

Minutes

Coastal Committee

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

August 28, 2012

Attending:

Committee Members

Phyllis Johnson, Chairman
Mark Smith, Vice Chairman
Duncan Johnson
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Loyce Turner
Philip Wilheit, Jr.
Philip Watt, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Dennis Billew
Joe Hatfield
Mabel Jenkins
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Hans Neuhauser, Georgia Land Conservation Center
Walter Jones, Morris News Service
Carol Hassell, Georgia Piedmont Land Trust
Doug Hattaway, Trust for Public Land
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro-Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Coalition
David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Sally Bethea, Chattahoochee RiverKeeper
Juliet Cohen, Chattahoochee RiverKeeper

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Eric Isom
Jac Capp
Keith Bentley
Linda MacGregor
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Lauren Curry
Ben Stowers
Kyle Pearson
Zachary Harris
Paul Nelson
John Bowers
Eddie Henderson
Stephen Adams
Lon Revall
Jeff Cown
Mark Whitney
Linda Willis
Cathy Barnette
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The August 28, 2012 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Philip Watt. Chairman Watt called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Committee.

Mrs. Johnson called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division (CRD), for presentation of three items for action.

Director Woodward stated that the first item for consideration was action on proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapters 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18. He further stated that the Georgia Coastal Management Program is made possible by a grant from the National oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Coastal Zone Management Act. He added that each year, the Georgia Coastal Management Program allocates approximately \$1,000,000 (50%) of its Section 306 funding to the Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG) Program. He further added that these grants may be awarded to qualified county and municipal governments, regional commissions, state-affiliated research or educational institutions, or state agencies, except DNR, provided the project takes place entirely within the 11-county coastal zone.

Director Woodward stated that since 1998, the CIG Program has funded over \$15,520,000 in projects throughout the coastal zone, including multi-year scientific studies on coastal processes, local government plans and ordinance development, and low-cost construction for public access. He further stated that each project leverages at least 100% local match, bringing the total economic impact of this program to over \$31,000,000.

Director Woodward stated that with assistance from CRD, the Coastal Advisory Council determines annual funding themes, project evaluation criteria, maximum funding amounts and maximum length of projects for the CIG Program. He further stated that these changes are then brought to the Board for approval before being transmitted to the Office of Secretary of State for public notice per the Fair and Open Grants Act, O.C.G.A. §28-5-122.

Director Woodward stated that he would request that the Committee recommend 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 the Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapters 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Director Woodward stated that the next item for consideration was action on proposed Rule, Clean Vessel Act Program, Chapter 391-3-6. He further stated that the Federal Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program provides grant funds for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pump-out stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. He added that since 1996, DNR has participated in the CVA program and has funded several projects.

Director Woodward stated that a recent review by legal staff led to the recommendation that CVA grants be published according to the Fair and Open Grants Act (FOGA) of 1993, O.C.G.A. §28-5-122.

He further stated that the proposed regulation will provide the regulatory authority to administer the CVA Program in accordance with FOGA.

Director Woodward stated that he would request that the Committee recommend approval of the proposed amendment, as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed Rule, Clean Vessel Act Program, Chapter 391-2-6, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Director Woodward stated that the final item for action was action on the proposed Rule, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-7. He further stated that the Federal Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program provides funds for the construction, renovation and maintenance of tie-up facilities for recreational boats 26 feet or more in length. He added that since 2005, DNR has administered funding for five projects in Chatham County.

Director Woodward stated that a recent review by legal staff led to the recommendation that BIG grants be published according to the Fair and Open Grants Act of 1993. He further stated that the proposed regulation will provide the regulatory authority to administer the BIG Program in accordance with FOGA.

Director Woodward stated that he would request that the Committee recommend approval of the proposed amendment, as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed Rule, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-7, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Director Woodward gave an update on CRD's Federal funding document that was handed out; the Red Snapper fishing season; and the Finfish Advisory Panel.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.