

**NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council  
Hilton Hotel  
Wilmington, NC  
October 22, 2003  
Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Ginger Webster, Chair	Joe Lassiter
Bob Shupe, Vice-Chair	David Mayes
Frank Alexander	Bill Morrison
Natalie Baggett	Jim Mulligan
Joseph Beck	Bill Price
Carlton Davenport	Spencer Rogers
Joe Dooley	Dara Royal
John Doughty	Harry Simmons
Tom Ellis	Lester Simpson
Webb Fuller	Mike Street
Renee Gledhill-Earley	Penny Tysinger
Ann Holton	Beans Weatherly
Joe Johnson	

**Council Call to Order**

Ginger Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00AM with 25 members in attendance. Webster introduced new Council members Dara Royal and Harry Simmons, who the CRC appointed to the CRAC in July, as well as Wayne Mobley, who joins the Council as the State Health Director's designee. The meeting agenda focused on stormwater management at the local and state levels, which the CRAC felt was particularly timely given the current efforts to adopt Phase II stormwater rules for the state. Announcements included the impending departures of Mary Beth Brown and Brian Long from staff, and that John Thayer is now the acting Senior Planner for the Division. Webster also informed members that Gene Tomlinson would be distributing a copy of his draft resolution for a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary review of the NC Coastal Management Program. CRAC members were advised to obtain a copy of the draft resolution and be prepared to discuss it in January.

**Approaches to Implementing Phase II Stormwater Rules**

Dave Mayes, Stormwater Services Manager for the City of Wilmington, gave a presentation on the City's programs and progress in implementing Phase II stormwater rules. The City of Wilmington receives 150% more annual rainfall than the national average, and so is obliged to devise and implement stormwater management techniques. The City utilizes a stormwater utility fee, which generates 86% of the city's \$5.7 million annual stormwater management budget. The city also has a Comprehensive Stormwater Program with a total of 57 dedicated employees. Mayes showed several examples of Wilmington's active stormwater projects, as well as measures that the city has developed to satisfy the Phase II requirements whenever those rules are adopted.

**Targeting Local Decision Makers & Issues**

Ms. Whitney Kurz of the North Carolina Estuarine Research Reserve gave a presentation entitled Targeting Local Decision Makers & Issues That Affect Our Lives Along the Coast. Kurz provides training for coastal decision makers through the Research Reserve's Coastal Training Program. The CRAC's interest at this meeting ran to the training available on stormwater

management. After a brief overview of the NPDES, Kurz reviewed some of the common pollution types and sources, and noted that research indicates that surface waters begin showing signs of degradation at just 10% imperviousness in a watershed. Of special value to the CRAC and its constituents are the training workshops and publications available through the Research Reserve, including a Phase II Public Education and Outreach course soon to be available online. The Research Reserve also has training available in controlling microbial pollution, septic system health, and environmental grantwriting.

### **Phase II Stormwater Rules – Agency Update**

Bradley Bennett of the NC Division of Water Quality gave an update on the development of Phase II Stormwater rules. Bennett's update began with a description of the federal and state NPDES program design. The Phase II regulation expands the Phase I regulation to urbanizing areas that were not covered by Phase I. North Carolina adopted the federal rules by reference, and recognized a need for additional rules at the state level. Through a 3-year process of rule development and stakeholder input, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) adopted temporary Phase II rules in 2002, and continued to refine those rules into this year. At its October meeting, the Rules Review Commission (RRC) objected to the proposed rules on multiple grounds. The EMC now plans to revisit the rules in December or January, either by challenging the RRC's objections, or by rewriting the rules. The temporary Phase II rules will remain in effect until permanent rules are adopted.

### **Wilmington Harbor**

The Council got an update on the Wilmington Harbor deepening project from Sharon Haggett of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This is the Corp's largest navigation project in the state and second-largest in the country, with a price tag of \$440 million. North Carolina is paying 33% of that cost, and new construction accounts for \$391 of the \$400 million total. Ms. Haggett highlighted the new alignment of the Ocean Entrance Channel, which saved \$39 million in construction costs and lessened negative impacts on aquatic life. The new channel will be able to accommodate ships with a 44-foot draft, and is expected to open in March 2004. The 27 million cubic yards of dredge spoil is not beach quality, and is being deposited in upland mitigation areas. Dredge spoil that is beach quality has gone cost free to Caswell Beach and Kure Beach, as these represented least-cost options. Some beach-quality spoil has gone to Holden Beach and West Oak Island, with these towns paying the incremental costs for transport. The widening & deepening project continues to receive annual appropriations from Congress, and has a projected completion date of October 2007.

### **Old Business/New Business**

Old/new business items included the appointment of a nominating committee for CRAC officers. Penny Tysinger, Beans Weatherly and Spencer Rogers will consider and recommend new officers at the January 2004 meeting. Bob Shupe gave a brief report on the meeting schedule committees' recommendations, and Mike Lopazanski gave a quick update on the results of the CHPP public meetings.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20. Following adjournment, the agenda subcommittee met to discuss items for the January CRAC meeting.