

**NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council
Blockade Runner
Wrightsville Beach, NC
January 28, 2004
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

Ginger Webster (Chair)	Jim Mulligan
Bob Shupe (Vice-Chair)	Bill Price
Frank Alexander	Dara Royal
Joseph Beck	Lester Simpson
Joe Dooley	Mike Street
Rick Gardner	Penny Tysinger
Wayne Mobley	Beans Weatherly
Bill Morrison	Calvin Wellons

Council Call to Order

Ginger Webster called the CRAC meeting to order at 3:15pm with 16 members in attendance. This meeting was originally scheduled for the previous afternoon, but was postponed due to the winter storm that hit the state on Monday and Tuesday. Webster announced that the agenda would be reduced because of time and the inability of two presenters to get to the meeting. Gloria Putnam's presentation on the NC Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, and Louis Daniel's presentation on Fisheries Management Plans and their Relationship to CHPPs would have to be rescheduled to the April meeting. Due to Gene Tomlinson's absence at this CRC meeting, Mike Lopazanski would give a shortened update of the CRC's draft resolution requesting a review of NC Coastal Management. The Advisory Council will need to be prepared to discuss the resolution in April, if necessary. The Advisory Council approved the October meeting minutes without amendment.

CRAC Officer Elections

Penny Tysinger presented the Advisory Council Nominating Committee's recommendations, which were to elect Bob Shupe and Bill Morrison as CRAC Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Ginger invited other nominations from the floor, but none were submitted. Motions were made and seconded to accept the nominating committee's recommendations. Bob Shupe and Bill Morrison were unanimously elected to the respective positions.

Permitting the Inlet Fill at Hatteras Village

Doug Huggett presented an overview of the permitting process for the filling of "Isabel Inlet." Huggett explained that on the third day after the hurricane, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take the lead in getting the inlet filled and Highway 12 rebuilt. NC DOT was the applicant for the required permits. At least 11 federal and state agencies undertook a coordinated permitting process on the 5th day after the hurricane, and issued all required permits three days later. Huggett made it clear that despite some news reports, the environmental agencies did not delay the start of construction to fill the inlet – any delays would be more properly attributed to the contracting side. Huggett also stressed that environmental concerns such as fisheries, turtle and bird nesting habitat were fully addressed in during permitting discussions. Huggett stated that permitting this project was a very good example of how special and emergency permitting provisions should work, and will hopefully provide the incentive to make even more improvements to the process.

Draft CRC Resolution for NC Coastal Management Review

Mike Lopazanski gave the Advisory Council a brief update of some Department-level concerns over Chairman Tomlinson's proposed review of the Coastal Management Program. Lopazanski reported that Secretary Ross and his staff are supportive of the initiative, but are concerned that a review at this time might be an inappropriate burden. The Division of Coastal Management at this time is severely understaffed, lacks a permanent director, is navigating staff relocations, and has a large commitment to the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. The Advisory Council took note of the Department's concerns, and will be prepared to discuss the resolution in April if it comes up.

Old Business/New Business

In old/new business, Ginger Webster highlighted the CRAC meeting schedule as reported in the Commission's October 2003 minutes. It was the CRAC's understanding that Dr. Hackney's motion that was approved in October spelled out that a Tuesday CRAC meeting would be scheduled on a trial basis for January 2004 only. Subsequent to the January meeting, DCM staff would calculate the incremental cost and report that to the Commission at the April 2004 meeting. At that time, the Commission would rule whether the CRAC would be able to continue to meet on the Tuesday afternoon prior to the start of the full CRC meeting. Since January's Tuesday meeting was canceled, the CRAC expected that the trial would be rescheduled to the April 2004 meeting. DCM staff stated their understanding that the Tuesday CRAC meeting was not meant to be a trial, but would become the normal schedule. Staff understood that funding was not anticipated to be a concern for the CRAC meeting on Tuesday. If funding did become an issue, staff understands that the 5th CRC meeting would be canceled. Bob Shupe will request clarification from Dr. Hackney and the full Commission.

Adjourn

Ginger thanked members of the Advisory Council and DCM staff for supporting her during her two years as CRAC Chair. The CRAC in turn thanked Ginger for her dedicated leadership and looks forward to her ongoing contributions. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.