

**NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council
 Holiday Inn Brownstone
 Raleigh, NC
 July 25-26, 2007
 Meeting Summary**

Attendance

William Morrison, Chair	Y	J. Michael Moore	Y
Dara Royal, Vice Chair	Y	Elwood Padrick	Y
Frank Alexander		W. Burch Perry	
Deborah Anderson (Phil Harris)	Y	Spencer Rogers	Y
Eugene Ballance		Frank Rush	Y
Bert Banks (Adrian Cox)	Y	Brandon Shoaf	
Joe Beck		Robert Shupe	Y
Ernie Bowden		Harry Simmons	Y
Randy Cahoon	Y	Lester Simpson	Y
Carlton Davenport		Steve Sizemore	Y
Eddy Davis	Y	Paul Spruill	
Paul Delamar (Christine Mele)	Y	Michael Street	Y
Webb Fuller	Y	Ray Sturza	Y
William Gardner, Jr.	Y	Tim Tabak	Y
Renee Gledhill-Earley	Y	Penny Tysinger	Y
Gary Greene		Joy Wayman	Y
Judy Hills	Y	Beans Weatherly	
Al Hodge	Y	David Weaver	Y
Maximilian Merrill	Y	William Wescott	
Joe Lassiter		Traci White	Y
Travis Marshall	Y	Rhett White	Y
Gary Mercer		Don Yousey (David Stanley)	Y
Wayne Mobley	Y		

Call to Order

Bill Morrison called the meeting to order at 3 pm and the Council approved the May 2007 minutes.

NC Building Code Rating Changes

Spencer Rogers briefed the CRAC on a recent media debate about building code standards and property insurance. Spencer explained that FEMA's Community Ratings System (CRS) allows communities to get insurance discounts by exceeding the federal building code standards. Spencer said that there is a link between the CRS and the Building Code Efficiency Grading System (BSEGS). The insurance industry has to petition the Department of Insurance to use BSEGS to rate risk, but this has not yet been done in NC. The NC Building Code Council has not adopted CRS windborne debris standards, and property owners cannot qualify for insurance discounts until that is done. The additional premium discount could be as much as 15 percent. Individual communities are prevented by law from adopting their own building standards. Spencer said that much of the NC coast lies within the 130 mph zone, with much of the rest in the 100+ mph zone. The windborne

debris standards are meant to prevent windows from shattering if struck by flying debris. Tempered glass, shutters, and plywood are acceptable methods of protection. Spencer said that he thinks the CRS is a good program, but he didn't think it should be linked to BSEGS.

DWQ Experience with Buffer Vegetation

Al Hodge gave a presentation about DWQ's riparian buffers program. Al said that buffers are worthwhile and necessary, but are the most difficult and labor-intensive program that he deals with. Al said that the purpose of the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico buffer rules are to protect and preserve existing buffer functions, including preventing excess nutrients from reaching surface waters, reducing sedimentation and erosion, limiting thermal pollution, and treating stormwater. Al explained that DWQ's buffers have two zones. Zone 1 is adjacent to surface waters, is 30 feet wide, and vegetation must remain undisturbed. Zone 2 is immediately landward of zone 1, is 20 feet wide, and must remain vegetated although the vegetation may be managed. Ongoing fertilization is prohibited in the buffer. In CAMA counties where there are coastal wetlands present the DWQ buffer is measured from the landward edge of the CAMA wetlands. Al pointed out that DWQ buffer rules do not apply to 404 wetlands, even if they are inundated. Al further explained what activities are and are not allowed in the buffer, which activities require variances, and how DWQ's compliance program operates. Al said that DWQ has assessed over \$100,000 in penalties since 2005. Finally, Al showed some examples of the buffer violations that DWQ has found.

Draft Stormwater Retrofitting Presentation

Judy Hills showed a stormwater presentation that she had developed with help from Penny Tysinger and Eddy Davis. Judy developed the presentation for CRAC members to take on the road and present to their local municipal bodies. Judy said that members should feel free to amend the presentation to suit their particular needs and local situation. Harry Simmons suggested tying in water quantity to the discussion of water quality, and clarifying that stormwater is not usually treated before disposal. The members agreed that municipal officials should also be given a list of technical and financial resources, and real-world examples where possible.

Stormwater Retrofitting Seminar and Outreach

DCM will put copies of Judy Hills' presentation on CD for all CRAC members to be handed out at the September meeting. Coastal Reserve education coordinator Jill Fegley offered to prepare a companion fact sheet to be handed out to municipal officials when presentations are given. Members are to schedule presentations at their convenience. Due to the non-availability of speakers the Advisory Council decided to cancel the stormwater retrofitting seminar scheduled for September.

Council Call to Order

Bill Morrison reconvened the meeting at 9 am on the 26th.

CHPP Implementation Discussion

Mike Lopazanski showed the members what had been accomplished relative to their 2006 priorities issues list, as context for beginning discussion on the CRAC's future priorities. Some thought was given to drawing issues from the 2007-2009 CHPP implementation plan. Issues raised included having CAMA train building inspectors and municipal staff to recognize and report CAMA violations, and real estate coastal hazards disclosures. Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Debbie Smith, and realtor by trade, stated that the NC Real Estate Commission is hesitant to require coastal hazard disclosures because buyers have not been complaining about a lack of disclosure. Members also discussed stormwater quantity. Harry Simmons said that quantity is a much bigger problem for his community than quality. Dave Weaver asked if any thought had ever been given to making recipients pay for variances, and putting the money into an environmental fund. Steve Sizemore said that it is illegal to charge for variances, but agencies can require mitigation and accept payments in lieu. Frank Rush

asked whether the Waterfront Access Study Committee recommendations would support the CRC asking for more money for public access projects. Expanding public access emerged as a top priority.

New Business/Old Business

The Council adjourned at 11:00 am to join the CRC for a discussion of sandbag policy.

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