

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

March 24, 2009

Attending:

Committee Members

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Bill Archer
Gene Bishop
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Bob Rutland
Loyce Turner
Jim Walters
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

David Allen
Earl Barrs
Warren Budd
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Ray Lambert
Jim Tysinger
Philip Watt

Visitors

Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy
Shana Udvardy, The Georgia Conservancy
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund
Michelle Cable, The Nature Conservancy
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks

Staff Members

Noel Holcomb
Chris Clark
Carol Couch
Susan Shipman
Steve Friedman
Dan Forster
Marlin Gottschalk
Becky Kelley
Ray Luce
Jim Ussery
Karl Burgess
Linda MacGregor
David Crass
Todd Holbrook
Doralyn Kirkland
Wally Woods
Steve Saunders
Connie Buck
John Bowers
John Thompson
Sally Winchester
Paul Nelson
Brad Gane
Sherry Crew-Jay
Emily Hitchcock
Lauren Curry
Sarah Dearman
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Skin Edge, Allied Golf

Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett County Water

Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club

Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company

Graham Holden, Jones Day

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Nathaniel Hunt, Southern Environmental Law Center

The March 24, 2009 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Carruth.

Chairman Carruth called on Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Coastal Committee.

Mr. Wheeler called on Susan Shipman, Director, Coastal Resources Division (CRD).

Ms. Shipman called on Karl Burgess, Habitat Management Program Manager, CRD, to give a briefing on Proposed Rulemaking for Standards for Marinas and Community Docks. She stated that the briefing would cover proposed permitting procedures for marinas, commercial and community docks, located on the coast, but that the briefing would not cover permitting related to private recreational docks.

Mr. Burgess stated that the Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee (CMPC) is charged with protecting tidal marshes and water bottoms through permitting responsibility under the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA), and that the CMPC is seeking Board consideration of possible rule making for criteria and standards specific to marinas, commercial and community docks. He explained various dock types and sizes and presented statistics of waterfront dock development. He stated that CMPC has established practices and trends with conditions that apply to current marinas, commercial and community docks, but recognizes the need for formalized criteria and standards to dock siting, size and design to guide the permitting process for these projects. He further added that the purpose of the formalized criteria and standards is to achieve consistency and predictability for the general and regulated public, CMPC and CRD, and would enhance efficiency in processing permit applications for projects.

He explained details of the proposed criteria and standards for Tiers I, II and III community and commercial docks, for marinas, and for dock and marina modification. He stated that the proposed rules would also define the term "serviceability."

He stated that building blocks for the proposed criteria and standards came from stakeholders, suggestions from CMPC members, permitting criteria of neighboring states, current CMPA permitting practices, and standards for private recreational docks. He further stated that stakeholder participation began in 2005, that their report of input was presented to CMPC in 2006, and that CMPC deliberations on the report continued through 2008. He added that CMPC had directed CRD staff to draft a strawman proposal for their review and had approved the draft proposal in February 2009.

Mr. Burgess presented details of the proposal and stated that CRD would refine the proposal based on current Committee and Board input, would hold public meetings during April and May, and brief the Board again in May. He further stated that CRD would conduct public hearings in June, and would present the final rule to the Coastal

Committee and Board for adoption at the August 2009 meeting. (PowerPoint attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Discussion ensued.

In response to questions regarding revocable licenses and who sets application fees for dock permits, Mr. Burgess stated that revocable licenses are issued to permits that do not require a water bottoms lease, and that the revocable licenses help to ensure dock upkeep. Ms. Shipman stated that application fees were set by the Board several years ago and may need to be revisited in the future.

She stated that with no objections from the Committee, CRD would proceed to initiate the rule making process for permitting procedures for marinas, commercial and community docks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.