



Buxton Woods Reserve  
 Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
 12/11/2019 – 1:00 pm  
 Buxton Volunteer Fire Department

**Attendance**

<b>LAC Partner Organization Members</b>	<b>Present</b>
National Park Service, Boone Vandruza	Yes
Dare County Administration, Danny Couch	Yes
Dare County Sheriff's Office, Doug Oberbeck	No
N.C. Forest Service, John Cook	Yes
N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission, Robert Martine	No
Coastal Studies Institute, John McCord	No
N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Scott Pohlman	Yes
<b>Community Members</b>	
Russ Kiddy	No
Karen Lebing	Yes
Michael Flynn	Yes
<b>Others Present</b>	
Rebecca Ellin, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Program Manager	
Jason Brown, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Northern Sites Manager	
Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy, Coastland Times	
Steve Kovacs, Dare County Department of Emergency Management	
David Dunaj, National Park Service	
Pat Moore	

**Reserve-wide Updates**

The Reserve-wide Update, which now includes a range of Reserve activities was shared with committee members prior to the meeting. The update in its entirety is included as Appendix A.

**Site Updates**

- Hunting updates: The Wildlife Resource Commission received harvest reports for 10 deer (Buck:4, Doe:6) in 2018 - 2019 harvest at Buxton Woods Reserve. At other northern sites, 87 hunters have registered at Kitty Hawk Woods and Currituck Banks for 2019 - 2020 season.
- Information on the impact of nutria, a non-native rodent, in North Carolina is needed as part of plan by multiple agencies to evaluate options for management. Sign of nutria have been observed in the Reserve but additional information is needed.

- Trails have been cleared and reopened following Hurricane Dorian. Additional work remains and areas along West, East, and Sedge Trail must be timed in winter months. Dare County Trail Committee has expressed interest in developing a trail guide for the county and a volunteer network.
- Discussion of wildfire planning included the need for coordination with other agencies to develop a response plan. Information presented in prior meetings is in the process of being reevaluated. There is currently a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Harvey Scarborough provided information on how seasonal changes with vegetation in sedge areas would have influence on fire risk.

### **Rules Review**

The committee was asked for input on draft rule language developed as part of the Legislative Periodic Rules Review and Expiration of Existing Rules process (G.S. 150B-21.3A) that began in 2016. Draft rule language presented is included as Appendix B. Committee members were provided draft language per rule section for each section of the N.C. Administrative Code related to the N.C. Coastal Reserve (NCAC 15A 70). Committee input per section:

#### SECTION .0100 – GENREAL PROVISIONS

##### 15A NCAC 07O.0101 – STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 07O.0102 – DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THE SUBCHAPTER

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 07O.0103 – RESPONSIBILITIES: DUTIES OF THE COASTAL RESERVE PROGRAM

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 07O.0104 – STATE AND LOCAL COASTAL RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 07O.0105 – RESERVE COMPONENTS

- No comment.

#### SECTION .0200 – MANAGEMENT: USE AND PROTECTION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL RESERVE

##### 15A NCAC 07O.0201 – MANAGEMENT PLAN

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 07O.0202 – RESERVE USE REQUIREMENTS

- Item (2) – Discussion on how bicycles and e-bikes are defined and regulated. Need identified to also better communicate designated uses through signage improvements in addition to rule change.
- Item (2)- Mr. Flynn suggested adding “authorized” to research projects.
- Item (4) – Mr. Couch suggested to change this from one sentence to two sentences to clarify this information.
- Item (6) – Mr. Couch supports including cultural resources and mentioned the need for protection of these items.
- Item (6) – Mr. Pohlman asked for specification on what is considered written permission and if e-mail correspondence is included.
- Item (8a) – Mr. Couch suggested changing “and/or” for consistency.

- Item (8e) – Mr. Vandruza suggested that the inclusion of “might” would lead to enforcement challenges and differing interpretations. Mr. Cook agrees this is not the best word to include in rule language and could potentially apply too broadly.
- Item (10) – Mr. Pohlman suggested a change to “placement of natural material.”
- Item (10) – Mr. Couch states that at times you see other organizations use “resource” instead of “spoil.”

15A NCAC 07O.0203 – SPECIAL ACTIVITY AUTHORIZATION

- Discussion occurred on the duration of the authorization and protocol for long-term authorization.

**Roundtable Discussion**

- Danny Couch provided information on other potential interests in the trails and events that have been requested to occur in the Buxton area. Also, information on a volunteer fair at Cape Hatteras Secondary School was shared.
- Steve Kovacs identified the wildfire planning needs as a “community issue.” Further discussion between agencies identified as a need.

**Public Comments**

- None

**Action Items**

- The site manager will meet with Harvey Scarborough to identify nutria impacts at the Reserve.
- Meeting with National Park Service, North Carolina Forest Service, Dare County, and the site manager will be planned to identify wildfire planning needs.
- The site manager will check on the potential of North Carolina State University professor or graduate student to lead a guided hike to discuss the flora of Buxton Woods.