

Chairman Hamilton recognized the Outer Banks Seashore Park Commission. Mr. Woodrow Price Mr. Harvey Hines, Jr., Mr. Monroe Gaskill and Miss Alida Willis were the members present from that Commission.

Mr. Price: You will recall that we were here in December and promised you that we would take no action effecting this County until after we had come to talk to you and since that meeting our Committee is concerned with Core Banks and there is at least some tentative conclusions that we plan to recommend to the commission. Mr. Harvey Hines who is Chairman of that Committee will tell you what they are and discuss them and then when he is completed then I want to tell you one or two things about it and any questions you may have about this or any other phase of our work we are here to answer them.

Mr. Hines: This is rather a rough draft of our meeting when we met in Raleigh on the 8th day of January and we felt that these and this committee is concerned with the acquisition and disposition of the property involved. We have another committee with the Commission. We felt these were the questions that you would want answered.

1. Should the State turn over its acquisition to the National Park Service to become an extension of the Seashore Park?
2. If so, where should the Park end? Should it include the area around Cape Lookout Light? Should it include Shackleford Banks or should Shackleford be left for private development?
3. What about Core Banks and other gun clubs and fishing camps? Should these properties be bypassed, except for the ocean strip?

Now we had quite a full schedule and all the committee members were present and as a result of that Mr. Price, a member of our committee moved that all the lands from Ocracoke Inlet south to Lookout and the "hook" and west across Barden's Inlet to include as much of Shackleford Banks as necessary be acquired.

The motion included the recommendation that as a part of the compensation to the owners of the clubs at Portsmouth Island and Core Banks, etc. ^{that} and the State lease back to these clubs; that the agreement include restoration and protection; that similar provision be included for any existing marinas. This motion is interpreted as providing provisions for life tenancy for residents of Portsmouth and lease back for owners of cottages, camps, and hunting lodges where they do not interfere with protective dunes and other protective measures.

In this discussion, the motion was seconded by Frank Turner, and passed. Mr. L. N. Moore declined to vote.

Mr. Tom Ellis moved that the State retain title to this property and develop it as a State Park. Should the state fail to appropriate funds to provide restoration and protection,

then and only then, it should be deeded to the National Park Service or other proper Federal agency subject to its being restored, protected and made into a Park. And that in short is what we want to recommend to you and what we promised we would bring back to you. It says in essence that the State has acquired a good part of this land already, we do not want to give it away, it is more or less a national resort of the Park Service.

Headen Willis: When this first started, your committee, it was primary to say what we call the Outer Banks, now the whole state included. They were not with us, now our committee is not concerned with the State. Colonel Brown's Department is, and I think that is what you are referring to.

That's right. Now you tell us, what was probably the important part. Frankly, we are trying to work this out, so the County won't have to pay anything.

Good, but it's completely up to you all, in the end on that we will do the best we can to get something done. At the moment, we don't know about costs, for this reason, the ~~only~~ Army engineers have not yet released the reports on that area that is in this county. Now the Core Banks area, now we know what they're going to recommend as so far as the building. We've been told that they're going to recommend the construction all the way from Cape Lookout to Ocracoke Inlet. I don't know the details and we don't know the cost or the division of the costs, but the estimates are that they will cost six to eight million dollars. And who is going to pay the six or eight million dollars according to what they recommend, I don't know. But we, have various other proposals that are being discussed they may get it all done without Carteret putting up any money. I just don't know what will happen.

I understand that the earliest we can expect any help is 1965 is that right?

I don't believe that's right, for this reason. This report was due out within the next month or so and I'd say next year, the earliest possible. Well what now, now that is not the earliest you can might expect some help. For this reason, a report has already been prepared and released for Atlantic Beach. In that area, it is possible that something could be spent there this year but I understand the local forces do not wish to participate in that program. Something is being done, at Fort Macon and the State has in the budget this year two hundred thirty nine thousand one hundred dollars to match Federal funds at Fort Macon. What I say, is what is started from and about for this strip of land we need to take ---- is now, I know that Atlantic Beach needs all that they can get but now I see that they are going to spend

money on Atlantia Beach. I don't think that they really need it, on this little strip of land. I'm not critizing, but I don't think that they really need it. Maybe I misunderstood you.

I think so. Now, I don't know what Carteret County's attitude is, about putting up money for that, about rebuilding this section of the beach, on Core Banks ----

Now say that you do it on a straight ~~maximum~~ ^{matching} fund basis, you have to put up some money, frankly, I don't think you want to put up money because it would cost even ^{it} it was an eight million dollar job, and the Federal Government said they would do two thirds of it, that would leave three million dollars and then the State would take three fourths of that, you would still need seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Well, we don't think that is possible. We are trying to work out other means of getting this done. I understand that. You see and I don't think that the State in any one area is going to spend three or four million dollars in one loan. It's a long coast line, costs a lot of money. But we'll talk about that in a few minutes if you want to, about how it might be done and I'd like for you to be thinking about how it could be done if it's all right, I'd like to explain what this committee did and why it did it. This map you have shows how much land has already been purchased by the state, marked by dark areas shows the land that is in controversy and has not been acquired for one reason or another. Sometimes it's because of a bad title and have trouble clearing it up, something of that sort. Something that we're not familiar with. We're really not doing the buying ourselves, we're merely making recommendations. This committee when it first met in August, I asked the State to cease buying until we could determine what sort of modifications we might want to recommend under the acts of the laws, passed in 1959. Now this act, Chapter 1039 of the Session Laws of 1959 authorized the State to acquire the land from Ocracoke Inlet on the North Cape Lookout on the South, and so much of Shackleford Banks as may be determined by the Department as reasonable or necessary to stabilize Barden's Inlet. Well, we were, we knew you might be concerned about development and things of that kind. So I said, well, our Commission will look it over and see whether there is any land up there that can be left open for development or anything like that. So we went out there, and some of our men were down there two or three times and we explored this from every angle we possible could. And finally, we decided that we could better fall back on the 1959 laws. And that is, buy it all, down to Cape Lookout and as much of as was needed to stabilize Barden's Inlet, on Shackleford Banks and they tell me that the November-December storm really hit that area hard, right at the hook and on this side. Well, we are recommending however, that if they do buy it all, that they alleviate the blow to the people who do own

47

property out there. I mean that have already done some building, a cottage, there are several cottages and Lester Moore has a small marina, there are a couple hunting camps and we think the people on Portsmouth Island should live out their lives there. We don't think anything should be done about that. We think everybody will agree on that, and so far as a village is concerned, it is a dying village. There are no youngsters whatsoever, they are all older people and just those people who would want to live there. So we are recommending that the State modify its purposes to that extent that if they run into a club who wants to continue hunting, sign a long-term agreement that if the State buys it, lease it back for ten, twenty, thirty or forty years or as long as that club wants to hunt there. Just so that it will not interfere with the right of way for that - - -. Now that sums up what the committee is proposing. We would like to hear your thinking on that. Frankly, we decided to fall back on this 1959 law for two reasons. For one thing, we ^{looked} ~~lookout~~ out there and saw that every thing there needs some protection. Now Headen, the protection is not only for the mainland, but we're trying according to this law, trying to fill up that whole barrier as you know. And it's all low, and we think that any substantial development in any part of it would be an invitation to disaster in the future. Cape Lookout, for instance, is a headline. This is the first blow, and we think that there is a substantial development at that point, and some how in the future, there would be a real disaster in this county. And, if there has been much development there and in November-December there would have been severe damage and we would have suffered, I'm sure, from what our committee members observed out there afterwards. The second reason that we decided that we had better let the 1959 law prevail on purpose, is that we felt that if we exempted anybody in that area, we would come under severe criticism from either you or from the state, by showing favoritism to somebody. We just didn't think we wanted to do it. We want to be as honest about this as we can and we want to be as responsible about this as we can and we decided we would do the best thing at all possible, and that's why we recommend this way. Now, if you have any questions on this, or any comment, we would like to hear it.

Chairman Hamilton: On the Shackleford Banks area, how far are you planning on coming South in that area? Shackleford Banks, or are you just going to take close to the cape or I didn't get that just quite clear.

Now, I'm not clear on that. I haven't been there myself, but we thought that that should be determined where the protection is needed. And that is what we are proposing, that is we understand that some of it is not highly justified taking it for protection alone. Now there may be some other reason, if so, you gentlemen would like to have it all public domain

we would be happy to recommend that. But we thought we were recommending the purchasing on the basis of protection. And I understand that the area that is needed to be protected according to this law, is the west-eastern third or so of that property. I don't know how far it would come depends on how low it is and whether the Corps of Engineers thinks it needs protecting.

Wiley Taylor: I would like to know what Carteret County has to do with it? How much land does Carteret County own out there?

The county itself does not own any. But we thought your commission was interested in and that we should keep you informed, of what we are doing.

Actually, I for one am interested, real interested, and what I will have to say in a few minutes probably will make you even more interested. I know it is for protection for this whole state, for that strip of land. I think so. When it comes to expenses, it is explained to the Legislature like it can be and will be, it will be a matter for the whole state to help pay for it. There is nothing in the eastern part of the state that affects the west, to me it doesn't.

Mr. Price: I don't think the state is willing to pay it all. You've got to sell the program to the legislators, or at least half of them all. Now an appropriation of this size, but I'm confident that the state is going to recognize its responsibility to the coast and put some money.

Now many counties would you say does this affect? Twenty one? How do you mean? We figured that this is a problem. Twenty one counties, twenty? So far as we're concerned now, our information is that our commission is dealing with only these counties on the coast. There really aren't that many, only about, let's see, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Carteret, Onslow, and that I don't know whether Pender is yet, but let's say it does, just a little bit, New Hanover, and Brunswick, that's about eight counties that are right on the ocean.

All right, then your figures is that they would go equal parts with Carteret County, according to your figures how much would that count? I don't have any breakdown for this reason, I don't know what part the Federal Government's going to pay. No, it's not always true, Headen, that the Federal Government's share varies, they make what you call an economic survey, now we don't know. We have nothing to do with that. They do their own. Atlantic Beach, for instance, they didn't offer to pay any thing. I think that the project was something like, oh, four hundred thousand dollars or more and they offered to pay about fourteen thousand dollars

on that. That's all the Federal Government could justify on its own and, but if Carolina Beach and Wrightsville Beach said that it would pay two-thirds and I imagine the reason for that is that partly at face value. It's tied in with how much public property is threatened and things of that kind. I don't know how that formula works, but we have nothing to do with it. We're concerned with what's left, what is left to be paid. And say they came in, and they recommended this amount here under the normal procedure the state under the law we proposed a couple of weeks back, I think this, that you all just don't stop, don't do anything yet, anyway until you hear everything. So far as I know, we've told you everything we're thinking about, at the moment.

Sounds good.

I believe in being frankly open about these things as you are. Sometimes I get in trouble, and I may be getting in trouble today. I don't know.

What we're proposing and what we're thinking would be a good design and we think that it would be a great advantage to the county.

C. Z. Chappell: Did you see any cattle?

We saw a few on Shackleford, but we didn't see any on the other banks, very few.

We're trying to keep pace with the folks, we thought if we come back we'd talk to you, and let you know what we were doing. They had a good meeting in Raleigh. I think you are going to get some appropriation, I hope so and just keep you all behind us, but we don't need any resolutions or anything. We just want to see if you all think we are doing right and if you think so, we'll keep on and if you don't think so, we may be off course a little bit.

Chairman Hamilton: It look like you're doing a big job, and its in the thinking of must of the people I've talking to, you're headed just right.

Mr. Price: It would be a couple of years before we could get this money I think, don't you? Is there any possibility of getting a temporary relief from your committee if we get another storm before we get this money? Well, say yes, if you have a storm, and storm damage as long as this committee is sponsering, I'm sure you can get some money, Temporary, of course.