

NC COASTAL RESOURCES COMMISSION (CRC)

April 19, 2012

NOAA/NCNERR Auditorium

Beaufort, NC

Present CRC Members

Bob Emory, Chair

Joan Weld, Vice Chair

Lee Wynns

Pat Joyce

Bill Peele

Veronica Carter

Melvin Shepard

Ed Mitchell

Jamin Simmons

Present CRAC Members

Bob Shupe

Charles Jones

Tim Tabak

Ray Sturza

Steve Myers

Missy Baskervill

J. Michael Moore

Lee Padrick

Travis Marshall

Harry Simmons

Debbie Smith

Judy Hills

Ben Rogers (for Bryant Buck)

Tracy Skrabal

Spencer Rogers

Joe Lassiter

Phil Harris

Present Attorney General's Office Members

Mary Lucasse

Christine Goebel

Amanda Little

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Bob Emory called the meeting to order reminding the Commissioners of the need to state any conflicts due to Executive Order Number One and also the State Government Ethics Act. The State Government Ethics Act mandates that at the beginning of each meeting the Chair remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Commission. If any member knows of a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest, please state so when the roll is called.

Angela Willis called the roll. Renee Cahoon, Charles Elam, David Webster, and Jerry Old were absent. No conflicts were reported. Based upon this roll call, Chairman Emory declared a quorum.

MINUTES

Melvin Shepard made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8-9, 2012 Coastal Resources Commission meeting. Veronica Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed with six votes in favor (Weld, Wynns, Joyce, Peele, Carter, Shepard) and one abstention (Simmons) (Mitchell absent for vote).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

DCM Director Braxton Davis gave the following report.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, it is great to see everyone again. Over the past few months, I've continued to get out and meet with folks along the coast and get up to speed on various issues, including visits to our District offices, meetings with local government officials, and recent presentations at a NCBIWA meeting in Nags Head and a BASE meeting down in Wilmington. For those of you who I haven't had a chance to meet one-on-one with yet, I hope to schedule a time with you soon.

You'll notice in your information packets that there is a DCM Update Memo. I'd like to begin providing this as a standard part of your packets to provide a little more detail on ongoing activities at DCM in terms of permitting, enforcement, rule development, planning and Reserve activities, and to be able to provide a brief summary and then touch on other items during my Executive Secretary's remarks. I'd appreciate any feedback on that. I've also discussed some ideas with the Executive Committee related to future meeting agendas. We would like to have one or two focus areas per meeting to make sure that we are not inundating you with too much information or too many topics in one sitting. So you may notice a little bit of a change in format of the future agendas.

The June meeting will also be held here in Beaufort. However, our budget for meetings next year is looking better, so we are planning to begin moving your meetings around the coast, starting with the August meeting. We understand the importance of moving CRC meetings around the coast to provide opportunities for people to attend and participate more easily and so that Commissioners and staff can hear more about local issues at each location.

For today's meeting, we anticipated several key staff absences (fortunately some of those scheduling conflicts are now resolved), and so we decided in consultation with the Executive Committee to go with a one-day meeting, with continued discussions of the CRAC to follow on its progress from the February meeting, and to hear an update from the Science Panel on its sea level rise report, in addition to the contested case and variance. As you will recall, the next steps on the draft sea level rise policy from the last meeting were to wait for the report from the Science Panel, and then depending on the ensuing discussion of the Commission, to send the draft policy back to a subcommittee for further review and to engage additional feedback from local governments before reconsidering its release for public hearings. I also want to mention that we have now received a number of resolutions from local governments on the SLR policy, some of which we received in time to include in your packets.

Finally, I have inquired about CRC appointments with the Governor's office and the two new appointments are in process and will be announced any day now. As I mentioned at the last meeting, those of you interested in re-appointment this summer should send a letter to the Governor's office, and we can assist you with that if needed.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Bob Emory stated SLR Resolutions have come in and we have had some meetings with groups who have an interest in the work we are doing on Sea Level Rise. We will talk about next steps for the policy later in the agenda.

CRAC REPORT

Ray Sturza stated the CRAC continued to focus on an issue that we identified at our last meeting which was North Carolina's Coastal Management shoreline access program. We have a vibrant and important component of our overall coastal resource program and that is making the shorelines available to the public. We heard a presentation about the CAMA access program from Charlan Owens about where the program has been, its financial situation and where it is today. We also heard about areas that have successfully implemented vibrant shoreline access programs and other areas that have chosen not to do so or have not had the ability due to the constraints associated with matching funds and other issues that affect local governments. We also heard a presentation from Steve Muller who talked about the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and how that can serve to augment monies made available through the CAMA program. The discussion took a turn and we came to realize in most instances where we make improvements and make shoreline access facilities available, it is obvious that there needs to be restrooms. We can get the people there and we can get the cars there, but once they are there they need other facilities. We are going to try and focus in on that a little bit. We also heard some updates on ramifications associated with new guidelines that are becoming more stringent as it pertains to the Americans with Disabilities Act. We want to make certain that those who can't move as freely as most of us can also enjoy the salt water and the coastal resources as well. Finally we heard a little bit about the Big Sweep program. In addition to getting people there and providing parking and facilities we have a good program in North Carolina that uses non-governmental resources and governmental resources that is called the Carolina Big Sweep which happens every October. It is a voluntary effort that involves thousands of people who collect an assortment of debris from our waterways and our shoreline access facilities. We are going to try to weave that into some future agendas so we can become a part of that. The meeting was focused on promoting the fact that North Carolina's coastal resources program and the Division of Coastal Management is more than a regulatory agency. It has a very important role in providing facilities that allow for our citizens and our visitors to get to our shoreline and our coastal resources. We are going to continue to focus on that and look at some other ways that we can enhance that program.

CONTESTED CASES

Teague, Snead & Raynor v. DCM (10EHR 4673, 74 & 89)
Christine Goebel

Mary Lucasse, CRC Counsel, advised the Commission that under the Administrative Procedures Act Section 150B-36 the Commission may only consider the official record in making its final decision. Furthermore, the Commission shall adopt each finding of fact contained in the Administrative Law Judge's decision unless the finding is clearly contrary to the preponderance of admissible evidence giving due regard to the opportunity of the ALJ to evaluate the credibility of witnesses. For each finding of fact not adopted by the Commission and each finding of fact made by the Commission that is not contained in the ALJ's decision, the Commission shall set forth reason for not adopting the finding of fact and the evidence in the record relied on by the Commission. Any new finding of fact made by the Commission shall be supported by a preponderance of the admissible evidence in the record.

Christine Goebel of the Attorney General's Office appeared and presented argument on behalf of the Division of Coastal Management staff in these three consolidated contested cases. Ms. Goebel stated that the Division of Coastal Management denied three CAMA Major Permit applications requesting permission to add boat slips and boat lifts to three existing observation piers in shallow primary nursery areas on Calico Creek in Morehead City. The initial question in the case was

whether DCM caused a delay in making a determination that the applications were complete. The ALJ found that DCM did not. Secondly, the ALJ considered whether the Division of Marine Fisheries staff was consistent in its comments on applications for permits to build slips in shallow PNA waters. The ALJ declined to rule on that issue. The question before the CRC is whether the DCM timely denied the CAMA Major Permit applications? The ALJ found that the CAMA permits were not timely denied and thus, based on the statute they are deemed approved. After the ALJ's decision was issued in this case, DCM staff decided that they don't disagree with the ALJ's conclusion. Ms. Goebel informed the CRC that neither party was opposed to issuance of the permits in this case. However, DCM requested the CRC adopt some changes to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for the following reasons: Most of the language in the Order tells one side of the story only; the facts and conclusions are not balanced based on a preponderance of the evidence; and some are not factual. In addition, the Findings of Fact lump all three Petitioners together when there are some differences between the Petitioners in the case. DCM is requesting these changes not to argue for a different conclusion, but for future cases. Cases and decisions by an ALJ and by the CRC are widely available. Facts could be considered binding and this is DCM's attempt to correct the record on issues that could come back again. Ms. Goebel requested specific changes as set forth in the written argument in this case. DCM requested that the CRC make some changes to the ALJ's decision so that it more accurately reflects the evidence in the testimony in the case and will present a balanced and factually correct decision based on a preponderance of the evidence. Our arguments do not change the ALJ's ultimate decision and the permits will be issued per 113A-122.

Wes Collins of Harvell and Collins, P.A. appeared and presented argument on behalf of Petitioners Teague, Snead and Raynor stating Petitioners' ultimate goal in the case was to look at the procedure and make a determination as to whether the law was followed correctly. Ultimately we want approval of the three boat lifts. The CRC has heard that DCM concurs with the ALJ's position. We agree with DCM that the mandatory statute requires approval of the permits.

Veronica Carter made a motion that the Commission adopt the staff's proposed revisions to the Findings of Fact in the December 19, 2011 Decision of the Administrative Law Judge which was entered in the consolidated contested cases filed in the Office of Administrative Hearings and numbered 10 EHR 4673, 4674, and 4689. Commissioner Carter further moved that the Commission find that the Findings of Fact as written are clearly contrary to the preponderance of the admissible evidence even after giving due regard to the ALJ's opportunity to evaluate the credibility of the witnesses and that the CRC should adopt the revised Findings of Fact for the detailed reasons set forth in staff's written argument and based on the preponderance of the admissible evidence in the record. Joan Weld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Simmons, Joyce, Mitchell, Wynns, Peele, Weld, Shepard, Carter).

VARIANCES

Duncan – (CRC VR 12-02) Calabash, ¼ width rule
Amanda Little

Amanda Little of the Attorney General's Office appeared and presented argument on behalf of the Division of Coastal Management. Bill Raney appeared and presented argument on behalf of Petitioner.

Petitioner owns property located at 1318 Harbour Watch SW in Calabash in Brunswick County. Petitioner applied for a Major Permit to construct a pier, gazebo, boat lift and floating dock within her riparian corridor on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Petitioner's Major Permit application was denied on the basis that the proposed development is inconsistent with 15A NCAC 07H .0208 as the proposed pier length extends more than one-fourth of the width of the natural water body. Ms. Little reviewed the stipulated facts for the variance request. Staff agrees with Petitioner on three of the four variance criteria. Staff disagrees with Petitioner that the hardships result from conditions peculiar to Petitioner's property. Staff contends that this property is typical in that all the properties in the area have very shallow water adjacent to the shoreline and all of them are subject to the Army Corps of Engineers' setback.

Bill Raney, of Wessell & Raney LLP, represented Petitioner and argued that the variance request presents a situation where there are two important policies of the CRC relating to the coastal resources in conflict. The first is to protect public navigation. The other has to do with protecting primary nursery areas. By abiding by the one-fourth rule, the applicant doesn't get to deep enough water to have a docking facility that will avoid disturbance of the bottom at times of use at low water. There is no disagreement on three of the four criteria. There is an unusually wide expanse of mudflat between the marsh and the low water mark that results in the measurement point on the Petitioner's side of the water body being unusually far from deep water.

Melvin Shepard made a motion to support Petitioner's position that strict application of the applicable development rules, standards, or orders issued by the Commission cause the Petitioner unnecessary hardships. Bill Peele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Simmons, Joyce, Mitchell, Wynns, Peele, Weld, Shepard, Carter).

Melvin Shepard made a motion to support Petitioner's position that hardships result from conditions peculiar to the Petitioner's property. Ed Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Simmons, Joyce, Mitchell, Wynns, Peele, Weld, Shepard, Carter).

Veronica Carter made a motion to support Petitioner's position that hardships do not result from actions taken by Petitioner. Ed Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Simmons, Joyce, Mitchell, Wynns, Peele, Weld, Shepard, Carter).

Veronica Carter made a motion to support Staff's position that the variance request will be consistent with the spirit, purpose, and intent of the rules, standards or orders issued by the Commission; will secure the public safety and welfare; and preserve substantial justice. Ed Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Simmons, Joyce, Mitchell, Wynns, Peele, Weld, Shepard, Carter).

This variance was granted.

PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENT

Mark Hooper stated I am president of Carteret County Crossroads which is a local environmental organization with a 30 plus year history of working towards the goal of sound environmental policy for Carteret County. I am here to formally submit to the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission a viable plan to address sea level rise issues in the state. We commend the authors of the 2010 Sea Level Rise Report and thank them for the time spent producing that material. We commend the efforts of NC-20 to be engaged in the process as they seek to understand and fully

recognize the implications of sea level rise issues in North Carolina. I must state however that NC-20 does not represent the views of Carteret County Crossroads on this issue. As we look at the graphs and lines and numbers and projections from various sources and delve into the data and numbers and statistical manipulations and try to look 100 years into the future Crossroads feel it is now important to fold these estimates of future water levels back into the current situation. While it is important to track average sea level heights and trends over time, we the people as home and property owners are currently dealing with periodic high level water events and in so doing we are adapting and preparing for a future rise in overall average sea level. These high water peaks are a result of wind driven tides as water levels increase and as winds funnel water into narrowing water bodies. Other high water peaks are associated with storm events such as major northeast storms and hurricanes. While there might be debate about which year in the future we would experience water levels two feet above current levels, two weeks ago when in Oriental there was eight inches of water in the streets due to a three day northeaster and full moon, at my place on Core Sound the water level was two feet above normal. I shed soft crabs as part of my commercial fishing business and I was worried about my electrical pump flooding. In the near future I will redesign my system and I am sure the people of Oriental are thinking of ways to manage around future high water events. Hurricane Irene of last fall brought a water level of approximately five feet above normal at my place in Smyrna. Some areas in Carteret County had water as high as nine and ten feet above normal. These water levels were similar to conditions from Hurricane Isabel less than 10 years ago. What is the response by the homeowners when flooding occurs? I move my water pump and water conditioning system to a new addition to our home moving up to the nine foot level. Homes are being raised generally a full story above ground level, docks which are prone to damage from high water and storm events are being rebuilt with ever-stronger materials and methods. Heating and air conditioning duct work is being moved from under houses to attic spaces when being replaced after flooding. Bulkhead heights are increasing as we are moving from wood or plastic bulkhead material to large stone. As we the people of this coastal area, we build water dependent infrastructure and homes and we factor in the potential for increasing water levels and higher storm activity than we have seen in the past. These are the types of responses formally proposed in order to mitigate a rise in average sea level rise height. Residents and home owners have moved past debate on this issue and into action to prepare for future events. Before you is the plan from Carteret County Crossroads and it is simple. The ball is in your court. (written materials provided)

Larry Baldwin stated I am with NC-20. We greatly appreciate the CRC's time and efforts in working with the sea level rise issue. As everyone knows, it is a controversial issue. I am beginning to wonder whether or not the temperatures and sea levels are rising as much as the heat around the issue and the discussion of it. There are two sides to it. We are quite interested in hearing the CRC Science Panel's review of the findings today. Initially in their report there were no references regarding the other side of the science. We are interested in seeing what else may be included in their assessment. NC-20 feels it is imperative that our policy and rule makers know all the sides, all the data, and all the science on an issue before making policy. I think that is crucial. We suggest that all panels or committees studying an issue always present a minority and majority opinion. I think that is important for rule making and policy making to be able to make a sound decision. If you just hear one side of the issue, naturally you are going to make a policy, rule or law based on what you know. That's why all the facts and all the rules and regulations and all the data and science need to be explored before making rules and policy. Lastly, this gets back to global warming and it being a controversial issue. Climate change and this issue have been going on since about the '70s. I have got an old article here that I think you will find interesting about climate change in 1975. It is interesting in that there is a lot of authoritative sources, a lot of authoritative data, and science about global cooling. That was in 1975, 37 years ago. It is always interesting to

go back in history and look to make sure we aren't repeating mistakes because at this time they were talking about putting some kind of black covering on the Arctic to increase ice melt. That was one of the solutions. It is not to put down the science. I think all scientists try to do a good job, but the point of this whole article is that they were very critical and we had to do something quick and something soon at a political and policy level. That is why it is so crucial that we look at all the science and all the data to come up with a good policy. Nobody is refuting sea level is rising, it is the rate that it is rising and that we don't go overboard one way or go too far under the other way. We need to plan for it. Thank you very much.

Tom Thompson stated I am the Chairman of NC-20. I too appreciate you offering to let us speak. I would just like to start with the primary concerns we have and then I will read some sort of resolution that it is in the making with NC-20. We haven't gotten it complete or approved, but this is where we are headed. Our primary concern is not the science, per se, but the economic and social costs that could be imposed on coastal Carolina by a rush to judgment. We have already seen evidence of this with the Division of Emergency Management starting to use 39 inches in drawing flood maps. We have met with them and they have agreed to back off and use only existing data and not computer generated modeling. They are going to use about 20 centimeters to begin and then investigate every 20 years. That brings me to my second point and the question of urgency. As my predecessor just said, we all agree there is sea level rise. To date it is linear. There is no example anywhere that we can find of the four hundred and some tide gauges of acceleration in sea level rise. If it is not here yet then our question is why are we rushing so hard to impose such a drastic revision? Finally, let me read the recommendations of the NC-20 group and these are in draft form. To date there is absolutely no evidence of any acceleration in sea level rise, in fact there appears to be, according to Dr. Robert Dean, a weak deceleration of the existing data. Speculations about sea level rise are based primarily on assumptions about global warming which in turn are based on carbon dioxide increases in the last several years which we admit has happened. However, there has been no statistical correlation to date between the linear rise of about 20 centimeters per century and carbon dioxide increase. We have graphs that show that there is vertically a divergence of those two. Since there is no statistical evidence of acceleration in sea level and since the economic consequences of trying to impose rules, regulations, or even suggestions to people that make up rules and regulations we find 39 inches as statistically unjustified and economically dangerous. Any projection that any agency or organization of the state of North Carolina that chooses to issue such a projection we think should include this disclaimer:

Although there is no evidence of any acceleration in sea level rise at the present time, (the name of the organization) is projecting a potential increase of (blank) inches by the year 2100. This estimate is advisory only and should not be the basis for any mandate, rule, regulation or law.

We would like to see that on anything that comes out of this organization or any other working with it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

PRESENTATIONS

Land Use Plan Implementation Report – Town of Oak Island (CRC 12-11) John Thayer

John Thayer stated as part of the Land Use Plan program there is a requirement for local governments to submit an implementation status report two years after certification. The primary

reason it is on the agenda is to make the CRC aware of it and also to put it into the record. No action is necessary.

Addendum to the N.C. Sea-Level Rise Assessment Report

Dr. Margery Overton

Dr. Margery Overton stated the Science Panel met in the fall and was given the charge to review the critique of the first Report. The charge was sent to a subcommittee which worked until January 2012. The draft addendum was then sent to the rest of the Panel for comment and revision. The first question considered was why the Report applies information from the Duck gauge, which has the highest rate and shortest record, to the entire coast? This is a well informed audience so you know we are referring to the figure that was in the first Report and the rate that was used to establish the low or base rate on the sea level rise projections. The answer is that the Duck gauge is on the open coast, is the least disturbed, and has a continuous operational history. In contrast, the Wilmington gauge is not on the open coast, has been reinstalled a couple of times, and there is a question about whether the signal in that tidal range may have been influenced by the widening and deepening of the navigation channel. For these reasons, we were more comfortable using information from the Duck gauge. Concerns have been raised because the Duck gauge is not included on the NOAA website for sea level trends. When NOAA prepared the website, they looked for gauges with a 30 year history. At that point, the Duck gauge didn't have a 30 year history so it wasn't included. I understand there are concerns because the rate at Duck is greater than four millimeters per year and in Wilmington the rate is about two millimeters per year. Quite clearly if you take a rate that is double the other one and you go out the same amount of time you are going to end up with twice the increase of using one over the other. In the process of being asked to review and critique our work, something came to my attention, and these comments are personal comments and not the Panel's. There is a conversation about the GIA that apparently is going on in the northeast part of our state. Some data on a GPS gauge in place at Duck for a six year period is a continuously operated recording station measuring the ground level--the vertical land movement. In that six year period what was measured is a 2.4 millimeter per year subsidence. So one could start thinking about it as data that suggests the land going down and water going up. The Duck gauge is picking up the combination of the two things, water rising and land going down. It is an important thing for North Carolina to increase our monitoring, increase our data collection, and understand it is different than what we have going on at the southern part of the state. As we go forward and have comments in the addendum, it may be very important going forward to differentiate the processes in the state.

The second question was why is acceleration expected this century when the past data shows none? This is a question that is formulated acknowledging that there is some work in the peer reviewed literature that is saying that there is no acceleration in the tidal records in our historical record. In reviewing this, first I want to make some comments. There are many, many papers and many, many, many investigators trying to make sense of the historical record. In the historical record there are various data sources, but right now I am going to be thinking and talking about the tidal gauges, but there is also geologic and satellite altimetry data. Some papers use what I'd call a physics classical acceleration model -- a smooth rise based on a rate multiplied by time. The approaches vary, the data sets vary and the results vary. In the Addendum, we have documented a range of the papers, maybe not 100% of the papers out there, but the various accelerations and decelerations that people are finding in the historical data record. You find all approaches when you are reading the literature. The table in the Addendum is an attempt to capture some of the most recent literature. Any data that is time dependent quite often has a lot of variation. These are not comparable analyses. They might be different data sets, different time periods and different

answers. So what is the basis for an expectation that there will be an increase in acceleration if we are not finding a significant acceleration in the historical record? If I run the equations using that acceleration model and you put in any of the accelerations that I have in the table, you don't end up with one meter of sea level rise. It is just plain math. You have to have an increase in that acceleration to reach those levels. It is the increase in acceleration that is important in the discussion as we project forward the acceleration is based on a documented increase in temperature which causes the thermal expansion of the water. The rate of increase is expected to change. On top of that, the increase in the rate of the glacial ice melting is not included in some of the estimates and some of the models.

The third question was why does the report accept one and not the other? This gets back to the way the IPCC projected the sea level rise curves.

The fourth question was to take a look at the updated work and consider whether it changed our conclusions. The key authors we were asked to look at were Church and White because between the time of the first report and the time that we were asked to look at it again, they had come out with a new paper in 2011. Rahmstorf had also redone his model. The issue in the 2011 Church and White paper that is important to this discussion is the lower acceleration. The rates that were computed for the tide gauges for the sea level rise rate were about the same. It didn't really change the conclusion. What is important as part of the discussion and important in the way the science is done is that they made some summary comments in the 2011 paper that it is critically important that this data is available and maintained for everyone to use. As people are trying to research this they really need to have the opportunity to get into the exact same data set and repeat the modeling or the calculations or the analysis. It is being able to repeat the work which gives confidence in what you do. There is a website which keeps the tide gauges and so they make a comment about how important that is. The second one they make a big point of, which parallels my comments about the Duck gauge, is that we really need to have GPS measurements at the tide stations so that we pick up differentially the vertical land movement versus what the water is doing. Spencer Rogers chased some of this down for me and he said that in terms of North Carolina we have increased the number of these stations. We have to be very patient because a one year record is not going to tell us everything.

I have pulled together a table of the various authors and tried to give a sense of the projection period and the range of outcome in these various models. These are projections based on models which are based on a variety of assumptions about whatever the driver is and then how it will impact things. These are models with projections that we actually can't 100% test because it is out there in the future. This is what we have to work with at this date. It is a work in progress. We might find out in five or ten years that some of these are still standing and some of these are not standing. There may be a host of other ones that are not included that may be the models that best fit what we are going to do. This is what we pulled together for this Addendum. We concluded that we are satisfied with the broad conclusions of our original Report. The conclusion that we need to pay attention to is this, we can document the wide range of what the projections are, we can reflect on what that might mean, and that conversation is very important to coastal resources and coastal management issues. The last thing I put together was pointing you to what other states are doing, not in the sense of telling you that they are doing it better or right or any of those things, but just for perspective. I went into the NOAA tide gauges and pulled out the rates of their gauges, the relative sea level rise at locations, versus what they are coming up with for planning scenarios. Many of the states have adopted scenarios. Not a single number but a range of numbers to look at. I didn't find

a state that has this unique characteristic of a high rate and a low rate. It may exist and some of you may know of one, but we may have a unique thing to wrestle with as we go forward.

After questions directed to Dr. Overton, Chairman Emory spoke. We began working on a sea level rise policy well over a year ago. I have already mentioned some of the problems with the first attempt. In large part we have corrected those problems. This Commission has a job to do. Even the people who debate on one side or the other on acceleration haven't said that sea level rise isn't occurring. We have sea level rise going on and it is going to affect the coast disproportionately relative to the rest of the state. Given our charge under the Coastal Area Management Act I think we need to be proactively trying to get our arms around sea level rise. At the last Commission meeting a decision was made that after the Science Panel's response we would refer the draft policy to a committee for further work. The Estuarine and Ocean Systems Committee will take the current draft of the policy and take a hard look at the language. Our job is to develop a meaningful dialogue with local governments on sea level rise. I would like to see the policy focus on the value of more understanding, gathering more information, education, outreach and dialogue. The Committee should identify the changes that need to be made to the current version of the draft and then bring the draft back to the Commission for further discussion.

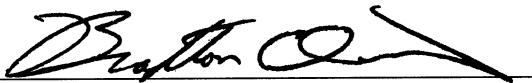
As a next step we should have John Thayer at a future meeting tell us what is currently in the land use planning process regarding sea level rise. There is also a land use planning guidelines subcommittee working on revisions to the 7B guidelines. We could find out from them what they are talking about. The CRAC could find out what local governments are already doing at one of their future meeting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

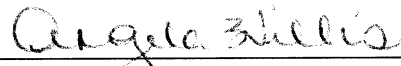
Veronica Carter suggested the CRAC be added to the daily email list of coastal news updates sent out by Michelle Walker.

With no further business, the CRC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Braxton Davis, Executive Secretary



Angela Willis, Recording Secretary