



Bald Head Association ~ “The voice for BHI property owners”

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BHI Ferry Transportation Authority Update

July 2018

The BHI Ferry Transportation Authority continues to plow through its long list of administrative tasks in order to meet its legislative goals of acquiring the BHI ferry system. At its regular June meeting, the FTA adopted its FY 2018 and FY 2019 budgets, with no comments from the public. Treasurer David Jessen reported that the Authority’s Directors and Officers insurance is now effective, and the application for the mandatory performance bond for the part-time finance director is nearly complete. At Mr. Jessen’s recommendation, the FTA members voted unanimously to hire Dixon Hughes Goodman to serve as auditors.

The bulk of the meeting was spent on a report by Ted Cole of Davenport & Company. He discussed forward movement with the Local Government Commission, possible funding by the US Department of Agriculture and the identification of a feasibility and operations consultant to do a broad evaluation of the current ferry system and help the FTA understand the logistics of operating a ferry system. During the evaluation, HMS Consulting rose to the top of a group of seven companies because of its prior experience and capacity for operating a system. Based on the recommendation of Mr. Cole and others, the members voted unanimously to engage HMS. Davenport & Company also reported on its work to identify funding sources to purchase the bonds to acquire the ferry system.

Chairman Susan Rabon reported that she has been reappointed by Senator Richard Burr and sworn in for a new three-year term. David Jessen and Vice President Brad Smith have also been reappointed by the legislature, and a bill is pending to make those appointments official. Landon Zimmer stated that he has been nominated at-large member of the NC Board of Transportation representing State Ports and Aviation and may have a conflict with serving as an officer.

The next meeting will be on July 18th at 9:15am at the Southport Community Building. Election of officers for the new fiscal year will be held at that meeting. Property owners are encouraged to attend.