



Rachel Carson Reserve
 Local Advisory Committee Meeting
 April 24, 2024, 3pm
 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort
 WebEx option for out-of-town members

Attendance

LAC Partner Organization Members	Present
Ben Fleming, N.C. Div. of Parks and Recreation	Yes
Ben Wunderly, N.C. Maritime Museum	Yes
Greg Piniak, NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science	Yes
Todd Clark, Town of Beaufort Administration	No
Paul Burdette, Town of Beaufort Police Department	Yes
Andy Walker, N.C Natural Heritage Program	Yes
Sue Stuska, Cape Lookout National Seashore	Yes
Jimmy Johnson, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership	No
NC Wildlife Resources Commission	No
Community Members	
Miriam Sutton	Yes
Susan Schmidt	Yes
Passion See	Yes
John Fussell	No
Stan Rule	No
Dan Rittschof	No
Janina Millis	No
Jeff Benoit	No
Elliot Lupton	Yes
Others Present	
Paula Gillikin, Reserve Central Sites Manager	

Reserve-wide Administrative Update – Paula Gillikin

The Reserve-wide Update, which includes a range of Reserve activities, was shared with committee members prior to the meeting, reviewed during the meeting, and is included as Appendix A.

Rachel Carson Reserve Business – Paula Gillikin

Site update

- **Education**

Summer education activities will include summer camps in partnership with the Maritime Museum's Summer Science School, nature hikes and boat trips for the public, and a Teachers on the Estuary Workshop.

- **Research**

Over five years, the Rachel Carson Reserve has had the most research permits (33) with Masonboro Island Reserve following with 23. There are currently nine active research permits at Rachel Carson.

- **Stewardship**

Recent and upcoming site management and stewardship activities include posting signs to protect nesting birds; posting horse protection and rules signs; and providing Pony Patrol volunteer training.

- **Wild Horses**

The oldest wild horse ever documented at the Rachel Carson Reserve died on 4/22/2024 at 34 years of age. The herd size is down to 21.

- **Carrot Island Living Shoreline**

Construction began in April on the Carrot Island Living Shoreline project, led by Carteret County and Moffatt and Nichol in partnership with the Reserve. Four-hundred-fifty feet of bedding rock has been installed and oyster tables from Sandbar Oyster Company will be installed starting on April 29th. Construction is estimated to last another month.

- **Summer Interns**

The Reserve will host three college interns during the summer: stewardship and outreach, education, and research.

Roundtable Discussion

- Miriam and Susan inquired if paddlers could access the waters within the Carrot Island Living Shoreline which was about to be constructed. Paula acknowledged that kayakers and paddlers will be able to access the area inside the living shoreline when the tide is high enough.
- Ben Wunderly shared that the maritime museum began its spring field trips at the Rachel Carson Reserve and that Summer Science School sessions were all full.
- Ben Fleming recognized that in addition to the Rachel Carson Reserve, crystal skipper research will be occurring at Fort Macon State Park.
- Chief Burdette inquired if Reserve staff and volunteers have leashes to hand out for owners that do not have a leash on the Rachel Carson Reserve. Paula stated that Pony Patrol volunteers carry leashes.

- Members voiced that it's important to educate off-leash dog owners about the dangers to the dog.

Public Comment

None

Final comments, Action Items, and Wrap-up

- Paula will be in touch with members about a fall meeting date.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15pm