



Coastal Advisory Council
November 8, 2018 at CRD Headquarters
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Ashby Worley. The agenda was re-ordered to have NOAA liaison Lindy Betzhold present on NOAA's Digital Coast before the Future of the CAC discussion.

Old Business:

Meeting Summary

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

New Business:

Committee Reports

Stacia Hendricks reported out for the Communications committee. Stacia reported that there were no Committee updates.

Dorset Hurley reported out for the Legislative committee. He reported that the Committee had been discussing CRD's role with the Camden Spaceport. CRD's mission with the project is to review the EIS report and explore concerns with water closures. He stated that any questions about the project could be directed to Clay Montague because of his involvement with the project. Mr. Hurley also reported that the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act (GOSA) was passed with an 83% vote in support of the Act. Charles McMillian clarified that the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority will receive GOSA funds, and GA DNR will be responsible for distributing the grants. Mr. Hurley also discussed the new FEMA maps, and how they will affect insurance premiums. He requested on behalf of the Committee that a speaker come present to the CAC and discuss these maps and their effects on residents based on any existing examples. Mr. Hurley proceeded to report that mariculture was a new legislative action, and the Committee did not have any recommendations for the CAC. The Chairwoman moved onto the next agenda item.

Presentations:

- Lindy Betzhold gave a presentation entitled "NOAA's Digital Coast" and an overview of GCMP's upcoming 312 Evaluation.

Future of the CAC

Ashby Worley announced that once the new Governor is in office, CRD will submit a resolution to continue the CAC. This gives the CAC the opportunity to look at the mission and bylaws of the CAC to make changes. She brought up some topics that might need to be addressed including term limits and the number of members on the CAC. She pointed out that with the current size of the CAC it can be difficult to reach a quorum, and maybe a smaller Council should be considered. Ms. Worley then opened the floor for discussion.

Clay Montague commented on community/local government members being requested to vote on political issues (e.g. Sea level rise) at CAC meeting. He brought up that these members often have to take the vote back to their community or organization before they could weigh in on political matters, and perhaps there should be a mechanism for these members to be able to prepare for votes ahead of time. Russ Marane wanted to know whether the role of the Council was to advise CRD staff or listen and disseminate the information received at meetings. He continued to discuss whether members were representing a group/organization or if they were representing their own individual opinions based on their experience. Jill Andrews clarified that CRD wanted representatives of organizations, and Mr. Marane then agreed with Dr. Montague that it would be helpful to have information on political matters before meetings to have internal discussions with the representative's organization.

Alton Brown asked whether the CAC's role was to provide solicited or unsolicited advice to CRD staff. He thought the CAC was a great group to receive and disseminate information, but he doesn't think members should give advice on matters if they are not experts. Discussion about what topics the Council should provide advice on continued. Charles McMillan suggested the Council focus on what CRD needs. Paul Wolff said the Council should give unsolicited advice on topics that would affect CZM and coastal communities such as sea level rise and climate change. Ben Carswell suggested CAC leadership could help focus topics by communicating with CZM staff what topics the CAC should focus/advise on. Dorset Hurley discussed the difference in recommendations vs. advice, stating that a recommendation was formally written advice whereas advice was a collection of ideas communicated verbally. It should be clearly stated whether the Council is providing a recommendation or advice for any topic of discussion. Clay Montague agreed with this and suggested the bylaw wording be changed to allow representatives to give recommendations and advice without needing to go back to their organization for approval. Jill Andrews said the Council can serve itself. CRD can share information that it has been working on, and we can discuss topics relevant to CRD, but we can also discuss other topics not relevant to CRD that the Council finds interesting. Coal ash, for instance, is not a CRD related topic, but it was still presented on and discussed. Mr. McMillan suggested the Council take the big issues like sea level rise and offshore drilling and think about how these would affect GCMP (e.g. How would GCMP change if offshore drilling became a reality).

Tate Holbrook asked what CRD would like the Council to provide/improve upon that it isn't currently doing. Jan Mackinnon said she thought the Council could be more informed on what CRD staff is working on, and she wanted CRD to provide the Council with information on CRD projects throughout the year. She wants to work on sending out some sort of newsletter to the Council between meetings to keep everyone informed about what staff is working on. This could help the CAC better understand the Georgia Coastal Management Program.

Ben Carswell said that CAC was not set up to provide rapid advice but is set up to be responsive to requests from CRD to provide formal recommendations. Mr. Carswell proceeded to discuss the importance of fostering relationships between the CAC and CRD staff. Dr. Holbrook suggested the CAC could focus on long-term issues (sea level rise) that CRD might not have time to address because they are focusing on immediate issues. Mr. Hurley suggested the Council could provide formal recommendations on hot topics even if they were unsolicited by CRD. Ms. Worley inquired about type of advice CRD wanted from the CAC. Jill Andrews responded by saying CRD is looking for more than just advice from the CAC. CRD sees value in all four objectives. It is important for the CAC to know the program they are advising and how CRD is linked to the community. She also spoke about wanting the CAC to be the right size to have effective, across the table discussions. Ben Carswell suggested Ashby Worley might want to follow up with Doug Haymans and Charlie Phillips about having a Fisheries Council. Stacia Hendricks offered to have the Communications Committee work with CRD Staff to help present information on CRD staff and projects to the CAC.

Mr. Hurley asked for more information the role of the Executive Committee, and Ms. Worley explained that the Executive Committee is made up of the Chair, Vice Chair, and a member of each stakeholder group, and they review the agenda before each meeting and contribute agenda items and speakers. Ms. Worley said it might be helpful to have committee reports come out before meetings to help committee members prepare for the meetings.

Members asked for a timeline on the resolution and reauthorization of the CAC to know the timeframe for edits to the bylaws. Jill Andrews said the reauthorization would come a few weeks after the Governor takes office. She discussed how the bylaws haven't been revisited since 2003, so it was a good time to make edits. She wanted to look into language that sets more clear parameters for GCMP and CAC members. She summarized some the topics members might consider changing are term limits, frequency of meetings, clarifying the mission, and attendance. Several other members agreed that attendance needed to be addressed. Dr. Holbrook suggested there be some flexibility for the first few absences but after an entire absentee year you are automatically off the committee. Mr. Carswell suggested there not be term limits instituted, but the size of the CAC should be smaller. Other options discussed were having term limits that could be renewed with the option to leave the CAC.

Ms. Worley will be contacting all CAC members via phone or email in the near future to see if they would like to continue to be members. Ms. Mackinnon mentioned continuing to have a call-in option for meetings but did not want Council members to rely on this option if they are able to be present at a meeting.

Ms. Worley will be accepting changes to the bylaws through December 7th. Members can send their edits via email. During the month of December staff will work on a draft of the changes to the bylaws. The draft will be sent to Council members 2 weeks before prior to the January meeting, and will be further discussed at the meeting.

Announcements:

- Kelly Hill announced NOAA and EPA's approval of Georgia's Coastal Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program.
- Lori Harlin provided a grants update letting everyone know the Cycle 22 Request for Pre-applications was released mid-September and pre-proposals are due on December 7.
- GA CZM anniversary will be Thursday November 15 from 6 to 9 pm at the Jekyll Island Convention Center
- Clay Montague discussed the Noyes cut project that he thought would be a good candidate for GOSA funds. He also offered to give a presentation on the project. Contact him if you are interested.
- Doug Haymans clarified the status of GOSA. The Commissioner's office is currently working on the rules, and it will be completed sometime around July 2019.

Meeting was adjourned.