



Coastal Advisory Council
April 26, 2024
Location: CRH Large Conference Room
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

Chairman Charles McMillan called the meeting to order. The new council members, Doug Chamblin (DOT) and Dan Quinn (JIA) introduced themselves by giving an overview of their positions and backgrounds. With these new members, Mr. McMillan requested that council members and staff also introduce themselves.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary February 6, 2024

Mr. McMillan asked for any questions or comments about the Winter 2024 Meeting Summary. No comments were brought forward.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee – Chairman Charles McMillan (filling in for Stacia Hendricks)

Chairman McMillan announced that the Communications Committee will be sending a survey to gauge the CAC’s interest in topics for future discussion. This survey will be about five questions total and hosted on the Survey 123 platform. Mr. McMillan commented that this is an ideal time to distribute this survey since we are hearing from staff today. Please fill out the survey to see what programmatic areas we should focus on in the upcoming meetings.

Legislative Committee – Chairman Charles McMillan (filling in for Scott Hendricks)

No Report.

Mr. McMillan asked Ms. Jill Andrews if there were any updates she would like to put forth here. Ms. Andrews replied that the one bill CRD has interest in is HB 244 which focuses on restructuring the enforcement and how offences are handled when it comes to shellfish harvesting so that punishments were less severe for first strikes. This was passed. HB 244 was signed by Governor Kemp during a ceremony at Coastal Regional Headquarters on Thursday, April 25th. Another bill that was signed during the ceremony was HB 1341, which states that the

white shrimp is now the official crustacean of Georgia. The idea for this bill stemmed from a campaign by students at Effingham Career Academy.

Council Member, Hyde Post asked about the status of HB 370 (fast tracking of validating Kings Grants). Ms. Andrews replied that HB 370 has been in the legislature for 3-4 years and got moved to the Judiciary Committee. It was sent back and CRD has not heard the reason why or when there will be another committee meeting.

New Business:

CAC Leadership Transition

Chairman McMillan announced that Summer 2024 will be his last meeting and that Chair Elect, John Hunter will be taking the Chair position. Therefore, a new Chair Elect will need to be selected. This candidate cannot be from the same county or affiliation as Chairman McMillan (Non-Profit, Chatham County) or Chair Elect Hunter (Local Government, Glynn County). This candidate will also need to have served more than one year on the Council. Therefore, the CAC will be looking for nominations of those that have the following affiliations: Academic, State/Regional, or Citizen at Large. There will be a Nominations Committee that will have a role in selecting the new Chair Elect.

Ms. Jan Mackinnon asked Mr. McMillan if he would like to set a deadline. Mr. McMillan replied that it would be great to have the nominations within 30 days (end of May).

Staff Updates – Year in Review

Staff of the GCMP each gave overviews of their work within their specific topic area. The slides for all presentations are located on the CAC website at

<https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/CAC/CAC%20Spring%202024%20Staff%20updates.pdf> Below are questions and discussions related to each of the presentations for staff updates 2024.

Compliance and Enforcement – Buck Bennett

Alton Brown asked how the Waterbottoms Lease Fee is established. Mr. Bennett replied that it has to do with changes in the consumer price index. CRD uses the College of Coastal Georgia's January Report-Out that is based on the U.S. Department of Labor Report. The Marsh and Shore Committee then ratifies this.

Shellfish and Water Quality – Kaylan Collins

Clay Montague added that Joiner Creek is a popular place for people to collect shellfish. Will these leases interfere with those public areas? Ms. Collins replied that they have selected an area for subtidal leases that is away from the public harvesting area.

Chairman McMillan asked if there is a tag requirement. Ms. Collins replied, "Yes - the type of tag depends on the gear type". Chairman McMillan also asked to zoom into Joiner Creek so the Council could better see the area of focus. CRD staff member Dominic Guadagnoli explained

that the crescent shaped tan polygon (within the pink polygon) was identified as an area in need of bathymetry work. We are not occupying that area.

Buddy Sullivan asked where the area of focus is, in relation to where we are. Ms. Collins replied with the use of a map.

Steve Vives asked if this Program only deals with oysters. Ms. Collins replied that the Program focuses on oysters and clams.

Marsh and Shore Regulatory – Josh Noble

Clay Montague commented that there is a desire to retain access to historical docks. Because of sea level rise, there are now marsh plants encroaching onto historical roads and the public does not understand if this is something they will have to contend with in maintaining access. Dr. Montague asked if there has been any discussion to recognize that sea level rise might be unnatural and human-caused? Mr. Noble replied that there is a lot to sites like those that Dr. Montague is referencing that have not been maintained in response to marsh encroachment and will have to be permitted under today's standards.

Michael Blakeley asked when properties change hands, is there any requirement for disclosures? Mr. Noble replied that the new property owners will have to contact CRD within 30 days to transfer the name on the permit. Permits do not show up in "due diligence" according to real estate agents, so this is not for private docks. Buck Bennett added that law firms have asked for guidance, and they are trying to inform people who need this information.

Chairman McMillan asked if CRD talks with land surveyors because people do not understand the differences in title. Maybe the land surveyors could write a justification, so it is triggered. Mr. Noble replied that a covenant is in the deed. Making the nexus is a challenge.

Federal Consistency – Jill Andrews

Chairman McMillan asked if Matt Bilski is still involved in Kings Bay projects, and he replied that they (UGA) are just getting started with their NFWF project.

Clay Montague commented that he has worked with Kelie Moore on the Noyes Cut project, and that she is a great resource based on her wealth of institutional knowledge.

Wetland Health and Restoration – Jaynie Gaskin

No questions or comments were received.

Coastal Aquatic Barrier Survey – Ava Meier

Buddy Sullivan is interested in where the culvert (pictured) is that is in such bad shape.

Clay Montague asked how we are defining "Severe." Is it referring to the road or the culvert?

Matt Bilski is interested in this data from a hydrological perspective and how AI and our knowledge of culverts could be used for action. Chairman McMillan is interested in this concept. McMillan also mentioned that this work relates back to marsh health since it focuses on hydrologic connectivity. Jaynie Gaskin commented that this was the reason CRD got involved with this SARP-funded work.

Wetland Policy and Living Shorelines – Meghan Angelina

Clay Montague asked how the permitting worked for the CRH living shoreline. Jan Mackinnon and Meghan Angelina replied that the living shoreline was constructed in the old wooden bulkhead footprint, and the only thing that needed to be permitted was the temporary sand fencing that was placed in marsh jurisdiction during construction.

GIS/UAV – Jan Mackinnon for Max Kleinhans

No questions or comments were received.

Coastal Hazards – Jan Mackinnon for Jennifer Kline

John Hunter commented that he is interested in the Tybee Plan and asked if it was published yet. Ms. Mackinnon replied that the Tybee Resiliency Plan was just completed and submitted but that she could send a copy or to reach out to Alan Robertson. Mr. Hunter also thanked Jennifer Kline and Kelly Hill for their work in attaining funding to acquire a piece of land to keep the property from being developed in a flood prone area as well as their work with the NFWF-funded project to mitigate flooding on Lanier Boulevard.

Green Growth – Kelly Hill

No questions or comments were received.

Communication and Outreach – Tyler Jones

Clay Montague commented that he has concerns about public ignorance on permitting and resilience topics.

Grants – Shy Duncan

No questions or comments were received.

Other Announcements/Additional Updates from CAC Members:

Mr. McMillan asked if there are any announcements from council members or staff. McMillan reminded everyone about the Communications Committee’s “Sense of the Council” Survey so that we can understand gaps in knowledge and topics. Buddy Sullivan requested that the results be shared with the Council. Additionally, the Chairman asked that all nominations for Chair Elect be sent to him.

Chairman McMillan adjourned the meeting.