



Coastal Advisory Council
April 27, 2022
Virtual meeting via Zoom
Meeting summary

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chester Jackson. All Coastal Advisory Council (CAC) members, guests, and Coastal Resources Department (CRD) staff introduced themselves during a round robin session.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary February 4, 2022

Chairman Jackson gave a summary of the winter 2021 CAC meeting, expressing that he felt it was good and productive and that the presentations from CRD staff members Meghan Angelina & Shannon Matzke were informative. Links to these presentations and projects are included in the winter 2021 meeting notes. The Communication and Legislative Committees discussed the idea of producing tangible documents or deliverables to educate CAC members and advise CRD. Chairman Jackson and other members have been looking into the CAC bylaws, specifically language to accommodate for virtual meetings. Updates on these changes and the format for the summer meeting will be forthcoming.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee, *Stacia Hendricks*

The Communications Committee consists of Stacia Hendricks, Katy Smith, Buddy Sullivan, Shawn Jordan, and Charles McMillian. Ms. Hendricks thanked the Committee for their time and input. Communications Committee will continue to look for ways to collaborate with the Legislative Committee. The two committees collaborated on gathering information on House Bill 748. In conversations with Ms. Jan Mackinnon, the Communications Committee has expressed an interest in the CAC providing CRD and GCMP with ideas for Georgia projects for consideration for the upcoming infrastructure bill. The committee is interested in compiling a list of projects and ideas from members that could be considered. The goal would be to help prepare county, city and local government groups with shovel-ready initiatives to put forward (not just with CRD projects). Ms. Hendricks suggests CAC members propose ideas and the Communication Committee could collect and collate all the ideas and present the compilation to Ms. Mackinnon. Ms. Hendricks provided her email contact information to the entire CAC and encouraged members to contact her with their ideas to be proposed to CRD. Ms. Hendricks and Communications Committee would like to express their appreciation to Mr. Tyler Jones (CRD) for his efforts in putting together the Coastal Current. The committee invited Mr. Jones to collaborate on composing the newly proposed informational document.

If you are interested in joining the Communications Committee, please send Stacia an email (stacia@littlessi.com).

Legislative Committee, *Shawn Jordan*

There was no legislation being proposed by CRD this session.

Mr. Shawn Jordan thanked his co-chair Mr. Scott Hendricks for all his heavy lifting on this committee. Mr. Jordan commented that for an election year, there were not a lot of relevant things coming out of the legislature. Some items of interest include the following:

- House Bill 586, relating to general provisions regarding sales and use taxes. This reinstated the Georgia conservative tax credits.
- House Bill 893 relating to Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Fees, extending these for another 5 years before they sunset.
- House Bill 1349, relating to prevention of net loss on state hunting lands. The bill would require that any management action “not result in any net loss of land acreage available for hunting opportunities on department managed state-owned lands.” Mr. Charles McMillan shared that this bill pertains to concerns about the federal government looking to expand their ownership of lands in the Okmulgee between Hawkinsville and Macon.
- House Bill 748, relating to the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act and private property ownership of marshlands. This bill did not gain traction in the legislative session. The CAC Communications Committee and Legislative Committee got together and had a lot of meetings pertaining to HB 748. At some point in the future, committee members would like for Mr. Alton Brown and Mr. McMillan to present the information that came out of those discussions to the broader audience of the CAC. Mr. McMillan noted some changes have been made to this bill and that discussions of this bill could continue over the summer. Ms. Jill Andrews stated that a study committee might be formed relating to HB748 but if one does form at this point it would likely be informal. Ms. Andrews commented that this bill will likely come up again and the more informed everyone is about the relevant issues, the better.

Mr. Jordan asked what the role of CAC would be if another bill like HB 748 does gain traction in the future. He asked Ms. Andrew for guidance on the advisory role of CAC in cases like House Bill 748. Ms. Andrews states that most important role is to inform each other, have good discussions, and share that information out. The ideal role of the CAC is to be apolitical as a unit of the GADNR and provide good technical assistance to our legislators or other stakeholders.

Chairman Jackson suggested that a regular email from the Legislative Committee might be of interest in keeping AC members updated on coast-related legislation so that members are better prepared for quarterly CAC meetings. Mr. Tyler Jones offered to share (through Ms. Mackinnon) a weekly report prepared for the DNR Board that contains relevant information. Chairman Jackson acknowledged that having this additional information would be useful to CAC members seeking to be more proactive.

New Business:

Staff Updates

Presentations:

“South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative”- Cameron Jaggard, The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Mr. Dorset Hurley asked Mr. Jaggard about tracts of land on the back barriers of coastal areas that are owned by large timber companies. Mr. Hurley asked if the Initiative is looking into working with these companies in regards to maintaining corridors. Mr. Jaggard responded that SASMI is working to connect with more people in that realm and they welcome any networking opportunities or suggestions for furthering their efforts. Ms. Mackinnon thanked Mr. Jaggard for joining the CAC for this meeting.

Other Announcements:

NFWF Proposal Submissions

Ms. Mackinnon: CRD is working with the Nature Conservancy & USWFS on a project titled “Expanding the applications of living shorelines as nature-based community resilience.” This project was submitted for National Fish and Wildlife Federation funding by The Nature Conservancy. CRD staff Kelly Hill and Jennifer Kline also worked with the City of Brunswick to submit a project called “Designing resilient solutions to protect salt marshes and coastal communities from flooding.”

CIG Cycle 25 Funded Projects

Coastal Incentive Grant Projects for cycle 25 have been approved and were summarized in Ms. Mackinnon’s staff update presentation.

Staff Update Presentations Posted

Ms. Mackinnon will be posting staff updates slides on CRD’s website for the committee’s reference.

Additional Updates from CAC Members

Chairman Jackson concluded the meeting.