

**NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council  
North Carolina Aquarium  
Pine Knoll Shores, NC  
April 24, 2002  
Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Ginger Webster, Chair  
Bob Shupe, Vice-Chair

Frank Alexander	George Gilbert
Natalie Baggett	Joe Morris
Carl Beacham	Bill Morrison
Joe Beck	Lee Padrick
Donna Bridges	Rosetta Short
Carlton Davenport, Jr.	Lester Simpson
Donald Davenport	Mike Street
Joe Dooley	Wayne Teeter
John Doughty	Dave Weaver
Webb Fuller	Calvin Wellons

**Council Call to Order**

The CRAC meeting began with a welcome of several new CRAC members – Donna Bridges representing Pamlico County, Rick Harrell representing Bertie County, Joe Dooley representing the Mid-East Commission, and Kay Rose representing the Albemarle Commission. This brings the current total to 39 active CRAC members. Ginger Webster is working with DCM staff to fill the other vacancies. Ms. Webster also made several announcements: official CRAC alternates have to be officially designated by the appointing authority to be reimbursed for expenses and to be able to vote on the Council; updates to the CRAC Guidebook have been sent out to members; and Rupert Riley, a former CRAC member, passed away just after the last CRAC meeting.

**CRAC Survey Results**

Ms. Webster presented the results from a survey of CRAC members on setting the course of action for next year. She spoke with or received e-mails from about half of the current CRAC membership. The most frequently suggested agenda item topic was beach nourishment. Some other suggested agenda topics include water quality issues, permitting processes that have worked well, polluted shellfish areas, the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, shoreline stabilization, sea oat production/planting, recreational public health monitoring, and impacts of proposed rules on the building industry. Ms. Webster emphasized that this list does not limit CRAC members from suggesting future agenda items. The survey also identified several emerging issues that may be brought before the CRC – beach nourishment, increasing enforcement fines, and maintaining/improving public access to estuarine shorelines. Ms. Webster asked local representatives to think about ways to better communicate with their constituencies. Bob Shupe

will be speaking with the League of Municipalities and Association of County Commissioners to help address this issue.

### **NC CoastKeeper Program**

Frank Tursi, the Cape Lookout CoastKeeper for the North Carolina Coastal Federation, gave a presentation on his job responsibilities as a CoastKeeper. He explained that North Carolina has good laws, but limited resources are available to carry out these laws. In some cases, there is minimal monitoring of these laws, and this is where Mr. Tursi comes in. He has many advocacy roles, including reporting suspected violations to proper authorities and getting local citizens involved. Mr. Tursi describes himself as part cop, part P.R. agent, part lawyer, and part engineer. The Coastal Federation has a second CoastKeeper for the southern part of the state and has just secured a grant for a third CoastKeeper for the northern part of the state. In addition, the Coastal Federation is developing a CoastKeeper Corps, which is comprised of volunteers who are trained to look out for their own resources.

### **Beach Nourishment Update**

Frank Rush, Town Manager for Emerald Isle, briefed the Council on the town's bond referendum on locally funded beach nourishment. Prior to the bond referendum, a fact sheet was prepared for local citizens. There was no community opposition to beach nourishment, but there were disagreements about how the project should be financed. One argument was that the town should not be responsible for the entire cost of the project because it would benefit more than just the community. Another argument was that oceanfront property owners should pay all of the cost. A committee was formed to develop a financing plan, which included a 48 cent tax rate increase for oceanfront property owners and a 3 cent tax rate increase for other property owners. The referendum was held last March and passed by a slim margin. The project will cost the town \$17 million and will be conducted in two phases, starting this winter. The project is expected to last 10 years based on historic erosion rates.

### **Bogue Banks Beach Nourishment Overview**

Buck Fugate, Mayor of Indian Beach, provided the Council with an overview of the beach restoration project on Indian Beach and Pine Knoll Shores. Mayor Fugate calls it a restoration project because the beaches don't lack for nourishment – the sand is just being diverted away by unnatural processes. The channel adjacent to these beaches is currently being dredged and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, and the dredge material is taken to an offshore disposal site. Studies have shown that these sediments do not get back to the beaches. Mayor Fugate feels it is a waste of sand resources to deposit this sediment offshore. This sediment is of a much higher quality than the material used for the recent beach restoration project, and it is a less expensive source of sand. However, Mayor Fugate said that the Corps is not to blame here – they are mandated to dispose of sand in the least cost manner for them, and the least cost manner is the offshore disposal site.

One of the downsides of the project was that a sea turtle was recently taken in a hopper dredge, which shut down the project. Mayor Fugate stated that commercial trawlers take more sea turtles every year without facing similar consequences. (Several CRAC members questioned the data

source for this statement.) He felt that halting the project was an inordinate penalty, and the decision resulted in much more harm in terms of hindering efforts to restore sea turtle habitat.

**Old Business/New Business**

Ms. Webster announced that she had a certificate of appreciation for Wade Horne, and she will get this to him on the CRAC's behalf. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04am, followed by a field trip to two beach nourishment sites on Pine Knoll Shores.