



**Zekes Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 17, 2011 10 – 12 pm**

Attendance

<u>LAC Members</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>	<u>Present</u>
Mr. John Carty	Commercial User	Yes
Mr. Richard Lawrence	DAH	No
Dr. Anthony Snider	UNCW EVS	Yes
Ms. Renee Weeks	NC Aquarium	Yes
Mr. Jeff Owens (Rick Keenan)	DPR	Yes
<u>Others</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>	
Dr. Steve Everhart	DCM Wilmington District Manager	
Jason Dail	NCCR/NCNERR Stewardship and Education Specialist	

Reserve Update – Jason Dail

- Members were informed that the LAC guidelines document has been finalized and the Reserve will be working on submitting it to NCDENR in the upcoming weeks. The Reserve hopes to have an implemented guidelines document prior to the fall 2011 LAC meeting(s). An update was provided regarding the rules review process the Reserve has been undertaking. Additionally, a document detailing topics under consideration as part of the rules review effort was distributed to each member at the beginning of the meeting and members were asked to review the document and contact the site manager with comments or questions. Also discussed during the meeting were the signage and visitor use projects.

Site Update – Jason Dail

- Members were informed of site specific projects and proposals that have taken place since the fall 2010 LAC meeting, including: Initial treatment of the invasive White poplar

tree, visitor count project, informational signage, ongoing research including water quality monitoring within the basin, pre-season bird and turtle preparation, future project proposals including a kayak paddle trail and possibly dune restoration project along the beach strand.

Roundtable Discussion

- Dr. Snider discussed the possibility of utilizing UNCW students for the kayak paddle trail project, not only in providing installation assistance, but also for mapping the proposed trail. Dr. Snider mentioned that he had the capabilities of providing sub-meter mapping for the project if we did not.
- Capt. Carty suggested that we consider turning the Zeke's Island Reserve into a "Preserve" to eliminate a lot of the concerns regarding maintaining the natural integrity of the island(s). Capt. Carty is concerned about the extensive use of the island and the volume of traffic. Litter is a significant problem during the spring, summer and fall.
- The rock revetment was discussed again during this meeting and it was noted by Dr. Snider that breaching the wall would only recreate the very same situation that resulted in creation of the wall (sloughing of sediment into the river channel prohibiting navigation).
- Dr. Snider mentioned that UNC Chapel Hill performed a Botanical Garden Survey of Zeke's Island and Bald Head Island many years ago and the White poplar tree on Zeke's was discovered at that time. He suggested getting in touch with Bob Peet to obtain an inventory list.
- Parks and Rec. staff, as well as Capt. Carty expressed concerns about the increasing fox populations at the Reserve. Everyone agreed that more research needs to be undertaken to address the current population and appropriate eradication method(s).
- Ms. Renee Weeks mentioned that some of the Aquarium staff was planning a clean-up effort at Zeke's in the very near future. She will keep Reserve staff informed of any potential dates so that Reserve staff can assist with the project.

Meeting Follow Up – Jason Dail

- All members requested to provide comments or questions regarding the rule review topics document no later than May 1, 2011. Will send out reminder email on April 15, 2011.
- Tentatively scheduled next meeting is November 8.