



Coastal Advisory Council  
July 13, 2017 at Midway EMC  
Meeting Summary

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe E. Slaughter. Jan Mackinnon introduced 7 new members representing local governments and the Council went through introductions.

**Old Business:**

Meeting Summary

There were no comments or edits to the spring meeting summary.

**New Business:**

CIG Cycle 21

The new application process for Cycle 20 to include a pre-application and full application process was well liked by staff and the timeline was appreciated by UGA applicants.

Stefanie Nagid presented the 5 proposed Cycle 21 funding themes that were used in Cycle 20 to include Oceans & Wetlands, Sustainable Communities, Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards, Public Access and Land Conservation, and Non-Point Source Pollution. Examples of possible project ideas were presented for each theme. Paul Wolff made a motion to approve the themes as presented and Gene Keferl seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor of.

Ms. Nagid presented the Cycle 21 Ranking Criteria. Staff proposed a change to the Research Criteria to reduce the availability of points in the Transferability to Practical Use category from 20 to 10 total points and added a category titled Coastal Management Need to include a total maximum of 10 points for projects that address a need identified on the CRD Research Needs List updated annually. It was mentioned by staff the CRD Research Needs List is updated annually, and if there is an immediate program need staff can recommend directing funds towards a directed project. Joe E. Slaughter requested that the CAC be able to review the CRD Research Needs List each year. Discussion continued and a motion was made by Ben Carswell to keep 20 points in the Transferability to Practical Use Category, add the proposed Coastal Management Need category at 10 total allowable points, change language in the Coastal Resource Management and Planning/Practicality category to include application to the Georgia Coastal Management Program mission rather than needs, and reduce the total allowable points from 20 to 10 in each of the Problem Statement and Project Outcomes categories. The motion was seconded by Paul Wolff and unanimously passed.

The Non-Research Criteria were then discussed to address any needed points or language changes. It was proposed to change the language in the Coastal Resource Management and Planning/Practicality category to mirror the changes in the Research Criteria. Joe E. Slaughter also recommended editing the 8-15 points language of the Project Outcomes category to mirror what is stated in the 1-7 points language. A motion and a second was made to make these changes and unanimously passed.

Ms. Nagid provided updates on the 306A Questionnaire and Guidance Document that NOAA is currently revising to address land acquisition and construction projects. The revisions are being made to require more information gathering upfront for NEPA review in hopes to reduce the amount of time needed for review after CIG approval and reduce delays in project start times. The revisions may get approved in December 2017 which would then apply the changes to all Cycle 21 grants that would have already submitted applications. CRD staff will work to interface with applicants and NOAA to get any additional information required at that time. The limit for small scale construction projects and acquisition projects is also changing to reflect the new guidance document, and will be set at \$80,000 maximum federal request.

Ms. Nagid presented the terms for Cycle 21 grants. The maximum award amount would remain at \$80,000 for theme related projects per year, with a maximum grant term of two years. It will be noted in the RFP that Year 2 funding is not guaranteed at this time due to the proposed national CZM federal budget cuts that Ms. Andrews will discuss later in the meeting. And since the 306A guidance will allow for a much higher maximum federal request for construction and acquisition projects, the Cycle 21 construction and acquisition projects will follow the same maximum award amount as theme related projects. These projects will also be able to over- match similar to theme related projects, as per the new 306A Guidance document. And as discussed at the 2016 annual meeting the Critical Local Needs (CLN) Theme has not been utilized and will be removed in Cycle 21 RFP. Local Governments can address needs through a theme related project and can be eligible for a higher funding limit than the previously capped CLN projects at \$25,000.

#### Budget and CSO Update

Jill Andrews provided an update on the Federal FY2018 Budget as it would affect the GA Coastal Management Program (GCMP). The proposed White House Budget released earlier this year had proposed zero funding for all Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZM), National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS) and National Sea Grant. There were also cuts identified to other programs within EPA that would negatively impact CRD and the GCMP. The House Appropriations Committee will be marking up the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee FY2018 appropriations bill today and has released proposed spending levels for CZM at \$45 Million nationwide compared to level funding of \$70M. While this is better than zero funding there is still work to be done and it will still need to go before the Senate. This Subcommittee did also recommend full funding for NERRS and Sea Grant.

Questions were raised as to who is on these Committees and it was thought that the Subcommittee Representatives may reach out to the state's Coastal Representatives to get a pulse on these programs at the local level. It was suggested to reach out to Coastal Representatives to heighten their awareness of the importance of CZM programs in Georgia so they are armed with information to speak about this issue if asked.

Ms. Andrews discussed the President's recent actions to solicit input on the efficiency and effectiveness of current regulatory processes under six federal laws. NOAA Fisheries and the National Ocean Service published a joint Federal Register notice on July 6, 2017 for a 45-day public comment period seeking broad input on identifying existing regulations and processes that, among other things, may be outdated, unnecessary, ineffective; inhibit job creation and growth; and /or can be further streamlined in a manner consistent with law. CZMA is one of those laws being evaluated. Managers expect Federal Consistency to be a target from the development/industry groups. But there have been positive comments on how Georgia is implementing Federal Consistency.

Currently CRD is supported at 71% by federal grants, 35% of which is from the NOAA Coastal Management grant. Coastal Incentive Grant funding is a part of this 35%. EPA grants also support about 7% of the budget including the Beach Water Quality Grant, which is also recommended for zero funding in FY2018, as well as other EPA grant programs that support wetland health assessments and living shorelines. CRD has not heard from the state on what their proposal would be for funding any of these programs in light of federal budget cuts.

Ms. Andrews discussed the America First Offshore Energy Strategy that directs BOEM to reevaluate the nation's offshore environment for oil and gas resources. There will be the potential to allow for 26 new planning areas and the mid and south Atlantic could be reevaluated and included in the 2019-2024 strategic plan. Georgia will be involved with Federal Consistency Review during the process. Also, the Geographic Location Description that Georgia is working towards establishing will allow for direct Federal Consistency involvement in offshore areas where resources are identified.

#### Committee Reports

Ashby Worley provided an overview of the Committees and their roles and provided an updated list of membership. The Executive Committee is currently working towards developing Committee guidance to include subjects such as term limits for Committee chairs, and processes and protocols for adding new members and will be developing this over the next few months.

Stacia Hendricks provided an update for the Communications Committee, including an update on the Coastal Georgia Greenway from Jo Hickson. The Legislature funded the Greenway at \$100,000 for this year to go towards construction of trail segments. This funding will be managed by the Coastal Regional Commission and Allen Burns has sent out guidance to local communities on how to prepare for an upcoming funding announcement.

Ms. Hendricks mentioned resources developed for CAC members interested in reaching out to State and Federal Representatives in support of restoring the full CZM budget. Draft letters and contact information will be e-mailed out to the CAC membership following this meeting. It is beyond the scope of the CAC to write to the Legislature directly, but individual members may take on that role individually.

The Maritime Committee has not met since the last CAC meeting, therefore there was no update.

Steve Willis provided an update for the Legislative Committee. Meeting Summary notes from the previous Legislative Committee meeting were provided as a handout. This summary discussed the process and roles for the Legislative Committee as well as a list of issues and concerns. Mr. Slaughter addressed a concern that there was not a clear process outlined in this document and it was unclear on how it lined up with the jurisdiction of the GCMP. The charge for the Legislative Committee is to bring specific recommendations for discussion and recommendations for a specific action for the next meeting. Mr. Willis agreed to develop a specific action for the next meeting and proceeded to read through the list of issues from the meeting summary. Ben Carswell and Tate Holbrook recommended prioritizing the Shore Protection Act (SPA) due to the immediacy of that issue on the Legislative timeline. Mr. Slaughter suggested that the Legislative Committee develop a recommendation on the SPA quickly and send to the Executive Committee for review and distribution to the full CAC for consideration prior to the next meeting. John Holman (City of St Marys) commented that he can only present and support his Council's view and only with advance notice on the issue.

Jan Mackinnon presented the recommendations from the Nominating Committee for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. The Nominating Committee is currently comprised of the CRD Director Spud Woodward, Jill Andrews, Joe E. Slaughter and Paul Wolff. The Committee recommended Joe E.

Slaughter for a second term as Chair and Ashby Worley for a second term as Vice-Chair. A motion and a second was made to accept these nominations and passed.

Ms. Mackinnon presented the nominations for the Citizen-At-Large vacancy. Two nominations were received and associated bios had been sent to CAC members for consideration prior to this meeting. The two nominations were for Mr. Dorset Hurley and Mr. Fuller Callaway. Mr. Slaughter called a vote and the majority vote was for Mr. Dorset Hurley. Staff will elevate the CAC's nomination to the Commissioner recommending the appointment of Mr. Hurley.

**Announcements:**

Beach Week was a successful event again this year with over 2,000 participants and 12 exhibitors that consisted of our federal and state partners. Beach Week is an annual outreach event which educates the public about Georgia's Coast and Beaches. Events were held on Tybee Island, Jekyll Island and St Simons Island.

Jennifer Kline updated CAC members on an upcoming award notice for NOAA Coastal Resiliency Funding of \$370,000 for GCMP to complete Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Planning in six coastal counties. This was an extremely competitive application pool and Georgia received one of two grants in the Southeast and Caribbean Region. Staff are very excited to be able to become the first state in the nation to complete DRRPs for the entire coastal region.

There were no other announcements from the membership or staff and the meeting was adjourned.