



Coastal Advisory Council
August 5th, 2021
Virtual meeting via Zoom
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark McClellan. He introduced guests on the call from Gallagher Marine Services, 100 Miles, City of St. Mary's, and other associations.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary

There were no comments on the Spring 2021 meeting summary.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee, *Stacia Hendricks*

The Committee would like to invite new members to serve. There was discussion previously to sunset the committee, but that decision was not implemented after further dialogue. The Communications committee will be adding a task to their duties: to assist organizing presentations on topics of interest for future meetings. A list will be sent out to the entire council to solicit input of topics and speakers. There will now be a liaison position between the Communications committee and the Legislative committee.

Legislative Committee, *Charles McMillan*

There are notable federal discussions about new opportunities to fund work on climate change, environmental justice, and other topics. Members of the committee are waiting to hear how this may affect funding and initiatives at the state level in the future. The Communications and Legislative committees are interested in keeping up on knowledge of federal level efforts, to have more substantial conversations about opportunities with federal representatives.

At the state level there are no new bills currently relevant to the GA DNR or Coastal Resources Division. There are some carry-over bills which have not moved, due to delays caused by efforts being tied up in drawing new legislative boundaries post-census. Some of these bills could impact the marshes and coastal ecosystem health but they are unsure of which ones will move forward.

The committee is also soliciting a new chair for the next year.

Jill Andrews added:

The Living Shorelines Act was reintroduced into the new federal congress. Its number is HR 4235. There has not been a lot of associated action on the bill yet. There is also bipartisan support for a new federal infrastructure bill. There may be some available for coastal programs but that is yet to be seen. The emphasis needs to be on having shovel-ready projects for when funding may become available.



Also, the comment period/request for recommendations for EPA/USACE 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule is upcoming. This rule modifies the jurisdictional scope of the Clean Water Act. There will be online public meetings and a request for comments.

Executive Committee, *Mark McClellan*

New Council officers need to be elected during this meeting for the next year. Mark turned the election proceedings over to Jan Mackinnon.

Officer Nominating Committee, *Jan Mackinnon*

The committee met on July 19th to discuss nominations from Council members. The bylaws state that the incoming chair and vice chair are council members for at least one year, as well as reside in different counties.

Chester Jackson of Chatham County was nominated for the position of Chair.

Charles McMillan was nominated for the position of Vice Chair. Because of Mr. McMillan's highly migratory residency habits as a multicounty resident, there was discussion of Mr. McMillan's official county residence determination. The most recent place of residence in Glynn County makes him qualified to serve in this capacity.

Chairman McClellan asked for further nominations within the council. No other nominations were presented.

Ben Carswell asked the nominees to make brief statements.

Dr. Jackson and Mr. McMillan both made brief statements.

Dr. Clay Montague moved to accept nomination of Dr. Jackson as chair and Mr. McMillan as vice chair. Michael Blakely seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved Dr. Jackson as chairman and Charles as vice chairman.

New Business

Coastal Incentive Grants Cycle 25

CRD staff member Beth Tasciotti provided an update to the Council on the Cycle 24 funded CIG projects: 14 projects were funded in total and will begin on October 1st, 2021.

New submission portal last year went well and received positive feedback. There were six Oceans and Wetlands themed projects, one Public Access and Land Conservation themed project, three Sustainable Communities themed projects, four Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards themed projects, and zero Non-point Source Pollution projects.

Ms. Tasciotti provided an overview of the Cycle 25 Coastal Incentive Grant themes, criteria, 306A (construction) guideline updates, terms and funding and timeline. See below for details.



Themes

The themes for Cycle 25 Coastal Incentive Grants have not changed and are the following: Oceans and Wetlands, Public Access and Land Conservation, Sustainable Communities, Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards, and Non-point Source Pollution.

Criteria

No revisions are suggested to the Research and Non-research ranking criteria this year from the former year.

Dr. Jackson motioned to approve the Cycle 25 research themes and criteria. Ms. Hendricks seconded the motion. Chairman McClellan called for a vote on research themes and criteria. The Council unanimously approved the research themes and criteria for Cycle 25.

306A Updates

Ms. Tasciotti stated that there have been no changes in guidance from NOAA for 306A projects in the CIG application process. Last cycle only had one planning project, did not include construction. 306A guidelines apply to construction projects funded by Coastal Management Program dollars.

Terms and Funding Updates

Ms. Tasciotti stated that the maximum CIG award amount is \$80,000 per year for all proposals. The maximum term is two years. Approximately \$478,000 is available for funding in addition to \$323,000 from Cycle 23 Year Two carry over projects, of which there are five. This allows for a total of \$800,000 available to award in this upcoming year.

Timeline

Ms. Tasciotti stated that the request for proposals would be advertised starting in September 2021. The pre-proposals for the Cycle 25 will be due in December 2021. Full applications are due in February 2022. The review and selection of applications would occur in February and March 2022. The submission of the Georgia CZM grant to NOAA occurs in May 2022, and then a tentative notification to applicants is sent out the same month. NOAA CZM grant final approval and CIG contracts are issued in August and September 2022, and then contracts begin October 1, 2022.

Meeting Discussion

Dr. Jackson suggested that the next meeting being virtual would be the best and safest option. Chairman McClellan concurred, stating that there could be adjustments if COVID outlooks improve, so that they can be in-line with CDC guidelines.



Presentation

Jan Mackinnon introduced today's speakers:

Lt. Comm. Pat Frain of the U.S Coast Guard and Unified Command Liaison Officer, and Scott Jackson, Environmental Unit leader with Gallagher Marine Systems.

National Wetlands Condition Assessment (NWCA), *Jaynie Gaskin, CRD staff*

The NWCA team is submitting the completed assessments to EPA in August 2021. The 2021 assessment data will not be publicly released for potentially a couple of years, but 2011 and 2016 Assessment Data reports are available now on the EPA's website.

Flood Literacy Project: *Meghan Angelina, CRD staff*

The Flood Literacy Project is wrapping up at the end of August. This project united professionals from across the board to see how flood terms are being used and brought everyone together in communicating on flooding with the public. The glossary will be available soon on the CRD webpage. Research and outreach from the project will be compiled on a Story Map that will be available on CRD webpage.

Tabletop Exercise, *Jennifer Kline*

The tabletop exercise occurred on June 23rd. All 11 of the Coastal Zone counties have current or are in progress on completing Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Program frameworks. CRD wanted to celebrate this accomplishment by conducting a regional exercise to utilize these plans. The National Weather Service put together an exercise for the event, and ten counties out of the eleven counties were able to attend. FEMA was interested in the results. CRD will be debriefing on the information that was gathered on August 18th. There was lots of positive feedback, and many participants asked that this exercise be conducted annually for the coastal region.

Chairman McClellan adjourned the meeting.