

**Offshore Oil Drilling
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Hyde County Board of Commissioners**

Monday, March 5, 2018

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing at 5:00p.m., on March 5, 2018, at the Hyde County Government Center and the Ocracoke Community Center using electronic conferencing equipment. The purpose of the hearing was to receive citizen's oral and/or written comment on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024.

The following members were present on the mainland: Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr.; Vice-chairman Barry Swindell; Commissioner Dick Tunnell; Assistant County Manager Kris Noble; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; Deputy Clerk Justin Gibbs; and, members of the public.

The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner Tom Pahl, County Manager Bill Rich and, members of the public.

Commissioner Ben Simmons arrived at 5:30p.m.

Commissioner Pahl moved to open public hearing on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Swindell and Tunnell; Nays – None; Absent – Simmons.

Comments

Jenny Scarborough, Ocracoke – (Hospitality and tourism) – opposes the offshore oil drilling plan. It is not in the best long-term interest of Ocracoke. She reported North Carolina produces more solar energy than any other state except California.

Bill Jones, Ocracoke – opposes the offshore oil drilling plan. He reported the sense of community and historic prospective drew him to Ocracoke. This could bring an end to Ocracoke Island.

David Mickey, Ocracoke – opposes the offshore oil drilling plan. He reported on the impact weakening the rules have on the safety of drilling. He asks that the County share its resolution with the State and Federal agencies.

Connie Leinbach, Ocracoke – opposes the offshore oil drilling plan. She reported North Carolina has Atlantic currents not calm like the Gulf. We have plenty of oil in our reserves.

Susan Dayton, Ocracoke – opposes the offshore oil drilling plan. Drilling will devastate the economy on Ocracoke Island. She reported 30 counties and 90 governments have passed a resolution in opposition to offshore drilling. Two counties, Carteret and Brunswick, approved drilling. Brunswick has since rescinded its resolution of support for offshore drilling. Two years ago she talked with members of the oil industry and asked what the risks are. She was told spills go along with the industry. She said Hyde County depends on Ocracoke dollars. She asked if a spill occurs what would happen to the county.

Bill Jones, Ocracoke – after researching the number of oil rigs existing on the East Coast and finding none, he reported we would be moving into new territory.

Darlene Styron, Ocracoke – opposes the offshore oil drilling plan. Oil drilling would be devastating to the North Carolina coast and the community. Ernest, her husband, runs a charter fishing business and also is a commercial fisherman. This is too big of a risk to take no matter the amount of money made.

Susan Dayton, Ocracoke – stated there would be far reaching repercussions in the ocean, more so than if on land.

Darlene Styron, Ocracoke – asked what would happen to the mainland without Ocracoke dollars.

Commissioner Tom Pahl, Ocracoke – lived in Texas on a barrier island after an oil spill. He reported people bought goo off packets to clean oil from their feet after walking on the beach. Commissioner Pahl reported 50 people attended the first meeting on offshore oil drilling. He stated drilling is a threat to commercial fishermen. Thirty families on Ocracoke are fishermen. Fishing is the character of the Island.

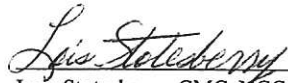
It is essential to the success of the island. He reminded listeners the ocean is fragile and environmental repercussions of offshore oil drilling will follow in the event of there is a spill.

Commissioner Pahl moved to close public hearing on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Swindell, Simmons and Tunnell; Nays – None; Absent – None.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 2nd day of April, 2018.

Attest:



Lois Stotesberry, CMC NCCCC
Clerk, Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Earl Pugh, Jr.
Chair, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

