



Coastal Advisory Council
May 4, 2017
Coastal EMC- Midway
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 10:03am by Chairman Joe E. Slaughter and round table introductions were done.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary

There were no comments on the February 9th Winter 2017 meeting summary.

Committee Reports

Committee Members

Jill Andrews announced that Paul Brockington has resigned his position on the CAC.

Ashby Nix Worley announced the newly created committee list, which was distributed to the CAC membership via email.

Communications Committee

Jo Hickson announced that the Georgia legislature approved \$100,000 to fund the Greenway and thanked the CAC for the letter sent to the legislation.

Maritime Committee/Shellfish Ad Hoc Committee

Joe Slaughter announced that the Shellfish Ad Hoc Committee will be disassembled and thanked the members that served on it.

Legislative Committee

Steve Willis announced that the CAC needs to get ahead of the curve of the legislative process and mentioned off-shore drilling and Cumberland Island development are issues that will likely come up in the future. Mr. Willis also brought up that science and scientific understanding needs to be more involved in the decision making process. Mr. Willis stated he believes this group should propose to the Georgia legislature that having sound science-based projections should be incorporated into the Shore Protection Act revisions. Dr. Chester Jackson provided a description of his recent experience with the Georgia legislature during the 2017 session. Discussion ensued. Paul Wolff suggested Dr. Jackson take the most recent version of Shore Protection Act (SPA) and add his suggested edits and then bring that back to the group for further discussion. Andrei Barkovskii suggested to invite someone from the legislature to a CAC meeting once the group has a suggested revision to the SPA. Mr. Willis suggested that the CAC advise the legislature to ban off-shore drilling off of Georgia's coast; and discussed the petition to prevent development on Cumberland Island and suggested the CAC continue to discuss it further. Discussion ensued.

Legislative Committee action items include:

- Provide recommendations on SPA revisions back to the group, incorporating Dr. Jackson's suggestions and any other member comments;
- Provide background information and recommendations on oil and gas exploration to the group; and
- Any individual members that want to sign the petition to prevent development on Cumberland Island should contact Mr. Willis before May 16th. Additionally, the Committee will provide background information and recommendations back to the group.

New Business:

Member Position Opening

Jan Mackinnon discussed the vacant Citizen-at-Large opening due to Mr. Brockington's resignation and introduced Dorset Hurley as a nominee. Mr. Hurley provided a brief introduction of himself. Ms. Hickson asked if there was a particular area along the coast that we need to have representation. Mr. Slaughter answered that representation in the northern part of the coast is preferred. Ben Carswell asked if there was a benefit to having more than one nominee. Mr. Slaughter answered yes.

Mrs. Mackinnon also introduced John Hunter with the City of Brunswick as being a new member nominee representing local government. Mr. Slaughter stated that the Council is still looking for more local government representation.

2017 DNR Legislative Session

Mrs. Andrews provided an update on the 2017 legislative session:

- The license bill passed, which will yield a financial return directly to CRD.
- Shore Protection Act revisions passed the House, but not the Senate. Will be revisited in 2018 session. Discussion ensued.
- Dock rules proposal was tabled.

CZ Proposed National Budget Update

Mrs. Andrews discussed the national budget and its impact on the Coastal Zone Management Program. Mrs. Worley asked for clarification of this year's budget versus next year's budget. Mrs. Andrews explained the timeline for the current Continuing Resolution, which provides funds through September 30, 2018, and next year's budget, which begins October 1, 2018 and has a \$0 line item. Discussion ensued.

Staff Updates

Kelly Hill provided a presentation on all staff updates. The full presentation is attached.

Georgia's Oyster Hatchery Presentation

Thomas Bliss from the University of Georgia-Marine Extension/Sea Grant provided a presentation on the Georgia oyster hatchery, which was funded through a Coastal Incentive Grant. The full presentation is attached. Discussion and questions ensued.

Other Announcements

GLD Project (item added to agenda at time of meeting)

Stefanie Nagid announced the progress of the Geographic Location Description (GLD) project. The UGA Carl Vinson Institute was hired to draft a GLD document, which will outline the State's resource interests beyond the 3-mile state waters boundary to aid in automatic federal consistency reviews of federal actions and permits up to 50-70 miles offshore.

Coastal Incentive Grants/Theme Setting

Ms. Nagid announced what is to be expected at the upcoming Annual Meeting, which is to be scheduled in July 2017. Assuming we have funding, the CIG process and timeline will remain the same as this past year. A quorum is necessary for the July meeting so the CAC can approve the themes. NOAA is updating the 306A (low-cost construction) questionnaire and guidance, which will be summarized at the July meeting and should be approved in December 2017 for incorporation into next year's grant applications.

Beach Week

Mrs. Andrews announced that Beach Week will be held on June 26 at Jekyll Island, on June 27 at Tybee Island, and on June 28 at St. Simmons Island East Beach.

Additional Updates from CAC Members

Mr. Slaughter reminded the group to talk with Mr. Willis regarding the Cumberland Island petition before they leave and then adjourned the meeting at 12:07pm.