

Town of North Topsail Beach

Daniel Tuman, Mayor
Suzanne Gray, Mayor Pro Tem
Aldermen:
Michael Yawn
Tom Leonard
Richard Macartney
Don Harte



Steven H. Foster
Town Manager

Carin Z. Faulkner, MPA
Town Clerk

August 2, 2012

Attention: Mr. Tim Romocki
North Carolina Local Government Commission
325 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603-1388

Regarding: Response by the Town to Letter of Concern by Mr. Richard Farley – Channel Realignment Project

Dear Sirs,

Mr. Farley's Concern as written:

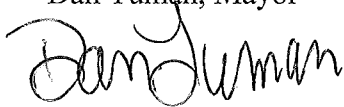
This is the response by the Town of North Topsail Beach to Richard J. Farley's Letter to the North Carolina Local Government Commission Regarding His Objection to the Town's "New River Inlet Channel Relocation Project" Mr. Farley cites/infers three overall concerns with the proposed project which I will address. These issues are: the project is a bad financial decision for the town, it is experimental (risky and may not accomplish its objective) and the project preferentially benefits some (and not others) and is unfair and does not have public support.

The Town's reply is:

The decision to do this project is a sound financial decision as it affects the public, the Town and the local County. The present project is one of a total of five that are planned to be done which will cover the entire 11.1 mile shoreline of the Town of North Topsail Beach. The Economists of the Army Corps of Engineers completed an analysis of one project and found the ERR (Economic Rate of Return) for that project was 3.7. That is, there is an economic return of 3.7 dollars for every dollar invested in the project over the 50 year project life that is planned. This analysis was reviewed by the Federal Civil Works Review Board in 2010 and was found to be valid. Mr. Farley was a member of the Town Board of Alderman when these results were published. North Topsail Beach is a beach community and tourism is its economy. 85% of the properties are owned by absentee owners and most are seasonal rental properties. The town's beach nourishment projects are intended to protect residential properties and to provide a wide recreational beach tourist attraction. The beach nourishment projects protect our Town's substantial local tourist economy. In April 2010, the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management BIMP (Beach Inlet Management Plan) Study reported that the North Topsail Beach tourist economy impact to Onslow County for the year 2008 was \$60.5 million dollars with a total employment impact of 978 jobs.

The Town of North Topsail Beach does not share Mr. Farley's concerns that the project is experimental, unfair and does not have public support. These same concerns were addressed in the Town's response to the LGC dated July 30, 2012 regarding the letter by Mr. Michael Yawn dated July 16, 2012. I will not repeat that prior response here. Rather, the Town's position on these matters are covered on Page 4 of that letter in the section identified as **Paragraph 5** and on Page 6 in the section identified as **Paragraph 7**.

Dan Tuman, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Tuman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

North Topsail Beach