

**NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council  
City Hotel & Bistro  
Greenville, NC  
May 16-17, 2007  
Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

William Morrison, Chair	Y	J. Michael Moore	Y
Dara Royal, Vice Chair	Y	Elwood Padrick	Y
Frank Alexander	Y	W. Burch Perry	
Deborah Anderson (Phil Harris)	Y	Spencer Rogers	Y
Eugene Balance		Brandon Shoaf	
Joe Beck	Y	Robert Shupe	Y
Randy Cahoon	Y	Harry Simmons	Y
Carlton Davenport	Y	Lester Simpson	Y
Eddy Davis	Y	Steve Sizemore	
Paul Delamar (Christine Mele)	Y	Jimmy Spain	
Webb Fuller	Y	Paul Spruill	
William Gardner, Jr.	Y	Michael Street	Y
Renee Gledhill-Earley	Y	Ray Sturza	Y
Gary Greene	Y	Penny Tysinger	Y
Judy Hills	Y	Beans Weatherly	
Al Hodge		David Weaver	Y
Maximilian Merrill	Y	William Wescott	Y
Joe Lassiter	Y	Tracie White	Y
Travis Marshall	Y	Rhett White	Y
Gary Mercer	Y	Don Yousey (David Stanley)	Y
Wayne Mobley	Y		

**Call to Order**

Bill Morrison called the meeting to order at 3 pm and the Council approved the March 2007 minutes.

**NC Oyster Restoration Program**

Mike Remige, coordinator for the NC Oyster Hatchery Program gave a presentation on the history and status of the program. The program was inspired by the declines in oyster habitat and harvest over several decades, as well as by state and private efforts to reverse the declines. Along with the Division of Marine Fisheries' and others' habitat restoration (culch planting), the state saw the need to increase the amount of oyster spat grown and planted in state waters. A state Oyster Hatchery Planning Advisory Team was created under the direction of the NC Aquariums, to develop a plan for restoring the number and distribution of wild oysters. The team adopted a mission of constructing regional hatcheries to provide spat for state restoration as well as private mariculture. Another component of the mission would be to train and educate oyster growers along with the general public, and to start a research and broodstock program. The team evaluated several potential sites

and selected four sites along the coast for a network of hatchery and extension sites. The program will focus on restoring native oysters, and will not be concerned initially with developing disease-resistant oysters. Mike said the Division of Marine Fisheries will use that most of the hatchlings in their restoration and sanctuary programs, but some may be available for planting in public harvest areas. The program is hesitant to endorse the use of planted oysters as mitigation for water quality impacts. The program is now seeking \$16.3 million in construction funding from the general assembly, and hopes to have the money approved so that construction can begin in 2008. Dara Royal made a motion to forward a resolution in support of the funding from the CRAC to the general assembly. The motion passed and staff was directed to draft the resolution for the chairman's signature.

### **Static Line Policy Discussion**

Jeff Warren and Spencer Rogers repeated the presentations they had given to the CRC in March about possible revisions to the CRC's static line policy. The presentations and discussion were repeated in order to give the CRAC an improved understanding about the problems with the existing policy, and the options so far developed to correct them. Jeff and Spencer charged the CRAC to seek feedback from their appointing bodies in preparation for continued discussion with the CRC in July.

### **Council Call to Order**

Bill Morrison reconvened the meeting at 10 am on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **7B.0802 Discussion**

John Thayer reminded the Council that Courtney Hackney had requested their feedback on proposed changes to 7B.0802, concerning presentation of local land use plans to the CRC for certification. The proposed staff amendment sought to relieve the local governments of the financial burden of appearing in person before the P&SI committee and the CRC. Instead, the staff proposal allowed for a written submission of the draft land use plans. Local governments could appear before the Commission at their discretion, or upon a recommendation to do so by DCM staff. The Council felt that appearing before the Commission in all instances is preferable, as it would solidify local government buy-in of the land use plans—particularly important in instances where consultants are hired to prepare the plans. The Council voted to recommend no changes to the existing rule, and to recommend that the Commission continue to require a physical appearance by a local official. Penny Tysinger made a motion to ask the Commission to consider adjusting its meeting schedule such that the P&SI committee and the full CRC would certify plans on the same day, but the motion failed. Penny also suggested that the CRC might consider scheduling certifications to coincide with the Commission's annual meeting schedule.

### **Buffer Vegetation**

Max Merrill gave a presentation on the relative efficacy of natural versus manicured buffers. Many processes occur in riparian buffers that cannot occur when the buffers are removed. Max did not consider manicured lawns to be buffers for the purposes of his presentation. Max said that surveys revealed that while 75 percent of property owners treat their property with chemicals and fertilizers, only about 20 percent of them test their soils to determine whether sufficient levels of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers are present. A major problem with insufficient testing is it creates a high potential for chemicals and fertilizers to be over-applied. The excess that cannot be absorbed into the soil and vegetation ends up in ground and surface waters. The problem may be compounded by lower infiltration rates in compacted sod lawns. Max described the Department of Agriculture's successful model for riparian buffer management:

1. Educate landowners about benefits of natural buffers (economic & environmental)
2. Provide incentives—cost share and payments for planting buffers (e.g., CREP)

3. Establish buffer requirements for new construction along waterways in CAMA counties (e.g., Neuse Buffer) Provide exemptions for small lots currently under ownership (mom & pop clause)

Frank Rush voiced strong support for the incentives component of the model. Gary Mercer said that homebuyers are generally more receptive to environmental regulation if they are educated up front. Gary said it might be helpful to tie efforts to building permits. Randy Cahoon cautioned that incentives are usually captured by the developers and contractors, and might not be passed on to the homebuyers. The Council voted to ask the CRC to take up the issue of natural versus manicured vegetation in the CAMA buffer.

#### **DWQ Enforcement Positions**

Following up on discussion at the March meeting, the CRAC voted to send a letter to the appropriate legislators requesting the creation of dedicated compliance and enforcement positions within the Division of Water Quality. DCM staff was directed to draft the letter for Bill Morrison's signature. Steve Wall advised the Council to send copies of the letter to the DWQ director and to Bill Ross.

#### **New Business/Old Business**

With no further business the Council adjourned at 12:20 pm.

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