



Currituck Banks Reserve  
 Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
 January 15, 2020 11:00 a.m.  
 WRC Center for Wildlife Education

**Attendance**

<b>LAC Partner Organization Members</b>	<b>Present</b>
The Nature Conservancy, Aaron McCall	Yes
Currituck County, Jennie Turner	No
Currituck National Wildlife Refuge, Mike Hoff	Yes
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, John Beardsley	Yes
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Sharon Meade	Yes
Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, Jimmy Johnson	No
Natural Heritage Program, Nathan Shepherd	Yes
<b>Community Members</b>	
Brett Harrison	No
<b>Others Present</b>	
Rebecca Ellin, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Program Manager	
Jason Brown, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Northern Sites Manager	
Steve Jarvis, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Northern Sites Stewardship Assistant	

**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**

- Reserve staff has planned changing the route of a section of the Maritime Forest Trail, to connect to a short loop. Members suggested potential volunteer groups to help complete the project.
- Members discussed the continuing issues associated with the parking lot. Enforcement is still part of the plan, but reserve staff are looking at other possibilities for promoting the areas designated for beach access and tire deflation.
- Steve Jarvis will continue in the Stewardship Assistant position.
- Volunteers and N.C. Forest Service staff assisted with hazard branch removal and additional work needed following Hurricane Dorian. The site manager continues to look at ways to expand the volunteer program.
- There have been no signs of recent feral swine activity on Currituck Banks Reserve. Continued management in North Carolina is planned in other counties.

- The UNC-Wilmington led access study completed this year found that a high number of respondents did not know ownership and management goals of the Reserve. At Currituck Banks, respondents had reported 3 – 39 years they have been visiting and were mostly hiking or observing nature while on-site.

### **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 070.0101 – STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 070.0102 – DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THE SUBCHAPTER

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 070.0103 – RESPONSIBILITIES: DUTIES OF THE COASTAL RESERVE PROGRAM

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 070.0104 – STATE AND LOCAL COASTAL RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 070.0105 – RESERVE COMPONENTS

- No comment.

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

##### 15A NCAC 070.0201 – MANAGEMENT PLAN

- No comment.

##### 15A NCAC 070.0202 – RESERVE USE REQUIREMENTS

- Item (8) – Mr. Beardsley suggested the removal of “excluding vessels” to prevent dismissal by courts through potential defense that statute excludes vessels from being classified as litter.
- Item (9)- Ms. Meade recommends including additional options instead of towing solely. There will likely be logistical challenges to towing due to the size of the lot. Mr. McCall suggests implementing a fee to park.
- Item (10) – Mr. McCall suggested including “protect” in addition to “restore” or “enhance”.

##### 15A NCAC 070.0203 – SPECIAL ACTIVITY AUTHORIZATION

- Mr. McCall identifies the staff time as well as the revenue that events generated as reasons to include a fee as part of authorization requirement.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

- Mike Hoff shared information on the land swap completion by Currituck County and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Through this completion, land adjacent to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) property is now in the ownership of Currituck County.
- USFWS plans to inspect fence line in the refuge to ensure compliance with design recommendations for horse enclosures.
- USFWS reported that no feral hogs were harvested in the 2019 aerial survey by United States Department of Agriculture but three were from hunting in 2019.
- Ms. Meade informed the group that the annual event, Outdoors Day, will be held on April 15, 2020.

**Public Comment**

- None

**Action Items**

- Mr. McCall will share contact information of potential volunteer groups to help with trail project.
- Reserve staff will plan to help at Outdoors Day event.
- The site manager will send Mr. McCall additional survey information from 2019 project for TNC to review as they evaluate increasing visitation and impacts.