



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
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Coastal Advisory Council
August 1, 2024
Coastal Regional Headquarters
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

Chairman Charles McMillan called the meeting to order. Jaynie Gaskin introduced the Aquatic Barrier Culvert Assessment project team, Sydney Pratt and Harrison Faulk. Ms. Pratt and Mr. Faulk are surveying coastal barriers in the 11-county service area of the GCMP. Jennifer Kline introduced Tyler Cooper-Kolb the new Coastal Management Fellow. Mr. Cooper-Kolb will be working with CRD over the next two years on a Resiliency Outreach Strategy that will look at all 11 coastal counties and their underserved populations through a multi-generational lens.

Old Business:

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

Jill Andrews presented on the Dock Rules and explained that the General Permit expired in 2022 and proposed changes went out for public comment in January 2024. CRD received a handful of comments. A new stakeholder committee was formed made up of 15 members including dock builders, property owners, environmental organizations, realtors, and citizens with interests in private recreational docks. The first meeting will begin to figure out where there is agreement or disagreement. The stakeholder committee discussions will wrap up by the end of year and the rulemaking process will resume spring 2025.

**New Business
Committee Reports**

Communications Committee – Stacia Hendrix and Hyde Post

The committee would like to solicit anyone who is interested to join. A survey went out to members since the last meeting and Mr. Post has assembled results (thanks to Meghan Angelina) contained in the information provided to members at the meeting. Mr. McMillan stated that it is evident from the responses that many members here are leading experts on coastal issues. There were two qualitative questions he assessed: 1) CAC members are interested in getting to know

staff and their work better, and 2) Permitting was identified as an area that many members do not understand well. Mr. McMillan stated that just because something was lower on the list doesn't mean it is less important but may be more understood. The hope is that GCMP staff can help the CAC understand the programmatic work better and that CAC members can ask questions to help inform understanding. The survey results should help steer the agendas for the next year. Jan Mackinnon asked if there were any suggestions for changes to the spring meetings which are usually staff updates. Mr. McMillan recommended to add where we are going with projects not just what we have done. He stated John Hunter's presentation as an example.

Dr. Montague asked how staff benefit from the CAC. Ms. Andrews stated that a challenge regarding policy is that we cannot talk about it until it is public. We are constrained in that regard. The role of the Council is to understand the issue, the facts and write a letter. Scott Hendricks asked Ms. Andrews if the CAC has missed an opportunity to provide input on the Dock Rules. She explained that informal support and individual comments are extremely valuable, and the CAC has provided that. Moving forward the public process will come up again with an opportunity to provide input. Ms. Mackinnon also mentioned that it is just as important to carry the information out to your constituents. Mr. Hunter pointed out that there is strategic advantage by being on the CAC for his community. Helping with the CIG themes, etc. Shawn Jordan echoed the message.

Legislative Committee – Scott Hendricks

HB 1172 – Amendments relating to water rights, so as to remove references to the public trust doctrine; to provide that members of the public have the right to use all navigable streams as highways and for hunting and fishing. The Legislative Committee will continue to watch.

HB 1146 – Amendments relating to ground-water use and to require EPD to issue water permits to private companies in areas where no public service can be provided. Mr. Jordan stated there is a study committee targeting this bill. The Legislative Committee will continue to watch.

HR 1432 – Creates a House Disaster Mitigation and Resilience Study Committee. Ms. Kline mentioned that CRD has asked to be notified of meetings. Kate Hargrove stated that she had also heard about the committee but that they hadn't met yet and is slated to dissolve in December 2024.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging – USACE will be having a public meeting and comment period for the public and interested parties for the Disposition Study related to multiple waterways in Georgia. Ms. Mackinnon sent out the notice to all members on 8/7/24. The public meeting is on 8/14/24 from 5:00-6:30 pm at the Darien City Hall.

Executive Committee – Charles McMillan

The Nominating Committee met after the Spring CAC meeting to discuss the two individuals who were nominated for the Chair Elect post. The Committee recommends a vote for Chair

Elect between Michael Blakely and Scott Hendricks. The CAC members voted by written ballot to elect Mr. Hendricks as the incoming Chair Elect.

New Business: CIG

Shy Duncan presented on the Cycle 28 CIG updates and themes. The theme of Non-point Source Pollution was suggested to be integrated into the Sustainable Communities theme, and it was recommended to add a new theme of Nature-Based Solutions.

Mr. McMillian called for a motion, Hyde Post made a motion to approve the themes and Buddy Sullivan made a second to the motion. The Themes for Cycle 28 were approved.

Ms. Duncan presented on the 306A overview and project eligibility according to NOAA.

Discussion was had regarding eligible entities for CIGs and the most effective way to reach those stakeholders. Ms. Andrews pointed out that this past year was unprecedented with such a low number of grant applications. Ms. Duncan conveyed to the Council that she and Ms. Mackinnon will be attending commission and city council meetings through November to highlight the CIG program and educate new local government representatives of the funding opportunity.

Lunch was provided.

Presentation

Vice Chair John Hunter gave a presentation on the City of Brunswick and CRD's Lanier Boulevard partnership and project for Lanier Blvd. Flood Resiliency.

Other Announcements

Beach Week – Ms. Kline reported on another successful year (19th) for Beach Week which was held on Jekyll Island, Tybee Island and St. Simons Island where the event saw over 1,500 beachgoers.

Career Academy – Ms. Gaskin reported out that Career Academy was held the week of July 22-26 with 24 kids participating.

Culvert Assessments – Ms. Gaskin reported that the culvert team has inventoried over 1,000 sites with another 2,000 sites to visit. CRD will continue the surveys of culverts with communication with the Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP) and continue to write grants to support restoration of these impairments.

Living shoreline guidance document – Meghan Angelina reported that CRD is developing a Living Shorelines standards and BMP guidance document which includes site suitability criteria and standards and BMPs. The document should be released this fall. Staff will send out a copy to the entire CAC

Coastfest 2024 - Tyler Jones reported that Coastfest will be taking place October 5th at Mary Ross Park. Volunteers are needed. CRD is looking for a part time public relations person to work 29 hours a week helping with Coastfest, fishing events, web, and PR.

Member Announcements:

Mr. Tony Robinson announced that there is a Glynn Environmental Coalition fishing tournament, date to be determined.

Scott Hendricks – a partnership between GA power and the Georgia Conservancy is expected to be announced for Waters for Georgia. This partnership will provide grant money to support living shoreline related projects.