

NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council
April 24, 2024
Dare County Government Center
Manteo, NC
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Bobby Outten (Chair)	Spencer Rogers (Co Vice-Chair)
Kyle Breuer	David Hewett
Sandy Cross	Debbie Smith
Ryan Davenport	David Szerlag
Webb Fuller	Dave Weaver

Call to Order

Bobby Outten called the meeting to order with 10 members in attendance.

**Continued Discussion of Proposed Rule Amendments to the CAMA Land Use Program
15A NCAC 07B**

Mike Christenbury discussed the history of the Land Use Plan Program and proposed changes being considered. Additionally, staff explained the responses gathered from the CRAC, local governments and a survey regarding the proposed rules to the CAMA Land Use Plan Program. The CRAC concluded requesting staff to provide proposed rules based on feedback and the CRAC will provide the CRC with an update on the progress and provide recommendations in the future.

Straw Bale Rule Development

Heather Coats provided background on the use of straw bales that were first used in 2015 and pointed out some of the potential concerns with permitting straw bales. The CRAC discussed the current proposed rules are limited to local governments and homeowner's associations and permit applications require review from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. The CRAC expressed concerns that private property owners would be unable to use straw bales and agency review could result in potential permit denials. The CRAC concluded by requesting staff to move forward with permanent rulemaking with the understanding that amendments may be required in the future after a period of use and review.

Agitation Dredging and Thin Layer Placement

The CRAC discussed thin layer placement and that it is a new process of putting dredged material in coastal wetlands to restore areas where coastal wetlands are degrading, and this also allows for additional spoil disposal options. Currently, the CRC rules do not allow filling of coastal wetland and the CRAC concluded requesting staff to look at where this practice has been used in other states and investigate rules to allow thin layer placement. Staff added that the Division has developed a guidance document with support from an interagency working group (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, N.C. Divisions of Marine Fisheries and Water Resources, and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission). The guidance includes a range of site assessment and monitoring

protocols that these agencies have identified as important for “thin layer” sediment placement projects on tidal marshes.

Adjourn

With no further business the Council adjourned.