



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
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Coastal Advisory Council
February 4, 2022
Virtual meeting via Zoom
Meeting summary

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Chester Jackson. All CAC members, guests, and CRD staff introduced themselves during a round robin session.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary

There were no comments on the Fall 2021 meeting summary.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee, *Stacia Hendricks*

There is interest in having the Communications Committee assist in collecting and providing background and educational information to aid in explaining proposed legislation, which would merge the efforts of the Communications and Legislative Committees. If you are interested in joining the Communications Committee, please send Stacia an email (stacia@littlessi.com).

Legislation Committee, *Scott Hendricks and Shawn Jordan*

There is no legislation being proposed by CRD this session.

Coastal Marshlands Restoration Act of 2021 (HB 748)

Introduced last year (did not get a lot of traction) so it is back for the second time around this year.

- A hearing earlier this week explained that the bill is intended to define the process of determining if someone has a Kings Grant or a State Grant for their property. It looks like it focuses on potentially turning rice plantations that had impacts (prior to the CMPA) into mitigation banks.
- This is something we are watching closely, and there will be coordination with the Communications Committee about this bill.

Christi Lambert added

This seems like a great opportunity for the Communications Committee to help us understand what is intended and some of the potential consequences of this bill, as well as how to communicate this information to the stakeholder community that is represented by the CAC.

Charles McMillan added

Georgia has had the CMPA for 50 years to protect our marshes. The Public Trust Doctrine is not widely understood, which is a concern because the hallmarks of coastal resource management rest in these doctrines (this topic was suggested for an upcoming meeting for those who are interested; see below). The beauty of the CAC is that members are from different affiliations and are experts in various subject matters, so they bring different perspectives. This is where the idea of the Communications Committee providing context could be valuable and achievable.

Highways, Bridges, and Ferries (proposed by the GA Department of Transportation; HB 577)

- Directed at things that DOT experiences when they are doing maintenance for bridges that may cause impacts to the marsh.
- Stream buffer variances are considered by EPD for specific criteria, and this bill seeks to change some of these criteria by June 2022.
- This bill is specific to DOT, but we are watching it because of the potential statewide affects if it moves.

Chester Jackson added

It would be beneficial for the council to create a tangible document that is either neutral or one that provides pros and cons to advise the State of Georgia.

Charles McMillan volunteered to host a working group that focuses on the Public Trust Doctrine some time over the next 2-3 weeks. This could provide an opportunity for a presentation (suggested to keep it neutral to provide background and understanding) and facilitated discussion with guidance from other states.

New Business

CAC Bylaw Revision, *Chester Jackson and Charles McMillan*

The bylaws were last modified on August 1, 2019. Currently, the CAC bylaws do not have language that accommodates for virtual meetings. Any changes to the bylaws must be submitted to a Bylaws Revision Committee, which would include the Chair, Vice Chair, at least 1 other member of the CAC, and a CRD staff member. This committee will send the proposed changes to the entire CAC for a 30-day review period.

Presentations

- *Meghan Angelina* of CRD presented on the Georgia Flood Literacy Project. Links to project resources are below. For any comments or questions, please contact Meghan (meghan.angelina@dnr.ga.gov).
 - Flood Literacy StoryMap: <https://arcg.is/0SrTeS>
 - Glossary of Flood Terms for Professionals:
https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/TechAssist/FloodLiteracy_GlossaryProfessionals.pdf
 - Glossary of Flood Terms for the Public:
https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/TechAssist/FloodLiteracy_GlossaryPublic.pdf

- *Shannon Matzke*, the Georgia Sea Grant State Fellow at CRD, presented on the Clean Marina Program.
 - The project will look at updating the Clean Marina Program, a voluntary program where marinas can learn best management practices to reduce their environmental footprint and decide how to implement it. This will be accomplished by working with three focus groups that address each of the following: updating the Clean Marina Checklist, adding a resiliency component, and exploring and implementing options. The goal is to have the update completed by the end of the summer, at which point CRD can begin accepting pledges from marinas to join the program.
 - There are plans to develop a website and other resources toward the end of the project.
 - For any questions, comments, or recommendations for stakeholders, please email Shannon at shannon.matzke@dnr.ga.gov. The next Stakeholder Meeting will be held in March.

Other Announcements

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Proposal Submission

Kelly Hill (CRD Staff)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, or BRIC, is a FEMA grant program. CRD worked with GEMA to submit a proposal last year, but there was a glitch in their system, and it was not received. CRD worked with GEMA to resubmit a proposal this year where they would model coastal flooding and wind hazards in Glynn County. These modeled scenarios will be similar to the ones from the previous 309 project that focused on coastal flooding and wind on Tybee Island and in Hinesville, and CRD will have the same partners from the Polis Center and the University of Wisconsin. The green infrastructure portion of the project will include stakeholder input to determine what would be feasible for dune enhancement versus a hybrid approach on St. Simons Island. If this proposal is accepted, CRD will start this work in Fall 2022.

CIG Pre-Applications

Kelly Hill (CRD Staff)

CRD received 23 CIG pre-applications in December. The pre-application review meeting occurred in early January. CRD invited 14 of these applicants to submit full proposals, which are due on Friday, February 11th. The CIG review committee will meet in March to review these full proposals. The funding will be allocated, and the funded CIG projects for Cycle 25 will be announced in April. A

Grants Coordinator position is listed on the CRD website, and Kelly Hill encouraged the distribution of this job announcement.

CRD Commercial Fishing Scholarship

Julie Califf (CRD Staff)

CRD was able to apply for funds to help fisheries that were impacted by a shrimp fishery failure in 2013. Some money was set aside for black gill syndrome research and \$25,000 is going toward a commercial fishing scholarship. A high school in McIntosh County has a dual enrollment program with Coastal Pines Technical College, with one opportunity being a 4-semester Commercial Fishing course that helps educate students on fisheries management and safety. This money would go toward equipment and licenses that students would need. This scholarship will enhance the sustainability of the fishery by introducing young people to the fisheries field.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and CZM

Kelly Hill (CRD Staff)

NOAA Coastal Zone Management was allocated \$200 million over 5 years to fund coastal management programs for specific projects that focus on coastal land acquisition or ecological restoration projects, as well as projects that address natural infrastructure and coastal resilience.

Lindy Betzhold added

Details about how these IIJA funds will be implemented are still being sorted out at the NOAA level. The National Coastal Resilience Fund Competition will be starting back in Spring 2022 (they are still determining the final timeline, which relates to the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Plan). There was an additional ~\$100 million/year allocated for the next five years, in addition to the \$30 million that is allocated by appropriation (total: \$130 million) for this competition, administered through NFWF. The RFP is typically released in March, but there may be changes to the timeline and/or specific match language.

Chairman Jackson adjourned the meeting.