

From: Carl Classen
Reply To: cclassen@hydecourtnc.gov
To: Mike Murray@nps.gov
Cc: Cyndy Holda@nps.gov; 'David Esham'; 'Eugene Ballance'
Subject: RE: RegNeg - Ocracoke - ORV
Date: 09/03/2008 08:24 AM

Thanks, Mike. No doubt your hands are full with this issue and things are coming to a head. Glad to read your comments about the reported proposal to effectively close off South Point.

I hope that the process will be transparent so that the affected communities can be kept abreast of proposals affecting them.

Carl

Carl Classen
County Manager (Interim)
Hyde County
P.O. Box 188, 30 Oyster Creek Road
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-----Original Message-----
From: Mike_Murray@nps.gov [mailto:Mike_Murray@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 3:40 PM
To: cclassen@hydecourtnc.gov
Cc: Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov; David Esham; 'Eugene Ballance'
Subject: Re: RegNeg - Ocracoke - ORV

Hi Carl,

I apologize for the delayed response. I was out of the office for several weeks and am still playing catch-up on emails.

The Areas and Routes subcommittee internally exchanged some preliminary draft proposals to facilitate communication and begin the effort to develop a mutually agreeable proposal. In other words, the subcommittee has not reached any conclusions or agreement, and is not ready to make a recommendation. My understanding was that the initial exchange was intended, by mutual agreement among the subcommittee, to be an internal document but someone leaked the information to the press. In any case, I am not in a position to release the documents before the subcommittee provides them to the full committee, which I understand they plan to do at the September meeting (i.e., they will make a progress report and provide a copy of whatever proposals have been generated so far, which I believe are one from the environmental/pedestrian caucus and one from the ORV/access caucus). In addition, at the meeting we will discuss the whole issue of "confidentiality" of pre-decisional documents, since there are pros and cons about that approach.

With regard to Ocracoke, I am not aware of any substantive subcommittee discussion about possible management alternatives for South Point or other locations. At some point, that will need to occur and it will be important that David or Gene participate in that discussion when it occurs.

Mike

"Carl Classen"
<cclassen@hydecourtnc.gov>
08/17/2008 09:59 AM
Please respond to
<cclassen@hydecourtnc.gov>
To
<Mike_Murray@nps.gov>
cc
<Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov>, "'Eugene Ballance'"
<genebl2@ocracokenc.net>, "David Esham" <daveandme@earthlink.net>
Subject
RegNeg - Ocracoke - ORV

Mike -

I have been told the Island Free Press wrote the language below. Do you know anything more about this? Has a written proposal/report been submitted of which I could get a copy?

Many thanks.

Carl

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"The subcommittee on ORV routes and areas has made two proposals for ORV
access routes - one by environmental and pedestrian access groups and one
by open beach access groups, advocates of ORV access. The two proposals
could not be further apart.

>

> The subcommittee members include David Goodwin, representing the Cape
Hatteras Business Allies; Frank Folb representing Avon Property Owners
Association; Jim Keene with the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association;
Burnie Gould of the Cape Hatteras Recreational Alliance; Destry Jarvis,
representing Natural Resources Defense Council and The Wilderness Society,
and Sidney Maddock of North Carolina Audubon.

>

> The beach access groups have emphasized keeping as much of the beach as
possible open to ORVs by making increased use of interdunal roads that can
take ORVs behind areas that are closed for nesting and more ramps for beach
access during the nesting season. The latter will help with areas that
have been open this summer but inaccessible because of full beach closures
between the ramps and the open beach areas.

>

> The environmental groups have put a proposal on the table that includes
more closures to ORVs year round - including Bodie Island spit, Ramp 27 to
Ramp 30 between Salvo and Avon, Ramp 34 to the Avon Pier, all of the South
Beach from Ramp 45 to 49, and the Hatteras Inlet spit. Closures to ORVs on
Ocracoke would include the entire South Point from Ramp 72 to Ocracoke
Inlet, which would become a "wilderness study area," open only to
pedestrians. Other proposals include year-round closures in front of some
villages, such as Frisco and Hatteras, that are now open to ORVs in the
off-season.

>

> The proposal by the environmental groups would include leaving Cape Point
open to ORVs, subject, of course, to natural resources closures in the
nesting season. This summer Cape Point was inaccessible from early May
until the end of July. In addition, all other areas open to ORVs would be
subject to natural resource closures during the nesting season.