



Permuda Island Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
11/8/2017, 10a-11a
Town of North Topsail Beach meeting room
2008 Loggerhead Ct.
North Topsail Beach, 28460

Attendance

<u>LAC Partner Organization Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
N.C. Coastal Federation, Mike Giles	y
Town of North Topsail Beach, Deb Hill, Stuart Turille	y
Office of State Archaeology, Nathan Henry	y
Town of North Topsail Beach Police Dept., Chief Casey Fillinger	n
<u>Community Members and Community Organizations Members</u>	
Mike Yawn	y
<u>Others Present</u>	
Jason Dail, DCM	
Paula Gillikin, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Central Sites Manager	

Reserve-wide Administrative Update (see attached handout for additional updates)

- *Local Advisory Committee Member Nomination Process*

The Reserve will be opening an application period for local advisory seats across multiple sites that are soon due to expire. No seats will be opening on the Permuda committee. However, there is an opportunity to add additional seats to provide more complete partner organization and community member representation. The application period will open in January of 2018 and member appointments will be made in the following months.

Site Update - Old Business

- *Hunting*

At the last meeting, the committee was interested in the hunting permit system that was going to be implemented at the Rachel Carson Reserve to better balance visitor uses. The permit system is now in

place and administered by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission at the Rachel Carson site. No problems have been encountered with the new system. Currently, there are no plans to extend the hunting permit system to other Reserve sites.

- *Shellfish leases*

Multiple committee members requested an update on the status of the Reserve's commercial shellfish lease policy, although it does not pertain directly to Permuda. The State Natural Heritage Program (NHP) determined in March 2017 that commercial shellfish cultivation is incompatible with State Nature Preserves based on the language of the Nature Preserves Act, 15A NCAC 12H, and Articles of Dedication. DMF notified the leaseholders of the three existing leases within the Nature Preserve and Reserve boundaries that their leases can continue for the remaining term of the leases but will not be renewed based on NHP's position. In light of NHP's position, no further action has been taken on the Reserve's shellfish lease policy.

Site Update - New Business

- *January 2018 marine debris clean-up*

A marine debris clean-up of Morris Landing and Permuda Island is scheduled for Saturday, January 13. The clean-up is a part of a larger project that is managed by the N.C. Coastal Federation which targets the removal of derelict crab pots. The Coastal Reserve will serve as a partner for the January clean-up. A registration link will soon be distributed to advisory committee members.

- *New shellfish lease*

A new multi-acre bottom and water column shellfish lease to be located midway of Permuda's western shoreline was approved by the N.C. Division Marine Fisheries. Prior to approval, the Coastal Reserve provided comments on the lease application to include: moving the lease outside of Reserve boundaries (this was accomplished), not allowing lease operations (staging, sorting) to occur on the site, and requiring the lease holder to contact the Office of State Archaeology if artifacts are encountered.

Roundtable Discussion *(Staff response in italics)*

- Stuart Turille and Mike Giles discussed how the N.C. Coastal Federation could potentially work together to develop a watershed protection plan that would benefit Permuda and the greater Topsail Island estuary through addressing pollution and runoff.
- Members discussed the potential benefits of adding an additional partner organization and community member (adjacent landowner) seat to the committee.
- Several members would like to visit the site during site management field work that will occur in December.

Public Comments

None

Action Items

- Paula will send out a registration link for the upcoming marine debris clean-up and coordinate the January field trip via email.
- Mike Giles will follow-up with two potential advisory committee members.

ATTACHMENT

**N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve
Fall 2017 Local Advisory Committee Meetings Reserve-wide Update**

The Reserve-wide Update now includes a broader range of Reserve activities with the addition of a new section titled “Recent and Upcoming Program Activities”. This section will share events that committee members may be interested in and enhance the awareness of activities across the Reserve’s programs. The activity descriptions are intentionally brief; committee members may request more information and/or future presentations for topics of interest and find event information on the event calendar at www.nccoastalreserve.net.

Periodic Rules Review

Both the Rules Review Commission (RRC) and the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedures Oversight Committee approved the rules review report for the Coastal Reserve rules 15A NCAC 07O this summer. These actions follow input received on the classification of each rule in 07O from the local advisory committees (Spring 2016), N.C. Coastal Resources Commission (July 2016), and a 60-day public comment period (September-November 2016). One comment was received during the public comment period and it was supportive of the proposed classification of the rules. The rules identified in the final report must be readopted using the permanent rulemaking process. Staff is working with the Department to establish a timeline and process for readoption.

Federal Budget

The budget table below is a summary of the current status of the federal budget for fiscal years 17 and 18 as it relates to the Coastal Reserve. Recall that the federal fiscal year is October 1-September 30. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) budget line provides funding to the 29 reserves within the System through cooperative agreements that are matched by the states, and supports national coordination of programs and implementation of system-wide and competitive projects. The Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grants budget line provides funding to coastal states with approved coastal management programs through cooperative agreements that are matched by the states. The Division of Coastal Management (DCM) receives funding from both budget lines to operate the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NCNERR) and N.C. Coastal Management Program. The CZM grant funds DCM receives provides funding for Reserve staffing, state site operations, and administrative support.

Federal Budget Lines	Final Omnibus Appropriations FY2017	President’s Budget Request FY2018	House Appropriations FY2018	Senate Appropriations FY2018
NERRS	23,500	0	23,500	25,000
CZM Grants	70,000	0	45,000	70,000

In thousands of dollars

- Federal Fiscal Year 17: Congress approved the federal budget for fiscal year 17 in April with a \$500,000 increase for the NERRS (see budget table), resulting in a \$14,000 increase to base operational funding for each reserve within the System. As a result, the DCM received \$633,000 from NOAA for operation of the NCNERR portion of the Coastal Reserve during this state fiscal year (July 2017-June 2018). The additional funds are being used to cover fixed cost increases and to fund a portion of the temporary staffing positions through the annual budget.
- Federal Fiscal Year 18: Congress passed a continuing resolution in September to fund the federal government from October 1, 2017 through December 8, 2017 based on fiscal year 17 funding levels. The budget table summarizes the President's budget request and the House and Senate appropriations committees' numbers for fiscal year 18:
 - The President's budget request does not include funding for the NERRS or the CZM grants budget lines.
 - The House supports fiscal year 17 level funding for the NERRS and the Senate supports a \$1.5 million increase for the NERRS.
 - The House reduces funding for the CZM grants to \$45 million and the Senate supports fiscal year 17 level funding for the CZM grants.

Next steps for the federal fiscal year 18 budget include individual House and Senate votes for their fiscal year 18 budgets and then a conference between the chambers to agree on a final budget.

Thank you to the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association and Friends of the Reserve for their work to educate Congress on the value of the national system and the NCNERR.

Staffing News

Michelle Brodeur started as the Reserve's new Communications Specialist in August. Michelle is a marine ecologist who recently completed her PhD at UNC Institute of Marine Sciences. As a graduate student, she worked as a NOAA-NERRS Fellow to explore how interactions within oyster reef communities affect oyster reef growth and restoration success in the Rachel Carson Reserve. Michelle has always held a passion for science communication and is excited to join the Reserve staff as the Communications Specialist. She brings her knowledge of estuarine ecosystems and her experience communicating research to broad audiences through formal education, public outreach events, and filmmaking.

Recent and Upcoming Program Activities

- **Coastal Explorations Educator Workshop** (11/2/2017) - Beaufort: Participants of this workshop will learn about estuaries and the Reserve program through classroom activities that they can use with their students and groups. Field-based explorations and activities will also be conducted during a field trip to the Rachel Carson Reserve. Teacher renewal credits and Environmental Education Certification credits are offered for this workshop.
- **Coastal Government Planning for Open Space Workshop** (11/30/2017 Wilmington & 12/5/2017 Plymouth): Participants will learn about the benefits of open space protection; learn how open space can service multiple needs; identify contacts that build framework for open space protection; and learn how other communities approach open space protection. This event is being held in partnership with the Division of Coastal Management.

- **Marine Planning Process Workshop** (1/8-9/2018) - Beaufort: Marine and coastal resource managers are challenged to address key ocean challenges, give states and communities greater input in governmental decisions, streamline federal and international decision-making, save taxpayer dollars, and promote economic growth. This course provides managers with the tools to utilize effective marine planning techniques. *Partners:* Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment.
- **CCVATCH NERRS Science Collaborative Transfer Grant:** The Reserve received a Science Transfer grant with the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to facilitate the use of a new tool, known as the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool for Coastal Habitats (CCVATCH), to assess habitat vulnerability to ecosystem stressors using the knowledge of Reserve staff and local experts. To enhance resilience through management actions, the tool produces vulnerability scores which can help guide and prioritize land acquisition, restoration, policy, and other management decisions. Meetings are currently underway to score the vulnerability of marshes at the 4 national sites in North Carolina.
- **Seeds to Shoreline NERRS Science Collaborative Transfer Grant:** The Reserve is a partner on a multi-Reserve project through which participating teachers and students will learn hydroponic growing techniques to grow saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) in their classrooms and plant for future restoration efforts. *Partners:* Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR, ACE Basin NERR, North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR, Sapelo Island NERR, and the marine education specialist with the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium.
- **Thin Layer Deposition NERRS Science Collaborative Grant:** The Reserve will serve as an experimental site for a project testing the effectiveness of thin-layer sediment placement as a climate adaptation strategy. The project tests how small additions of sediment affect the resilience of marshes to sea level rise and develops standardized monitoring protocols as well as siting and permitting guides for this technique. *Partners:* Elkhorn Slough, Great Bay, Waquoit Bay, Chesapeake Bay Maryland, Chesapeake Bay Virginia, and San Francisco Bay NERRS; University of New Hampshire.