for a second time for the people of Dare County. (See Exhibit 12)

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Fox on January 2, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McElraft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Pat McElraft, Chair
Presiding