



Coastal Advisory Council
January 22, 2020
DNR Coastal Regional Headquarters
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Ashby Worley. Jan Mackinnon announced new staff member Beth Tasciotti as the new Grants Coordinator.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary

There were no comments on the Fall 2019 meeting summary.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee, Stacia Hendrix

Ms. Hendrix stated that there was nothing to report since the last meeting, however she is planning to hold a call with GCMP staff soon to discuss any current communications priorities. Members should note the latest Issue 3 of the Coastal Current with programmatic updates. Also, on January 23, the Ossabaw Island Foundation will be hosting Dr. Chris Manganiello who will be speaking at their annual meeting on “Marshland Fight: How Georgians saved the Coast Fifty Years Ago”.

Legislative Committee, Dorset Hurley

Mr. Hurley provided the following updates on behalf of the Legislative Committee.

HR 811: A resolution recognizing the unique economic and natural resources of coastal Georgia and the need to carefully study and consider the impacts a commercial spaceport may have on such resources.

Status: Passed and signed by Governor

Legislative Committee: No discussion; Committee will report-out to CAC when study is complete

HB 93: A bill related to control of water pollution and surface-water use, so as to provide notice to local governing authorities prior to the dewatering of coal combustion residual surface impoundments; to provide for minimum notice requirements to the public of such dewatering, etc.

Status: In Natural Resources and Environment Committee

Legislative Committee: Several bills concerning containment (lined landfills, county surcharges, etc.) are under development and consideration. Until it becomes directly a coastal issue that involves the CMP it constitutes a distraction of the Committee’s time as an “in the weeds” type of issue. If and when it directly involves one of the 11 coastal counties the Committee will at that time dig into the issue.

HB 201: Proclamation of rules and regulations for anchored and moored vessels in estuarine waters, concerning sites and equipment.

Status: Passed and signed by Governor. Effective January 1, 2020. Under development by DNR, to be proposed to the DNR Board and made into law. More information can be found at <https://coastalgadnr.org/liveboards>

HB 382: Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act (GOSA): During the November 2018 general election, Georgia voters overwhelmingly approved the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment, or Amendment 1, which allocates 40% of the state sales tax collected on outdoor sporting goods to fund certain conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the state. The \$20 million allocated in the proposed budget represents the 40% in estimated state sales tax collected during 2019. More information below.

Status: Passed and signed by the Governor; status to be presented at the Spring CAC meeting.

HB 592: Surface Mining Exemptions to the Forest Land Protection Act of 2008.

Status: Still in Natural Resources and Environment Committee

Legislative Committee: Bill would provide that short-term mineral surface mining shall not be in breach of covenant on properties that are under the Forest Land Protection Act (FLPA) covenant, provided that the property is returned to its pre-mining condition within three years. Under an FLPA covenant, the landowner is provided an ad valorem tax exemption for property primarily used for the good faith subsistence or commercial production of trees, timber, or other wood and wood fiber products for a minimum 10-year period. Charles McMillian, as the Coastal Director of the Georgia Conservancy is closely monitoring HB 592 as it concerns lobbying efforts by the Conservancy to modify the intent of the bill. Mr. McMillian will keep the CAC and CRD informed of any changes or progress related to this legislation.

HB 501: Development of Rules and Regulations for advancing Georgia's Oyster Mariculture

Status: Passed in 2019 and signed by Governor.

This Act creates a shellfish mariculture industry in the state and provides all the necessary requirements for permitting, tagging of the shellfish, leasing of water bottoms, importation of seed from hatcheries, cage limits, and fees. The Act also prohibits certain acts and adds an exemption for the placement of gear for mariculture activities regulated by the Department of Natural Resources.

Ms. Andrews added that the rules were passed by the DNR Board in December and everything goes into effect in March 1, 2020. CRD is working with the Shellfish Advisory Panel on lease criteria. CRD is also working with other regulatory agencies in order to be prepared for regulatory requirements when the Rules are finalized. The goal is to have gear in the water by late summer.

Federal Legislation HR 1568: Provision of grant funding (\$5 million) to study the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale in the U.S. to promote research toward its recovery from the endangered status.

Status: The bill is awaiting full discussion and debate by the House for possible promotion into the Senate.

In addition to the above legislation, the Committee discussed the potential for membership within the CAC to advise and participate in known upcoming issues of concern to the Council. This is already being done organically as every member on the Council is an expert in something related to the CMP's needs. However, it may be beneficial if Council members act in concert with staff to help influence on certain initiatives. These members could potentially influence the process to the benefit of the agency. There was a brief discussion regarding how the CAC interacts with legislators. In particular, Ms. Worley stated that 100 Miles has been working to propose legislation related to sea level rise (referencing a recent Brunswick News article regarding the development of a "Sea Level Rise State Plan"). Ms. Worley brought up the fact that the CAC has discussed the need for something similar for some time. The CAC is a good stakeholder group to provide input and would like to be given the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Hurley is stepping down as Chair of the Legislative Committee and Charles McMillan will assume the Chair post. The Legislative Committee has openings for Academic and Local Government affiliations. See Ms. Worley or Ms. Mackinnon if interested.

Mr. McMillan gave a brief update on GOSA. There was a meeting on January 21 with the GOSA Trustees. Funding for Year 1 grants was cut by \$14 million due to a clarification on how estimated dollars were calculated by the Department of Revenue. According to Mr. McMillan, the ranking criteria seem to remain the same. Rob Stokes, DNR Grants Unit, will come to the Spring CAC meeting and present an update. Dr. Montague stated that there were \$77 million in requests overall.

Ms. Worley announced the new CAC Executive Committee members: Dr. Tate Holbrook (Scientific Research Organization), John Hunter (Local Government) and Buddy Sullivan (Citizen at Large). They will join Ms. Worley (Nongovernmental Environmental Organization) and Mark McClellan (State government/Regional commission) in forming the full Executive Committee.

New business

DNR Legislative Priorities for 2020

Ms. Andrews stated that there is nothing additional to add to the Legislative Committee's report. She reminded the Council that the Georgia Conservancy's Legislative tracker is a great resource for legislative updates. You can subscribe online to receive these emails.

CAC membership

Mr. Joey Slaughter has resigned from his Citizen at Large post. The CAC was asked to provide interested names of potential nominees along with statements of interest and proposed contributions with each recommendation. Three nominations were received: Richard Morgan (in attendance), Scott Hendricks and Hermina Glass-Hill.

Richard Morgan introduced himself and gave a brief background of himself along with his interest.

Ms. Worley reminded the CAC that the new by-laws state that the Executive Committee sends a slate of nominees to the Commissioner without a formal vote from the Council. Mr. McMillan stated that we will likely have a need for additional Citizens at Large in the future and it would be helpful to keep the names of all individuals for future need. Ms. Worley stated that the CAC will probably have a few vacancies at the next meeting and the Council will talk about those nominations at that time. Discussion arose regarding the need to vote. Ms. Worley added that the new bylaws do not require a vote but asked if the Council would like to have a nonbinding vote. Dr. Montague called attention to the definition of Citizen at Large in the new bylaws that defines the role a little clearer than the prior bylaws. Ms. Worley asked that any further thoughts/discussions be provided to her by February 5, at which time the Executive Committee will meet to discuss the slate of nominees. Mr. Jordan spoke out to recommend Richard Morgan. Mr. Carswell spoke out to encourage cultural diversity among the CAC. Ms. Worley pointed out that the full CAC will be updated at the Spring meeting. Christi Lambert asked if CAC members can invite others outside of the CAC to join the committees. Dr. Montague said that there would need to be rules established in order to do that. Ms. Worley would like for the membership to think about that and pick it up for discussion at the next CAC meeting.

Presentations

Dr. Jared Flowers, fisheries biologist with CRD, gave a presentation entitled *CRD's Red Drum Escapement and Tagging Projects*. A copy will be available on the CRD website.

Ms. Andrews gave a presentation entitled *Shore Protection Act Updates*. A copy will be available on the CRD website.

Announcements

Jennifer Kline announced that the next Climate Conference will be hosted by DNR in the fall of 2020. CRD is currently looking for the best date that will work for most partners.

Kelly Hill announced Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop on March 6th from 2:30-4:30 at the UGA Marine Extension GA Sea Grant Brunswick Station. This workshop is part their Green Living Series and more information can be found at <https://gacoast.uga.edu/event/green-living-planning-for-rainy-days/>

Mr. McMillan announced the acquisition of the Ceylon property in Camden County. The property needs control burns and some maintenance, but it is a beautiful piece of property with a population of approximately 2,000 gopher tortoises. It will eventually be turned into a Wildlife Management Area.

Ms. Lambert announced The Nature Conservancy's Altama Day, March 6 from 12:00-6:00.

CAC members present were asked if meetings in Brunswick were working out for those that live outside of the area. The consensus was that the Annual meeting in the summer should be held in a more centralized location like Midway. Other meetings could be held in Brunswick to allow for more face to face with staff.