

# Lower GOP delays Bayshore Council appointments

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council tabled a motion Monday to reappoint Deputy Mayor Norris Clark as the township's representative to the Delaware Bayshore Council and Mayor Michael Beck as an alternate member.

Clark and Beck, both independents, have served on the Delaware Bayshore Council since its inception.

The Delaware Bayshore Council was formed in March 2015 with the assistance of state Sen. Jeff Van Drew, D-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic. The

council has brought together 13 municipalities and government regulatory agencies concerned with the bay and its beaches.

Clark said the Delaware bayshore is the township's No. 1 asset and key to its economy in a number of ways.

"When it comes to the Atlantic coast, especially after (Hurricane) Sandy, there was all kinds of money to fix things there but when they got around to our area of the coast, what we call the left-behind coast, there was no money and they basically said, 'You don't have enough economic clout to matter on

the Delaware bayshore,'" Clark said.

Beck said when his term of office expires in December, he would step down from the Delaware Bayshore Council. But his words were not enough for at least one council member.

"I don't feel we should appoint anyone at this time due to the fact in about five months' time, we're going to have a new council sitting up here," Republican Councilman David Perry said.

Perry said he agreed two representatives to the Delaware Bayshore Council should come from Lower Township Council, but suggested council wait five

months to appoint members.

Beck noted Clark, as a founding member of the body, would continue to serve.

"I'm out at the end of December, but if somebody wants to take it now, you can do that," Beck said.

Republican Councilman Tom Conrad asked that the matter be tabled until council's Aug. 1 meeting. He said he needed more information, in particular the end of terms. Conrad said he would vote on the appointments at the next meeting.

Clark said someone other than Beck could serve on the Delaware Bayshore

Council if that was the desire of Township Council. He offered to answer any questions about the appointments. Conrad said he did not have an issue with Clark serving on the council but he needed more information, noting he had received his packet of information for Monday's council meeting the previous Friday.

Republican Councilman Erik Simonsen offered a motion to table the enabling resolution.

Clark stressed the importance of the Delaware Bayshore Council. He said township officials met with the commissioner of the state Department of Envi-

ronmental Protection and were promised beach preservation along the bay.

"When it came down to it, the money wasn't there because they didn't see that we had the priority," Clark said.

He said municipalities along Delaware Bay realized they had to band together if they were to be heard by the state. Bayside towns were evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as if they were located on the ocean, which placed a number of properties in a flood zone that had never been designated as such in the past, Clark said.



NASW photo/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A three-member flight team from AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center flew in a MidAtlantic MedEvac helicopter.

## Helicopters visit NASW

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learned about lithium battery testing, participated in indoor drone racing and fun activities such as a scavenger hunt. Throughout the week, the students were taught skills that can be ap-

plied in everyday life.

The Technical Center is a major aviation research, test and evaluation facility that develops solutions to current air transportation challenges and plans for the future.

Naval Air Station Wildwood was important in the

history of aviation during World War II. It was a training center for dive-bomber pilots and the Aviation Museum houses aircraft and exhibits to help memorialize the airmen who were based at the field. Now it is positioning itself to advance aviation in the future by introducing students to the numerous career opportunities in aviation whether on the ground or in the air.

NASW provided a full scholarship to the camp as a memorial to Thaddeus Lazowski, a student at Cape Christian Academy who loved science and aviation. He and his father were killed in a plane crash near Woodbine Airport. Financial aid was also provided by numerous local sponsors.

## Terrapin-protection bill now law

TRENTON — Legislation sponsored by state Sen. Jeff Van Drew to protect diamondback terrapins, a species of turtle native to New Jersey that has become at-risk due to overharvesting and other concerns, is now law. The law prohibits the harvesting of the turtles.

"Diamondback terrapins face a real risk of population reduction from overharvesting and loss of habitat. In addition, hundreds are killed each year by motor vehicles. Designating these turtles as non-hunting species and banning harvesting is the right thing to do to help protect them for years to come," said Van Drew (D-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic).

New Jersey was one of the few states that still allowed harvesting of diamondback terrapins. For the past two years, the harvesting season for diamondback terrapins was cut short by the Department of Environmental Protection due to concerns about excessive harvesting. The DEP this year proposed

a regulation to close the harvesting of diamondback terrapins in New Jersey indefinitely. The signing of this legislation makes the change law.

Habitat loss and road mortality pose major threats to the health of the population. Each year, hundreds of terrapins are killed by motor vehicles, particularly in summer months when females actively search for suitable nest sites. In recent years they have also been at risk due to commercial harvesting.

In 2013, more than 3,500 terrapins were taken from two southern New Jersey locations and provided to an out-of-state facility that raises them for overseas markets. More than 14,000 offspring of the adult terrapins were then exported to Asia, the DEP said.

The law, S-1625, designates the diamondback terrapin as a nongame indigenous species, subject to laws, rules and regulations according to the Endangered and Nongame Species

Conservation Act. Under the law, it is illegal to catch or take diamondback terrapins in New Jersey. The law also requires that the Department of Environmental Protection conduct biological and ecological data research on the state's diamondback terrapin population and determine measures to ensure the conservation of the species' population.

"Diamondback terrapins are a unique species found in New Jersey's coastal areas and unfortunately their numbers are in decline," Van Drew said. "We need to protect them and to restore their population, and making the ban permanent under state law will ensure the effort to conserve the species and its habitats is something the state will undertake long-term."

The bill was approved in the Senate with a vote of 37-0. It passed the Assembly by a vote of 71-0. The legislation was signed into law Friday and takes effect immediately.

## Aquaculture bill advances in Senate

TRENTON — As part of an initiative to spur growth of the state's aquaculture industry and boost New Jersey's oyster production, state Sen. Jeff Van Drew sponsored legislation to streamline state rules for aquaculture farming projects.

The bill — which would create a one-stop shop for project permits, eliminating the bureaucratic maze that operators are forced to navigate — was approved by the Senate Economic Growth Committee.

The legislation was developed after legislators heard from aquatic farmers and industry experts in New Jersey's aquaculture industry at a 1st Legislative District Economic Development Task Force meeting.

"New Jersey has the potential to boost its aquaculture industry and to really grow the production of oysters on our coasts — which we know are loved by seafood connoisseurs across the country and around the world," said Van Drew, who serves as chairman of the task force. "By improving our permitting processes, we will help to reduce the time and money spent by aquatic farmers who are currently forced to navigate nearly a dozen agencies and bureaus with varying requirements to move their businesses forward. This measure would provide a one-stop shop for obtaining permits. This is a common sense way to help business owners and aquatic farmers expand their operations in the state."

Currently, applicants seeking permits for aquaculture projects must deal with 11 different state agencies and bureaus with

various requirements.

The bill (S317) would consolidate the review process for aquaculture projects, by requiring the state Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the state Commissioner of Environmental Protection, to develop a coordinated aquaculture permitting review program. The program would provide for a coordinated application process for any permit, approval or authorization required for an aquaculture project and would consolidate the review process for the application.

According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, aquaculture is the farming of fish, mollusks, crustaceans and aquatic plants. This process includes regular stocking, feeding, and protection from predators in order to improve production. New Jersey focuses on the farming of bivalve shellfish, primarily hard clams and oysters. The Department reported that the state currently has more than 160 licensed aquatic farmers.

S317 was approved by a vote of 5-0. It next heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for consideration.

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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
20	9:00	9:17	2:48	2:40
21	9:42	9:59	3:29	3:25
22	10:25	10:41	4:10	4:12
23	11:11	11:27	4:53	5:03
24		12:01	5:39	5:57
25	12:17	12:55	6:28	6:58
26	1:12	1:55	7:21	8:03
27	2:14	2:59	8:19	9:11

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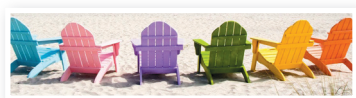
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