



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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Coastal Advisory Council  
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Coastal Regional Headquarters  
Meeting Summary

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Chairman John Hunter called the meeting to order.

**Old Business:**

The Summer meeting summary was provided to all CAC members and there were no additions or changes.

**New Business**

**Committee Reports**

***Communications Committee*** – Stacia Hendrix and Hyde Post

Ms. Hendrix reviewed the survey results that ranked topic areas that can be highlighted in future meetings for knowledge and awareness for CAC members. The top 4 topics of most interest to the CAC were: 1) Marsh and Shore Regulatory, 2) Coastal Hazards, 3) Federal Consistency/Wetland health, and 4) Low Impact Development. The Communications Committee is considering creating subtopics to drill down into more details to understand how the CAC can better understand these subtopics. Hyde Post added that he would like to hear lessons learned from staff, what are the concerns centered around this topic area, where is Georgia losing ground, what has Georgia learned from other states, what is working or what needs more resources.

The Communications Committee requested to meet with staff and create a subcommittee to identify what might be useful to staff in identifying where to go with the survey results. Alton Brown offered clarification. He suggested looking to other states on how they fund certain programs versus how the GCMP funds programs. How much support or resources do other states get? What are some things not regulated in Georgia that are regulated elsewhere? Mr. Post stated that other states have Resilience offices- why doesn't Georgia? Is this of value to DNR?

Katy Smith stated that this sounds like a project. A Communications project could be to put together toolkits, resources, graphics etc. to communicate different issues. This would have to be thought through in greater detail and determined what staff, including Tyler Jones, would have related to this project.

Mr. Brown said that he realizes staff are very busy and already offering many resources that CAC members can attend to gain knowledge about topics outside of CAC meetings. For example, the private docks stakeholder committee meetings are open to the public. CAC members can go to these meetings to learn more outside of duplicating efforts. Mr. Scott Hendrix commented that the CAC has discussed a lot of how the CAC can advise staff. Could this group outline a few key questions and do the research and come back to present to CRD on any results that may show gaps to bring to staff attention?

Ms. Christi Lambert said the South Atlantic Saltmarsh Initiative (SASMI) process could be an opportunity to ask questions to the region that GA is interested in learning about. In the context of regulatory, Dr. Clay Montague referenced a shoreline stabilization discussion at Dover Bluff that he has with Ms. Mackinnon regarding restoration. Ms. Mackinnon asked if Dr. Montague was asking about stabilizing marsh rather than upland. Dr. Montague answered yes. Meghan Angelina said that stabilizing marsh is authorized through the CMPA but this has come up more recently and the CMP Committee could hear about some of these projects to consider. Ms. Mackinnon reminded the CAC that bank stabilization projects are now evaluated the same as other CMPA permit applications. She further stated that staff haven't looked at this as a gap where policy needs to be changed. Projects are unique and regulatory staff evaluate each. Ms. Mackinnon mentioned that the CMPA does not speak to restoration. We have a huge responsibility to protect the marsh and have to consider how a change in practice or policy can impact this. Mr. Brown stated the CMP Committee will consider projects where similar projects have been authorized in the past, but also look at success of implementation for future authorizations. Ms. Hendrix wrapped up the report out that the Communications Committee will continue the conversation to distill down to next steps between subcommittee and staff.

#### ***Legislative Committee*** – Scott Hendricks

Mr. Hendricks reported that they are not aware of any coastal legislation being introduced this year but the committee will be watching some past legislative initiatives. Specifically, Mr. Hendricks mentioned watching for the following:

- Former HB748 and 370 - to establish formal process for State Properties Commission to assess claims to Kings grant properties.
- Okefenokee protection legislation. 22,000 acres added to boundary suggestion around trail ridge from USFWS.
- HB 1172 - Right to Fish or Right of Passage. A study committee on navigable streams established by HR 1554 will present recommendations to the legislative on 12/1/24.

As we get into the 2025 session anticipate seeing more movement. Current committee members are Stacia Hendricks, Alton Brown, Steve Vives, Christi Lambert, Scott Hendricks, and Shawn

Jordan. Mr. Hendricks would like to invite others to join and/or take on leadership in a subcommittee if needed.

Ms. Mackinnon added that Jennifer Kline recently gave a presentation to the House Study Committee on Disaster Mitigation and Resilience.

### **Status of Dock Rules**

Three meetings were held to date as a part of the Dock Rules stakeholder process. Dr. Clark Alexander presented on the state of science on docks - shading, wrack accumulation and dock orientation. There will be a public meeting when the stakeholder group concludes after the new year. A subcommittee of this group is looking more closely at construction standards. Ms. Hendrix asked where meetings have been held. Staff stated they have been held in several coastal locations.

### **GCMP Program Enhancement Survey**

Jan Mackinnon presented on the GCMP 309 Assessment and Strategy history, process and next steps for this next 5-year assessment cycle. It is an optional process for Coastal Management State Programs to participate in through assessments to identify gaps and needs in program implementation. These results are then used to develop Strategies with NOAA to address these gaps and needs. Programs receive funding to implement these strategies if approved, and this funding is match free. Staff will complete assessments on 9 assessment areas set by NOAA to determine which areas to address through a strategy. Staff have completed Phase I Assessments and will gather feedback as developing Phase II Assessments on top priorities. Strategy will go out for public comment and will begin implementation in 2026. The current 2021-2026 Strategy is entitled, "Building Resiliency with Nature Based Infrastructure". Ms. Mackinnon provided examples from other states to demonstrate regional approach to similar issues and opportunity for information and experience sharing amongst states. Next steps will be to send out a survey to CAC members to gather stakeholder feedback on prioritizing the 9 assessment categories.

### **CAC Vacancy**

Mr. John Hunter announced there is a vacancy for a representative from an Environmental Organization. Tyler Jones will put out a call for applications. Applications go to the Executive Committee for discussion and then move to the Commissioner for selection and final appointment. Mr. Brown asked how long the CAC members are expected to serve on Council. Ms Mackinnon noted it is for the term of the Governor.

### **Presentation**

Warren Wagner with Georgia Power gave a presentation titled *Electric Transmission Line Rebuild Through Tidal Waters*.

## **Other Announcements**

*Green Growth Updates-* Kelly Hill provided a brief update on the Coastal Stormwater Supplement Update project, GA Clean Marina Program, Lanier Boulevard NFWF and CELCP project, and the GEMA Glynn/Brunswick BRIC project. The BRIC project has finally begun with researchers from Polis Center and UW working with Glynn County GIS staff to update the building inventory toolkit to be utilized in Hazus when developing different flood and wind damage and loss scenarios for this area. Several marinas are nearing certification status (Hinckley Yacht Services, Safe Harbor Bahia Bleu, Savannah Yacht Club and Belle Bluff Marina).

*Cycle 28 CIG RFP-* Shy Duncan provided an update on the Cycle 28 CIG RFP including the December 6<sup>th</sup> deadline for pre applications. Staff will meet in January to prioritize projects recommended for Full Applications which will be due in February. All of the required documentation and helpful information can be found on our website. Please reach out to staff with questions and ideas.

Began travelling to coastal communities to present on GCMP, technical assistance available and CIG process. Met with a total of xxxx local governments since August. Great opportunity to spread the word on what we do as a program and gather feedback on needs of communities throughout the coast.

*Coastal Management Fellowship-* Tyler Cooper-Kolb provided an update on the fellowship project to develop a resilience outreach strategy and implementation plan. Written for CRD staff as a guide to communicating resiliency to stakeholders. Gathering information to populate the strategy through development of a survey to be distributed to GCMP partners and general public.

*Living shoreline guidance document* – Meghan Angelina reported that CRD is wrapping up the Living Shorelines standards and BMP guidance document which includes site suitability criteria and standards and BMPs. Working with coastal contractor and engineering consultant to provide content and review. Final document will be presenting at an upcoming training for Living Shorelines practitioners on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to host two trainings each year in a continuing program. Requested any contact information for practitioners that should be included on distribution list from CAC members.

*Coastfest 2024* – Jan Mackinnon reported that Coastfest was canceled due to Hurricane Helene. The Student Art contest still took place. Rescheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Coastal States Organization-* Jan Mackinnon announced that Georgia will be hosting the annual Coastal States Organization (CSO) state meeting this year. Coastal states from across the country as well as CSO staff and other state and federal partners will meet the week of November 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss Coastal Management Program needs and updates. This will provide an opportunity for GA to highlight ongoing work and projects. This year CSO will be coordinating conversations with coastal states on federal coastal zone management funding.

**Member Announcements:**

Mr. Hendricks- GA Power Foundation GA Waters Program in partnership with Georgia Conservancy. One project funded includes a living shoreline in Liberty County at the Martha Randolph Stephens Community Park. Other one is Howard Coffin Park to address erosional shoreline behind the community building.

Ms. Lambert- Oyster Resiliency Project updates. TNC has been funded to create an oyster management plan which is coastwide project that is stakeholder driven. TNC is currently reaching out to ambassadors of multiple stakeholder groups to get feedback on how to communicate with different stakeholders.