

Minutes

Coastal Committee

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

September 27, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

Phyllis Johnson, Chairman
Mabel Jenkins, Vice Chairman
Duncan Johnson
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Smith
Loyce Turner
Jim Walters
Earl Barrs, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Warren Budd
Bill Carruth
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Ray Lambert
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Kevin Chapman, Georgia Southern University
Sue Moore, Georgia Southern University
Matt Newberry, Georgia Southern University
Glenn Ivie, Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites
Walter Jones, Morris News Service
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Leah Barnett, Georgia Conservancy
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Allen Barnes
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Wally Woods
Steve Friedman
Terry West
Lauren Curry
Karl Burgess
Danny Tatum
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Sally Winchester
Joe Yeager
Bryan Tucker
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The September 27, 2011 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, who called on Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division (CRD), to present the agenda items.

Director Woodward reviewed the proposed amendments to Rules for Coastal Marshlands Protection, Chapter 391-2-3-.05 and stated that the proposal was related to extension of live-aboard privileges. He further stated that the Committee had been briefed at the August meeting and that the proposed amendments had been sent out for public comment after that meeting. He added that CRD had received 18 individual comments, which are summarized in the briefing materials provided.

Director Woodward stated that he would like to request the Committee's approval of the proposed amendments as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Coastal Marshlands Protection, Chapter 391-2-3-.05, extension of live-aboard privileges as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Director Woodward presented a PowerPoint, giving a brief overview of oyster reef restoration in Georgia. He stated that in the early part of the 20th Century, Georgia led the United States in oyster production. He further stated that this only lasted for a brief period of time before the oysters were overharvested to the point that it was no longer feasible to have a significant commercial fishery. He added that habitat degradation, disease and predators were other reasons for the demise of the oyster population.

Director Woodward stated that oysters have never rebounded to their historical level of abundance, and thus the creation of oyster reefs. He further stated that habitat creation, enhanced fishing opportunities, shoreline stabilization, water quality and mitigation were all reasons to create oyster reefs. He described several oyster reef restoration projects and identified the partners that provided funding and volunteers.

Director Woodward gave an update on the memorial service for Gabe Gaddis, and thanked the Board for the Resolution that Commissioner Williams presented to Gabe's wife, Amy. He stated that the oyster restoration project in Plantation Creek adjacent to the DNR Coastal Regional Headquarters dock was renamed in honor of Mr. Gaddis, and thanked Coastal Committee Chairman Phyllis Johnson for requesting that Gabe be honored.

Director Woodward gave an update on the catch of a Leopard Shark on Jekyll Island, which is a species indigenous to the Pacific Ocean. He also gave an update on a recent youth fishing event on Tybee Island; activities of the Georgia Coastal Research Council; and invited Board Members to attend CoastFest at the Coastal Regional Headquarters on Saturday, October 1.

Commissioner Williams commended Director Woodward and CRD staff for helping Representative Glenn Baker of Clayton County with a program sponsored by the county for the purpose of taking under privileged children to Brunswick and Jekyll Island to learn firsthand about the natural resources found on the Georgia coast. He stated that Representative Baker was very appreciative of the time and effort put forth by CRD to help the children.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.