

TO: Mayor Richard Forrester and members of the Sunset Beach Town Council;

SUBJECT: Resignation of all SBERC members

On April 19th 2016, the Sunset Beach Town Council formally adopted the attached mission statement affirming the creation of the Sunset Beach Environmental Research Committee, then comprised of three qualified volunteers, who would work on behalf of the citizens of Sunset Beach. The SBERC added two additional members later in the year, and today, on the one year anniversary of its founding, all members wish to inform the Town Council of our intention to resign, effective immediately.

The SBERC was tasked with researching the potential environmental impact of the proposed dredging of Jinks Creek, Mary's Creek Turtle Creek and several feeder canals to provide better navigation of current navigational channels and deep water access to newly developed areas.

The five members of the SBERC have given significant time and attention to this research project, providing the necessary information and research needed to assist the Sunset Beach Town Council in a decision that best serves all Sunset Beach citizens. Abundant historical examples of previous dredging documented by many respected professional scientists and experts in shoreline management were provided to the Sunset Beach Town Council, as well as Moffett & for consideration, discussion and sharing with the public.

Unbelievably, the Sunset Beach Town Council has steadfastly refused to accept the conclusions supported by the provided research. Instead, they have consistently acted to censor the committee in what can only be described as a transparent attempt to serve their own interests in contravention of scientific fact and the best interests of the community at large. Thus far, they have taken the following actions:

- a. On March 20th, 2017 a letter on behalf of Mayor Robert Forrester was sent to all including the scoping committee in response to an SBERC email sent to that same organization The Mayors letter stated the SBERC email "does not contain the positions, suggestions, questions or comments of the duly authorized and created government of the Town of Sunset Beach,...." The email in question, was, in fact, a public document shared during an ERC meeting with all in attendance (including a member of the SB Town Council.
- b. In the April 3rd, 2017 Sunset Beach Town Council, a motion to disband the ERC failed but a follow up motion forbidding, "muzzling", the Sunset Beach ERC to discuss its stated research mission, dredging issues, was passed by a vote of 3 to 2.

It is evident to all who are paying attention that the Sunset Beach Town Council has its own agenda that is not only not supported by the conclusions and recommendations provided to them by the SBERC and backed by scientists and experts, but likely directly contradicted by it. Given how vigorously the Mayor and members of the Town Council have attempted to undermine and silence the SBERC, it is also apparent that the citizens of Sunset Beach are being actively denied information that is relevant to their interests.

Due to the extraordinary actions outlined above, all members have made the decision to resign from the SBERC immediately. All former members intend to establish a new independent Environmental Research Council that will continue to work diligently to promote good stewardship of the environment in the interests of all residents of Brunswick County.