



Coastal Advisory Council
October 26, 2022
Location: SSEL
Meeting summary

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Charles McMillan. All Coastal Advisory Council (CAC) members, guests, and Coastal Resources Department (CRD) staff introduced themselves during round robin introductions. Mr. Ben Carswell noted his impending resignation with the Jekyll Island Authority during introductions. He has taken a position with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at UGA.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary July 28, 2022

No comments were made on the meeting summary.

New Business:

Committee Reports

Communications Committee, Stacia Hendricks

Ms. Hendricks stated there was no report from the Communications Committee during this period.

Legislative Committee, Scott Hendricks

Mr. Hendricks reported that the Legislative Committee doesn't have a good read on any potential upcoming legislation. He currently reports that HB 748, introduced last year by Representative Jesse Petrea, will likely not get reintroduced next year. He reported that the CAC is staying engaged and ready to discuss and provide guidance if needed. Chairman McMillan stated that marsh ownership, mitigation, marsh function, etc. would be good topics to continue to discuss at CAC meetings for background to this topic.

News from the Hill, Jan Mackinnon

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided \$3B to NOAA over 5 years. The money is being allocated in part for projects and a smaller amount for capacity building. CRD has decided to use some of the capacity building money to hire a staff person to assist with the workload of project development and implementation.

CRD has also submitted a proposal to NOAA through the IIIJA restoration and acquisition pot of funding for a living shoreline at Hunt Camp on the south end of Ossabaw Island. Funding will be announced after the new year.

The Inflation Reduction Act is also directing funding to NOAA to be spent on protection of coastal resources and on projects that sustain coastal resources and communities. CRD is staying tuned to how that will affect our coastal program.

Tomorrow, October 27, 2022, marks the 50th anniversary of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Tyler Jones will be doing social media posts for CRD to highlight this monumental milestone.

Ms. Mackinnon wanted to highlight some staff time commitments that are beneficial to not only the Georgia CMP but also other states. The Coastal States Organization (CSO) has established workgroups for coastal managers in all coastal states and territories to participate in and contribute to. The Coastal Hazards and Coastal Non-Point Source Pollution workgroups and chaired by Jennifer Kline and Kelly Hill, respectively. They have dedicated a substantial amount of time in planning and leading these meeting with lots of good sharing, learning and information exchanged in them. Ms. Hill commented that it has been nice to provide insight to states who have not gotten Nonpoint Source Pollution Plans approved and it has been good to learn from other states. Dr. Montague asked how far inland these plans go? Ms. Hill stated that EPD designates the coastal section as 24 counties, with a highlight on the 11 coastal counties.

Membership Update:

Chairman McMillan stated that the call for members resulted in a healthy response. New members have been appointed by the Commissioner: Alan Robertson (Local Government), *Jack Krolikowski (State/Regional – GEMA), Tony Giarrusso (Academic - Ga Tech), and Matthew Bilskie (Academic – UGA). Chairman McMillan stated that this is a great group of newcomers. Ms. Mackinnon stated that Dorset Hurley (Citizen at Large) has more recently resigned which will open another member seat. Seats are appointed by the Commissioner.

*Since the writing of this summary, Jack Krolikowski resigned his post from GEMA. Kate Hargrove who also applied from GEMA was appointed by Commissioner Williams to take Mr. Krowliskowski's place.

Presentation:

SASMI conservation plan/emerging issues, *Charles McMillan*

South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) is an effort modeled after the Long Leaf Pine Initiative with a goal of conserving one million acres of salt marshes. This new effort is trying to transfer the process and knowledge to salt marsh habitats and across state lines. Southeastern states have very similar issues with ownership, Crown grants, etc. SASMI sets the tone for federal funding for marshes for perhaps the next 15 years. The Georgia Conservancy has been working with Pew and other partner organizations such as the North Florida Landtrust, to establish how SASMI will work in Georgia. A part of this is overlaying work to understand how marsh migration will happen, how the State Wildlife Action Plan can continue to be prioritized,

and using SLAMM to prioritize projects. GA Conservancy has been hosting meetings coastwide and will produce a report in March 2023.

Dr. Montague asked which states are included. Chairman McMillan replied NC, SC, GA, FL. Dr. Montague also asked how they define the term “conserve”? He stated that “restore” is easier to understand. He further stated that presumed ownership means different things in each state. Ms. Mackinnon added that the SASMI plan identifies key actions for acquisition and restoration.

Dr. Montague brought up other issues with impoundments in other states. King/crown grant issues can also be very time consuming. Ms. Mackinnon stated that ownership is a big topic of discussion in SASMI right now so that projects are able to be prioritized and acreage “conserved” as partners, including the state, see fit.

Continuing the topic of Emerging issues, Chairman McMillan brought up the NOAA Right whale vessel speed regulations. NOAA is strengthening boat speed rules during calving season to protect whale calves. This would apply to more vessels with few exemptions. The industry is against the rules change. Comment period ends on 30th. Ben Carswell asked how many vessels will be affected? Pilots have asked for an extension on the comment period. The Glynn County Commission voted to oppose the rule change. Ropeless gear for the sea bass fishery may have some benefit of discussion at a future CAC meeting.

Mr. Carswell asked if there is potential for the CAC to provide advice? Chairman McMillan stated likely so, considering this issue isn’t going away.

Update to Bylaws:

Dr. Montague provided an update to the Bylaw revision process to make sure members understand what the proposed changes are. Some changes are cosmetic such as sentence structure, etc. Proposed changes are as follows:

Article I. Changes to these Bylaws. This now excludes those present who abstain.

Article IV, Membership:

H. An addition of language stating “If the Affiliation of a member changes during their normal term of appointment, they may complete their term with approval of their original organization or resign and be replaced”.

Article V, Officers and Duties:

- A. Changes were made to ensure continuity by electing a Chairperson and Chairperson Elect for a 2 year term instead of 1 year. The positions will now be referred to as the Chairperson and the Chairperson-Elect. Both will serve for 2 years, then the Chairperson-Elect will become Chairperson.
- B. The Chairperson will attend all meetings and shall represent and speak on behalf of the CAC.
- D. In the event the chairperson becomes unable to complete their term, the Chairperson-Elect will take over their term and then still serve their 2-year term as Chairperson.

Article VII, Staff:

D. Clarification that staff will keep and archive records of motions and votes, bylaws, and Council-approved documents of guidance, policies, and procedures.

Article VIII, Meetings:

D. Attendance in person is expected so that the Council members benefit from all forms of communication, including verbal and visual communication, during discussion of important matters.

I. Remote Attendance in Public Emergencies: In-person attendance expected notwithstanding, remote attendance by live video link is allowed with full voting rights for Council members during times of declared public emergencies in which a government agency officially mandates against in-person gatherings or at the discretion of the GCMP.

Article IX, Voting:

- A. A simple majority is defined as more than half of those with voting privileges excluding, those who are absent or abstain.
- B. The Chairperson must ensure with the help of Staff the proper recording of the vote.
- C. Electronic Voting outside of Regular or Special Meetings – Changes were made to clarify circumstances under which electronic voting could be done.

Katy Smith suggested adding to Article IV H that written approval be required.

Buddy Sullivan made a motion to accept the Bylaw revisions with Ms. Smith's addition to Article IV, H.

Ben Carswell seconded the motion.

A vote was taken with no opposed.

Dr. Montague will make the changes and Ms. Mackinnon will distribute.

Staff announcements:

Jan Mackinnon

Ms. Mackinnon announced that the Request for Proposals for the Cycle 26 CIG is live. We hosted 3 workshops and all information is on our website. The deadline for pre-applications is December 2 by 4:30. All submissions must be done on our grant portal.

Tyler Jones

Mr. Jones announced that Coastfest was canceled by hurricane Ian. April 22, 2023 is the rescheduled Coastfest day, 10:00-4:00. Same set-up and same exhibitors. He isn't sure if this is a permanent new date. DNR leadership is still exploring that thought.

The 2nd annual career academy open application period is opening soon. Visit [GADNR.org/career academy](http://GADNR.org/career%20academy).

Other Announcements:

Mr. Carswell charged the CAC to be an advisory council and not a listening council. He would like to encourage the CAC to establish a clear process for councilmembers to bring forward issues that they think the council might be able to advise on or are worthy of making advisement on. There should be a process by which to submit in session or privately outside of session, to the chairperson then the chairperson can investigate with staff if there is an opportunity.

Dr. Montague asked whose idea it was to have a CAC?

Ms. Mackinnon replied that NOAA requires that you have a stakeholder committee to kickstart a coastal program. Georgia chose to keep the committee and in 2003 made it more formal. She reminded the CAC that the Executive Committee is the body that decides what issues are brought forward. They vet what might be advocacy vs advice.

Chairman McMillan added that it is important that we continue at will, making sure that it is worth the staffs' time. He stated that he gets a lot out of the close relationship with the staff.

Discussion ensued confirming the need for reciprocal communication and staying current on issues.

Ms. Mackinnon further stated that bringing forward an issue is somewhat implied in the leadership structure. A member should be able to go to leadership, the membership, or staff and bring up the issue. The leadership of the CAC brings it directly back to the executive committee. Mr. Carswell stated that he did not think the process is well understood.

Katy Smith mentioned wanting to help review and get the CIG call for proposals out each year. Perhaps start a workgroup that discusses research priorities leading up to that meeting to get more involved in the process. Ms. Mackinnon recapped that staff review the pre-applications based on a matrix of scoring and have a conversation about each of them. A part of that review is the fit with the CRD research needs that is updated each year. That list is a reference that guides invitations for full application. We have welcomed CAC members to be a part of that. We have the Review Committee made up of CAC members that are directly involved in scoring. Based on affiliation, staff try to go to CAC to fill those seats first.

Member Announcements:

No other member announcements

Vice Chair McMillan adjourned the meeting.