



Coastal Advisory Council
July 26, 2023
Location: SSEL
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

Chairman Mr. Charles McMillian called the meeting to order and introduced the new council member, Mr. Hyde Post who is fulfilling a “citizen-at-large” council position.

Members were advised that a CAC group photograph would be taken during the living shoreline tour at lunch.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary April 26, 2023

Mr. McMillian asked for any questions about the Spring 2023 Meeting summary. None were brought forward.

New Business

Committee Reports

Communications Committee – Stacia Hendricks

The Committee has complied and submitted ideas for future presentations for CAC meetings. The suggestions have been submitted to Ms. Jan Mackinnon. Members are asked to please continue to give suggestions and the Committee will add them to the list.

Legislative Committee – Scott Hendricks

Mr. Hendricks thanks the CZM Staff for capturing comments from the spring CAC meeting in the notes. The Legislative Committee was tracking several bills however, none of the bills were passed, resulting in an uneventful session. One bill of interest for the future sessions is HB 519, which pertains to public fishing access to freshwater resources. A House Study Committee on Fishing Access to Freshwater Resources has been set up to investigate the issues brought up by the bill and one committee member is from Liberty County, Al Williams. The study committee has not met yet. Hearings could take place between now and October. The CAC Legislative Committee is following HB 519. Members think the outcome of this bill will have coastal impacts- since the ruling would impact how private owners can restrict public access to natural resources. Mr. Hendricks reminded the CAC of the coastal case of a private landowner on the

Flint River whose restriction of access to a fishing area previously open to the public resulted in a lawsuit. Because HB519 pertains to public trust, the bill has coastal implications.

Mr. McMillan asked if Mr. Alton Brown was tracking the bill. Mr. Brown replied yes.

Mr. Shawn Jordan commented that local governments from other states such as those of Virginia Beach have encountered these issues- encroachment of private landowners on public trust lands. Mr. Jordan gave the example of individuals who have built into the city's right of way, then the city officials are challenged when they need that property back. This happens in the coastal area when property owners push their lawns into the dunes and restrict access crossovers, Mr. Jordan stated. Mr. Jordan anticipates this to be a big issue for coastal community managers.

Ms. Jill Andrews noted that on complicated issues pertaining to the Constitution of Georgia, house study committees often reach out to the legal research team at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) for input. Ms. Andrews stated that several years ago, a researcher from CVIOG, Ms. Shana Jones, drafted a chart directly from the constitution explaining the boundary lines for coastal communities.

Mr. Hendricks commented that the House study committee was created because the issue is so complicated. Mr. Alan Robertson was asked if this was an issue for city managers on Tybee Island. Mr. Robertson replied that it was not currently but is something city officials are looking out for. Mr. Hendricks concluded the Legislative Committee updates by saying members will be tracking the progress of the House study committee and the bill.

Executive Committee – Charles McMillian

Mr. McMillian stated that the application period for new CAC members is closed. The Executive Committee received five (5) applications for the three (3) vacant positions. Mr. McMillian advised the CAC members that the applications will be processed over the next few weeks, so stayed tuned for updates.

Coastal Incentive Grant Cycle 27 – Shy Duncan

Funding for Cycle 27 will begin October 1, 2024. The information presented and approved at the CAC meeting will be brought to the August 2023 DNR Board meeting for approval to release the Request For Proposals (RFP) in September 2023.

Themes:

- Oceans and Wetlands
- Sustainable Communities
- Non-Point Source Pollution
- Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards
- Public Access and Land Conservation

Dr. Clay Montague asked how the updated Research Needs list fits with the CIG themes discussed in Ms. Duncan's presentation. Ms. Mackinnon replied that the list of research needs is

generated by CZM staff identifying knowledge gaps within each specialty area. Ms. Mackinnon also stated that the CIG applicants are required to select a theme but are not required to tie their project back to a research need from the list. Dr. Montague asked if the applicants want to use the needs list, is it beneficial? Ms. Mackinnon replied yes, staff feel it is important for the applicant to make the connection to CRD needs. Ms. Chrisi Lambert asked if the Non-Point Source Pollution category applies not only to making improvements to current infrastructure but also planning new developments. Ms. Kelly Hill responded that yes, projects can have a planning focus for instance writing a storm water utility plan. Mr. McMillian thanked Ms. Duncan for her work on the CIG program. Mr. John Hunter made a motion to approve the Cycle 27 criteria. Ms. Katy Smith seconded the motion. The vote passed.

306A Updates:

Ms. Duncan stated that there were no updates for 306A projects for Cycle 27. No changes in guidance from NOAA. 306A projects have construction components.

Terms and Funding Updates:

The proposed terms include a maximum of \$80,000 theme related amount per year in federal funding, with a two-year maximum project term. Ms. Andrews and Ms. Mackinnon led a discussion of CIG budgets and explained how funds carry over from year to year.

Presentation:

City of Tybee's resiliency work including their CIG grant entitled "Evaluating Best Practices in Dune Restoration: Vegetation Research and Monitoring on Tybee Island" - Alan Robertson, City of Tybee

Mr. Robertson shared that one of the issues on Tybee is that Venetian Drive has actually lost elevation, complicating the pursuit of a nature-based infrastructure.

Ms. Lambert asked if the levees could be sloped more to the upland side.

Mr. Robertson responded that the City would have to ask for an easement onto the upland properties and they are in fact are working on how to approach the residents about easements.

Ms. Andrews asked if the City was planning to accommodate for run off from the living shoreline, for instance by capping the road? Because the owners are not going to want the water running off onto their property. Mr. Robertson acknowledged that the City would have to plan to put in drainage.

Ms. Smith asked if water quality parameters were being tested. Mr. Robertson answered that they have added testing parameters to their sampling work. The City of Tybee is engaging with both water and sewer companies about water quality now.

Mr. McMillian asked for Dr. Matthew Bilskie to speak on his research work and where his projects fit into these issues.

Dr. Bilskie shared with the council that when he started working on Tybee's projects, he had a senior design team work on design for levee modifications and raising Venetian Boulevard. He also conducted storm water modeling and paired that with models for sea level rise.

Mr. Robertson commented that what makes this project innovative is that Tybee completed a storm water plan at the same time as a nature-based plan. City officials brought UGA in with Thomas and Hutton's modeling, and the two camps worked together to make a plan.

Dr. Bilskie suggested having one of the researchers present on their work on this project for a future CAC meeting.

Member Announcements:

Sea Grant State of the Coast – *Charles McMillian*

Sea Grant is hosting a State of the Coast meeting, Sept 21- 23 on Tybee Island. The first day is going to be policy oriented. On the second day, coastal research projects will be covered. Third day activities will be more family-oriented, and will feature the Tybee Marine Science Center.

Ms. Smith stated that there will be opportunities for presenters to put forward 3-minute lightening round presentations if interested.

Ms. Andrews noted that, on the first day of this meeting, attendees will hear from DNR, FEMA, DOT, that lens of save the environment, coast priorities from agencies we do not always hear from.

Beach Week 2023 – *Jennifer Kline*

The 18th Annual Beach Week was another successful HOT event this year. We visited Jekyll Island on June 28, Tybee Island June 29 and SSI June 30 along with our federal and state partners. We estimated that there were 1,500 beachgoers visiting our display throughout the event.

NFWF City of Brunswick Proposal – *Kelly Hill*

NFWF awarded CRD funding through the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) to address compound flooding issues along Lanier Boulevard and adjacent wetlands, as well as Glynn Middle School property and the Habersham neighborhood. CRD is awaiting administrative approval and final award notice from NFWF in order to begin work in partnership with the City of Brunswick and the Board of Education to complete the design phase for the nature-based solutions that will enhance resilience for Glynn County communities in this area.

Updates to The Coastal Stormwater Supplement- *Kelly Hill*

CRD and UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant have begun work with coastal practitioners to update the 2009 Coastal Stormwater Supplement to the GA Stormwater Management Manual (The Blue Book) document as it relates to BMP design guidance, municipal and policy needs, and updates to graphic renderings and digital formatting. A Needs Assessment survey will be sent out to coastal stormwater practitioners next month.

GADNR Career Academy 2023 – *Jaynie Gaskin*

Over 300 Georgia high school students applied to participate in the second annual DNR Career Academy. After conducting more than 50 virtual interviews, we selected 23 students from all over the state and with a variety of interests in natural resources careers. For six days, the students worked side by side with current DNR staff as they engaged in activities designed to represent typical job duties of entry-level employees. Over 100 DNR staff members contributed to over 80 hours of activities that spanned all four Divisions of the department. Each of these students walked away with a greater understanding of Georgia DNR's missions and a new respect for the staff who work to achieve these goals. No matter what career path the kids choose, the experiences they had last week will always inspire them to be good stewards of Georgia's natural resources.

Chairman McMillian adjourned the meeting.

Ms. Meghan Angelina led the Council on a tour of the new Coastal Regional Headquarters' campus living shoreline demonstration site.