

Minutes

Coastal Committee

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

August 30, 2016

Attending:

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chair
Rob Leebern, Vice Chairman
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Philip Wilheit
William Bagwell, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis (via conference call)
Dwight Evans
Ray Lambert, Jr.
Aaron McWhorter
Mike Phelps
Matt Sawhill
Paul Shailendra
Philip Watt

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner and Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Andrew Schock, TCF
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy
Robert Ramsay, Georgia Conservancy
Jonathan Harding, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Carolyn Pait, Oglethorpe Power Corporation

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Terry West
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
John Biagi
John Bowers
Karl Burgess
Lt. Wayne Hubbard
Capt. Johnny Johnson
Capt. Bob Lynn
Jan McKinnon
Maj. Stephen Adams
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver
Antoinette Norfleet
Mark Walker
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Doralyn Kirkland
Dika Kuoh
Chuck Mueller

The August 30, 2016 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell called on Nancy Addison, Chair of the Coastal Committee.

Ms. Addison called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

Director Woodward introduced Jan Mackinnon, Manager of the Coastal and Ocean Management Program.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that she is here to request action on proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program. She further stated that the Coastal Zone Management Program is housed out of the Coastal Resources Division (CRD). She added that the program is celebrating its 20th year next year, and for the first 19 years CRD was able to pass through grant dollars to local governments within the 11 coastal county area.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that they usually receive approximately \$2 million annually directly from NOAA and approximately \$800,000 is passed through in the Coastal Incentive Grant format. She further stated that over the years \$18.5 Million in Coastal Incentive Grants (CIGs) have been awarded, which made up 375 grants. She added that grant recipients spent an additional \$36.5 million on jobs, goods, and services.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that a couple of years ago, the CRD and the University of Georgia, and the Shellfish Association deemed it a priority to develop oyster seed lines using in-state brood stocks in a pilot hatchery. She further stated that CIG was awarded to UGA to develop the hatchery. She added that the idea is that this will hopefully jump start the oyster industry by providing reliable oyster seed to the growers that comes from native disease resistant and environmentally adapted oyster brood stocks.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that in addition, local government projects have been funded such as the Garden City Stormwater Master Plan. She further stated that CIGs also support research. She added that Georgia Southern University was awarded a CIG for marsh dieback research.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that many CIGs provide outreach and education programs aimed at fostering stewardship of natural resources. She further stated that recent projects include the hugely successful Sidewalk to the Sea program that provides an onsite educational curriculum for inner-city school kids, K-6th grade, many of whom have never set foot in the ocean in spite of living 15 miles from it. She added that some projects are campaigns to inform the public of the consequences of their actions on natural resources, such as the Tybee Island beach litter campaign.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that public access projects are also popular. She further stated that the CIG program can only fund small-scale/low cost construction projects with the singular goal of creating or enhancing public access to coastal natural resources. She added that none of these projects cost more than \$100,000 total.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that the GCMP's Coastal Advisory Council has approved terms shown on screen. She further stated that they expect to have level funding from NOAA in Cycle 20. She added that

they estimate dedicating about \$750,000 to pass through grants; of that, \$550,000 will go to new projects and \$193,000 will go to carry-over projects.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that for the last several years, the themes for the CIG Program have been 1) Oceans and Wetlands, 2) Sustainable Communities, 3) Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards, and 4) Public Access and Land Conservation. She further stated that this year they proposed one additional theme: Non-point Sources Pollution.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that if the Board approves the amendments, the timeline for cycle 20 will include: advertising the RFP in Mid-September 2016, due date for pre-applications on December 2, 2016, staff review due on January 6, 2017, full applications due on February 17, 2017, a review committee meeting March 13-17, 2017, NOAA approval sometime in June or July 2017 and CIG contracts will begin October 1, 2017.

Ms. Mackinnon stated that she is requesting adoption of the resolution approving amendments to Chapter 391-2-5.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5, as presented.

Ms. Addison called on Karl Burgess, Manager of the Marsh and Shore Management Program, who gave a presentation on the management of Private Recreational Docks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.