

INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER MEETING RECORD

INDUSTRY GROUP: Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce
and Brunswick County Economic Development Commission

DATE: July 21, 2011

LOCATION: Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce

PARTICIPANTS: See attached sign in list Maritime Strategy Team
Rachel Vandenberg
Tommy Harrelson
Garold Smith

The Maritime Strategy team met with the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce on July 21, 2011 from approximately 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Economic Development in that region. The following is a summary of major topics discussed.

The Maritime Strategy team provided an overview of the NC Maritime Strategy scope and objectives. A primary goal of the study is to ascertain the role that ports play in NC economy and what infrastructure is needed to support it.

Advisory Council membership

Maritime AC includes statewide representation from industry, technical and academic community, and local community.

Need for Coordinated Transportation Network

- Agency coordination is needed - NCDOT should to commit to needed railroad and road improvements prior to port investments are made.
- Port advocates will not support port development unless RR and road come in first.
- NC Ports bought site in Southport without NCDOT involvement – no coordination for transportation network.

Environmental Considerations

- Would prefer use of electrical railroad going into port vs. diesel.
- Look at environmental impacts
- Perception that enhanced USCG presence may be needed to respond to spills and avoid impacts to fishing, etc.

Deepwater Port

- Lack of a viable port location is keeping industry out of North Carolina.
- Ports are important to NC economy, but not sure that Southport is the right location.
- Objective data and facts needed, which has not been available from either the port or from opposition groups.
- Resolution of support for port, with caveat on need for environmental investigation has been executed by the Commission.

Market and Economic Evaluation

- An evaluation of NC market share is needed to support decisions.
- Job creation is important due to lack of opportunities within Brunswick County.
- Consider incentives used by other states.

Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce NC Stakeholder Meeting 7.21.11

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