



Coastal Advisory Council
January 22, 2021
Virtual meeting via Go To Webinar due to COVID 19
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mark McClellan. Mr. McClellan welcomed everyone to our fall meeting. CJ Jackson, Vice Chairman, recognized several attendees from Georgia Southern University.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary

There were no comments on the summary.

New Business:

Mr. McClellan addressed the Communications Committee by saying that the Executive Committee met with Stacia Hendricks to discuss the future of the Committee. The Executive Committee determined that it is important to keep the Committee intact for communicating among members and with constituencies. More information below in Committee Reports.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee, *Stacia Hendricks*

Ms. Hendricks reviewed the history of committee and mission. The Committee formed in April 2015 along with the other committees. The mission statement presented by committee is as follows: **“The Communication Committee will work to effectively communicate the opportunities, issues, and concerns of the Coastal Advisory Council (CAC) to CRD staff, facilitate communication among the CAC and foster communication to appropriate stakeholders.”** After much change since 2015, including the hiring of Tyler Jones as Communication Specialist with CRD, the Committee explored the idea of a possible sunset and activating the group on an ad hoc basis. After much discussion with members and the Executive Committee, it was decided that the Communications Committee would continue. One suggestion from the Executive Committee was for the Committee to play a more active role of enhancing ‘two-way’ conversations and information exchange with all CAC members and soliciting input from CAC members to share among the CAC and staff of GCMP. Ms. Hendricks accepted the challenge of continuing to chair the committee.

Ms. Hendricks asked what the Council saw as valuable and effective means of communicating, Email? Telephone? Zoom? Ben Carswell suggested the Group Me platform. Katy Smith suggested a weekly coffee break through Zoom where members could log on if they were

available and interested. This is a less formal gathering and opportunity to brainstorm topics or have conversations. Another idea would be for the CAC to identify topics they are interested in and have the Communications Committee do research on those topics to report back to full CAC. Also, Ms. Smith mentioned having the Communications Committee to meet with Tyler Jones to hear what he is working on. Mr. McClellan asked that everyone give this more consideration and let himself, Ms. Hendricks or Jan Mackinnon know if you have thoughts.

Legislative Committee, Charles McMillan

Charles McMillan stated that it may be worth discussions to also re-envision the Legislative Committee to ensure that the Committee is on task. This Committee covers a broader range of topics. Over the last couple of years, there is not much happening on the legislative front that is proactive. Usually, by the time the Legislative Committee members hear what is happening, they are only able to be responsive. There is nothing directly GCMP related in the 2021 state legislative session. There are some related initiatives. Renewal of conservation tax credit has to be renewed this year or it will expire. A Carbon Registry Bill that will be introduced is building on the Carbon Credit Act of 2004. The goal is for the registry to include sustainable building products. Georgia Forestry Commission keeps up with the carbon registry for the state. This year is very different from any legislative year; Committee assignments are just now being made. All bills that will be dropped will wait until committee assignments are decided. Georgia Conservancy has a legislative tracker that would be valuable for those interested. On the Federal levels some initiatives have been: Save our Coast, Digital Coast, and the National Estuary Program. The NOAA drift and bi-catch rule update is out for comment now.

Jill Andrews spoke to several federal legislative initiatives: The **Digital Coast Act** did pass, collective of digital data and information that is national and scales down to regional and sometimes state level (population, elevation, hazards, etc.). **Save Our Seas Act** refunded the NOAA Marine Debris Program; bolstered NOAA's ability to respond to marine debris in emergency situations. Omnibus did pass last December and as a result, **Coastal Zone Management Act** funding will go up \$1.5 million dollars. Also, a match waiver passed that will allow states to keep as much money in house as possible and will possibly allow more flexibility in match requirements for pass through grants. CRD is awaiting guidance on the match waiver language. The **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)** funds USACE projects and allows for states to weigh in on what those priorities should be. Port and harbor maintenance are a priority for this WRDA bill. Also, this WRDA clarifies that nature-based projects are eligible and also allows for sea level rise to be included on USACE projects. The **Living Shorelines Act** has not moved. This particular Act requires the start up on a brand-new program.

DNR Legislative Outlook for 2021 Session, Jill Andrews

Ms. Andrews reported that there will be 3 DNR priorities that focus on WRD Game Management. These are currently "in waiting" and we will share the tracking when it is available.

Spaceport Camden, Jill Andrews

GCMP is reviewing information to ensure the proposed activities authorized by the FAA are consistent with Georgia's enforceable environmental policies. We are soliciting comments only

that are specific to those enforceable policies regarding the project. The Public Notice Period is extended until March 8, 2021. More information can be found at coastalgadnr.org/Spaceport.

CAC Bylaws, Mark McClellan

Each year we specifically address the bylaws at our Winter meeting to ensure that members have the opportunity to address any necessary updates. Dr. Montague was commended on his efforts to draft the revisions. Please email Chairman McClellan or Ms. Mackinnon if you have any thoughts regarding the bylaws.

Presentations: Michael Blakely

“The Relationship of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), the Community Rating System (CRS), The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and floodplain policies”

The presentation is posted on the CRD website at

https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/CAC/FEMA%20Flood%20Maps_Blakely_CAC_2021.pdf.

Other Announcements:

2021 Climate Conference, Jennifer Kline

The GCMP will be hosting the climate conference on August 12-13, 2021 at Jekyll Island Convention Center. Visit our website at GeorgiaClimateConference.org.

BRIC proposal, Jennifer Kline

Ms. Kline reported that CRD submitted a proposal as part of a non-national competition with GEMA to look at nature-based infrastructure/green infrastructure as a means to resiliency for Glynn County and the City of Brunswick.

CIG Applications, Beth Tasciotti

The GCMP received 19 pre-applications and invited 14 of them for full application submittals. We have also implemented our new CIG portal and have received a lot of positive feedback.

Flood Literacy Project, Meghan Angelina

The Flood Literacy Stakeholder Survey will guide future discussions on flood literacy by allowing us to understand the scope of flood terms used, how they are being used, term conflicts, and how we can best present results at the end of the project.

Golden Ray, Jan Mackinnon

Cutting operations are still underway associated with the Golden Ray, each section weighing approximately 6,000 tons. Anchor chain is being used for the cutting, each link weighing approximately 80 pounds. Bow and stern sections were secured to barges for transit to the Modern American Recycling Service (MARS) facility in Gibson, Louisiana.

Midbody sections will be loaded on to drydocks and moved to a site prepared and operated by MARS on the East River, near downtown Brunswick, GA. The site will be regulated by GA DNR's – Environmental Protection Division.

The Shoreline Cleanup & Assessment Technique (SCAT) and Debris Recovery & Assessment Technique (DART) Team have collected roughly 2,000 pieces of apparent or suspected shipwreck debris on Jekyll Island, St Simons Island and the Sound. The teams also collect litter not associated with the shipwreck, which constitutes the majority of material collected on many days. Debris Assessment & Recovery Teams (DART) survey dozens of miles of shoreline each day. They have covered nearly 700 miles (much on foot) since cutting began in November.

Member Announcements

None

Council Discussion

None

Mr. McClellan adjourned the meeting.