



Coastal Advisory Council  
February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Coastal EMC- Midway  
Meeting Summary

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe E. Slaughter and the Council went through introductions.

**Old Business:**

Meeting Summary

There were no comments on the Fall 2016 meeting summary.

Communications Committee Update- Stacia Hendricks

Ms. Hendricks stated that the Committee had discussed the Habitat License Tag and the Coastal Georgia Greenway. Doug Haymans updated the Council on the status of the Habitat License Tag. HB 736 passed last year to approve the tag and CRD is currently working to secure 1,000 pre-paid tag applications required for production to begin. The funding allocated from the sales of the tag will go towards enhancing marine habitat in coastal GA. Please visit [www. http://coastalgadnr.org/LicensePlate](http://coastalgadnr.org/LicensePlate) for more information.

Jo Hickson updated the group on the status of the Coastal Georgia Greenway. The Communications Committee would like to draft a letter of support from the CAC to the CRD Director to show the Council's support of any funding that might be directed to the Greenway during the legislative session. See Council Priorities below.

Maritime Committee/Shellfish Ad Hoc Committee – Charlie Phillips

Mr. Phillips expressed some concerns regarding the Shellfish Blueprint that was presented at the Fall 2016 meeting. This document outlines the needs of CRD and UGA for growing the shellfish industry in GA. Mr. Phillips provided a two page handout listing some of the concerns from himself. Katy Smith also mentioned a one page document produced by UGA including what the financial "ask" is for continuing to grow the industry and sustain the hatchery. Mr. Slaughter asked the Maritime/Shellfish and Communication Committees to synthesize these documents for CAC members. Ms. Hendricks asked for the Shellfish Ad Hoc Committee to assemble all of the mentioned documents and the Communications Committee could synthesize the information. There was a request to have Tom Bliss from UGA speak at the next CAC meeting in order to provide an overview of the hatchery. Mr. Phillips would like to have information compiled from FL and SC on their process at the next meeting as well.

Legislative Committee- Steve Willis

Mr. Willis did not have any formal recommendations from the Legislative Committee but had several questions on the proposed HB 271 regarding the Shore Protection Act. Questions included:

- Why is the "buffer" at 25 feet instead of 50ft as proposed in 2013?
- Waivers and Variances- what are CRD's plans for addressing larger properties- that could amount to a large amount of land.
- Efficiency for CRD- Is there a tradeoff for increasing efficiency with this process?

- What is evidence that the new method will not cause a loss in protection?
- Where is inclusion of sea level rise predictions?

Mr. Willis would like CRD to address these concerns so the Legislative Committee can come to the CAC with a proposal to vote on. Mr. Slaughter suggested the Legislative Committee put these concerns in writing for CRD to address at a future meeting.

Mr. Willis also proposed discussion on the Coal Ash and Spaceport legislation. Mr. Slaughter noted that nothing beyond the scope of CRD is under the purview of the CAC but within their ability to make suggestions. Mr. Slaughter suggested focusing on CRD related issues. Mr. Willis will send information regarding these Bills to CAC members for them to decide if they would like to make any suggestion to Director Woodward.

### **New Business:**

#### 2017 DNR Legislative Priorities- Jill Andrews and Doug Haymans

Current DNR Legislative Priorities for the 2016 Legislative Session Include (Discussion below):

- HB 208- Fishing/Hunting License Reform Bill
- HB 271- Shore Protection Act revisions

Other Legislative Issues of Interest:

- HB 001- Spaceport Act
- HB 186- Expansion of Deer Season/Archery
- HB 205- Overhaul of 1975 Oil and Gas Act
- SB 48- Freeze on Hunting and Fishing License fee
- SB 116- Stormwater Utility Fee
- SB 152- Stream Buffer Study Committee

Mr. Haymans discussed the importance of license reform to support the needs of the Agency to create and maintain hunting and fishing opportunities for the public throughout the state. It has been 24 years since the last license rate increase, and these proposed rates will bring Georgia closer to the average rates among southeast states. DNR relies on federal funding to enhance state dollars, but the states percentage of funding is allocated based on reported users. That is the reason for introducing a license for youth and senior age groups to capture those user groups and increase federal funding eligibility.

Major changes under HB 208 include the creation of a volunteer youth license (ages 12-15) and a dealer license, annual fishing license going from \$9 to \$15, commercial license going from \$12 to \$20 with a species endorsement and the addition of rates for seniors over 65 going to Senior annual/lifetime sportsman \$7/\$70, Senior annual/lifetime hunt only or fish only \$4/\$35. Out of state fess will also increase.

Ms. Jill Andrews discussed in more detail the proposed HB 271 and addressed Mr. Willis's questions. Ms. Andrews described the proposed changes on the process for determining the Shore Protection Act jurisdiction line as a more ecologically based proposal compared to the current method of using the first occurrence either of live native trees 20 feet in height or greater or of a structure existing on July 1, 1979. The proposed jurisdiction area would be determined by the most landward of (i) 25 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark; (ii) 25 feet landward of the landward toe of the most landward sand dunes; or (iii) 25 feet landward of the crest of a visible and functional structure associated with a shoreline stabilization activity.

Ms. Andrews and Mr. Haymans addressed Mr. Willis's comments as follows:

- 25 feet versus 50 feet- Clarification that this is not a buffer but a jurisdictional area and the distance was determined as a function of the process through the Bill's sponsor and legislative process and also to provide continuity across other bills.
- Minor Activity- there is not a waiver or variance process but rather something permitted as a minor activity. This is still considered an activity and has to come before the SPA Committee, but if the proposed project is affecting 1/3 or less of the jurisdictional area it can be considered a minor activity. It will still go through the public notice process and be brought to the Committee for the members to choose whether or not to approve without formal presentation at a public meeting. This language mirrors the minor activity language of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act.
- Efficiency- Increased efficiency does not equate to less protection. All proposals are still submitted to the Committee.
- Net Gain/Loss- Staff looked at a representative sample of areas on N. Tybee, S. Tybee, St Simons Is., and Jekyll Is. The intent was to get back to jurisdiction areas based on ecological definitions.
- SLR- JD lines are only good for one year so they are very responsive to changing environment.

#### FEMA Post Matthew Update- Jill Andrews

Through this process GA learned that the state is responsible for removing marine debris impacting coastal marshlands. Many private homes have removed debris from private docks on their own but there are still 10 sunken vessels reported. FEMA will reimburse the state up to 75% of costs for removal so the state is currently working through the supplemental budget process to get state funding secured.

#### DNR Board Meeting update – Jill Andrews

The January DNR Board meeting was held on Jekyll Island. The Board approved new SPA/CMPA Committee member Bill Hodges.

#### Directed Project – Jan Mackinnon

The GCMP is proposing a Directed Project for Cycle 20 to contribute towards acquisition of regional coastal imagery data. The proposed project would be flown in January of 2018 and gather 6" resolution imagery with the addition of planimetrics in the coastal CMPA jurisdictional area to capture status of structures in the JD area. Coastal imagery will also be flown at low tide to capture shoreline images. The overall project is being managed by the Coastal Regional Commission and CRD is assisting with communication to the remaining Counties needed for the regional dataset. This data will be extremely useful as a regional dataset as well as addressing erosion and accretion areas, vegetation analysis, permitting needs, compliance and enforcement, and assisting with recovery efforts. The request was for \$120,000 to be directed at this project. Motion to approve by Charles McMillan and second by Billy Edwards. No Opposed. Directed Project was approved.

#### 2017 Council Priorities –Joe E. Slaughter

Mr. Slaughter wants to focus on adding more local government representatives to the Council and wanted to thank Ben Carswell for attempting to diversify the Council with additional local governments. The City of Brunswick will be a guest at the next meeting.

Mr. Slaughter and Ms. Hendricks discussed writing a letter to Director Woodward supporting the Coastal Georgia Greenway's request for \$1M in support from the state to go towards construction of the 16 mile Island Hopper Trail that would link 100 miles of existing trails on Sapelo, Butler, St Simons and Jekyll Islands. This funding would allow the state to leverage additional federal and private funding sources to complete this segment. Motion to approve sending a letter of support by Stacia Hendricks and second by Charles McMillan. Allen Burns opposed. The Communications Committee will draft a letter to send out

to membership for edits and approval. Visit <http://coastalgeorgiagreenway.org/> for more information on the Greenway.

### **Other Announcements**

#### Coastal Incentive Grants- Stefanie Nagid

Cycle 20 application process changes went really well. CRD received 28 pre-proposals which were reviewed by staff and CAC member Paul Brockington. 17 proposals were invited to submit a full application to be scored by the review committee which will meet in March. Available funding is consistent with years past with about \$489,000 available for new projects.

#### 309 PDRRP Project- Jennifer Kline

This project began in 2010 for CRD to develop Post Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plans for two pilot communities in coastal GA. The state also issued an Executive Order in 2013 to complete this process at the state level based on the results of the pilot projects. Chatham and Brantley Counties were the pilot communities and both completed the process successfully. Brantley County developed and adopted Zoning as a result of this process and both communities used pieces of their plans in recovery from Hurricane Matthew impacts. CRD is currently implementing a NOAA Resiliency Grant to develop a DRRP for Glynn County and the City of Brunswick and McIntosh County will begin their process shortly as a result of a CIG award. Georgia did require communities to address sea level rise in their redevelopment pieces.