



**Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2012, 2-4 pm
Kitty Hawk Town Hall**

Attendance

<u>LAC Members</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Bill Harris	Community Member	Yes
Officer Steve Jarvis	NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Enforcement	No
Mr. Aaron McCall	The Nature Conservancy	Yes
Mr. John McCord	UNC Coastal Studies Institute	No
Mr. Curtis Pentecost	Community Member	Yes
Mayor Clifton Perry	Town of Kitty Hawk	Yes
Mr. Jeff Pruitt	Community Member	Yes
Councilman Richard Reid	Town of Kitty Hawk	Yes
Ranger Rob Shackelford	NC Division of Forest Resources	No
Chief David Ward	Town of Kitty Hawk	No
Mr. Gary Perry	Town of Kitty Hawk	Yes
Ms. Emilie Klutz	Town of Kitty Hawk	No
<u>Others</u>		
Rebecca Ellin	DCM, Reserve Manager	Yes
Claudia Jones	DCM, Northern Sites Manager	Yes

Reserve-wide Update – Rebecca Ellin

Staffing News

- Lori Davis was hired as the Education Coordinator effective February 16, 2012. Lori served as the Reserve’s Education Specialist for the past ten years through a contract with University of

North Carolina Wilmington. In her new role, she manages all K-12 student and teacher and general public programming. Lori has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Methodist College.

- Paula Gillikin was hired as the Central Sites Manager effective February 20, 2012. Paula served as the Reserve's Rachel Carson Site Manager in a temporary capacity since 2007. She will continue to steward the Rachel Carson site in her new role and is also responsible for our Permuda Island Reserve. Paula has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and a Master of Science from Tufts University in Animals and Public Policy.
- Whitney Jenkins was hired as the Coastal Training Program Coordinator effective August 31, 2012. Whitney served as the Reserve's Coastal Training Program Coordinator for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. She will continue her coastal training duties and coordinate communications for the program. Whitney has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Florida and a Masters degree from Duke University in Coastal Environmental Management
- Interviews were conducted for the permanent Northern Sites Manager position in October 2012.

Budget Update

The Reserve receives funding from both the State of N.C. and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for operation of the program and a budget update was provided for the current and upcoming fiscal years. The Reserve's total budget for FY12-13 is \$911,287 (\$265,000 from State appropriations and \$646,287 from NOAA, 91% of the NOAA funds support operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve); this excludes any external grant funds. The Division is participating in a number of budget exercises to prepare for the upcoming biennium (FYs 13-14 and 14-15) and gubernatorial transition. Federal appropriations for next fiscal year for operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve portion of the program are uncertain at this time; possible scenarios include level-funding and reductions of various amounts.

Local Advisory Committees

The Reserve program updated the membership of existing and created three new Local Advisory Committees to inform management of the ten Reserve sites. The Local Advisory Committees function as advisory groups, providing feedback and recommendations to staff on site management, research, and education activities, and reviewing policies and implementation strategies. The committees operate per the adopted Operating Procedures document (February 2012); the procedures document, committee membership, and minutes are available on the Reserve's website.

Mayor Perry asked about our request to have a Town staff member on the committee. Potential benefits to the committee were discussed, such as providing continuity with elected official representation and providing a more robust representation of the Town perspective given the unique partnership between the Town and the Reserve in management of the site. The Mayor will talk with other elected officials from the Town and decide whether this will be helpful and if so, who to appoint.

Program Highlights

See attached for 2012 Reserve Program Highlights.

Site Update –Claudia Jones

- We have two new Committee members, Gary Perry and Emilie Klutz.
- The three Northern Sites (Kitty Hawk Woods, Currituck Banks, and Buxton Woods) had two interns this past summer. They worked on installation of signs, general trail maintenance, and trash pick-up. The interns also moved the bench at the end of Sound View to a safer spot. The area was undercut during Hurricane Irene. The path leading to Sound View Trail from Ridge Trail was also marked.
- The Reserve had a combination hunter workshop for the Kitty Hawk Woods and Currituck Banks Reserves on August 29, 2012 at the Kitty Hawk Town Hall. Thirteen hunters attended. The number of registered hunters for both sites combined is 92 thus far. Approximately half a dozen are for Kitty Hawk Woods only.
- Reserve staff participated in Wildfest, an environmental education symposium, at the Wright Memorial in October as well as several environmental field sessions at First Flight Middle School on Dune and Pond Ecology.
- Reserve staff asked the Committee members for their input on uses for the guard shack at the entrance of Covered Bridge Road. It is currently used for storage by the Reserve and is in need of a new roof. Suggestions ranged from placement of a water fountain at the site to complete tear down or relocation of structure. Concern was raised over uses that would require maintenance. Staff will follow up with State Property Office on options to possibly remove the structure.

Roundtable and Other Comments

- Gary Perry remarked that trees within Kitty Hawk Woods that have died due to salt water ponding from Hurricane Irene.
- Jeff Pruitt told the Committee about a hunter location app for smart phones that might be helpful for hunters to potentially avoid each other during hunting. Aaron remarked that some hunters might not want to reveal their sites.
- Bill Harris asked if the Reserve has conducted any deer population studies. Claudia responded that hunters are asked to provide jaw bones that are passed on to the Wildlife Resources Commission and used to age the deer. Participation was low last season. Hunters are also requested to report any harvest of deer and other game to the Reserve.
- Aaron McCall said that they have done an APC (Abomasal Parasite Count) study at Nags Head Woods. This study compares parasites in deer. Internal parasites increase as deer herd health and habitat quality decline.
- Aaron reported on alligator and other herpetological surveys in Nags Head Woods. The professor heading the study is interested in expanding to other areas on the Outer Banks, including Reserve sites.
- Curtis Pentecost noted that the access point at Ridge Road has been congested due to vehicles associated with the construction of new houses adjacent to the Reserve. He suggested that the Reserve consider adding some parking spaces if this continues to be a problem. There has also been someone with a dirt bike using the trail.

Follow Up

- Reserve staff to contact State Property Office regarding guard shack.
- The next LAC meeting will be in the spring of 2013.

N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve



... *Protecting over 42,200 acres of coastal habitat for research, education, and stewardship*

Highlights 2012

- Installed two low-flow tide gates and nine flashboard risers at the Buckridge Coastal Reserve. The pre-existing canal system within the Reserve was draining freshwater wetlands and introducing saltier water to the interior of the Reserve. This project, funded by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, preserves the outstanding resource waters of the Alligator River, restores the natural hydrology of the Reserve, and helps the ecosystem better cope with rising sea levels.
- Completed the Reserve's collaborative project "Sustainable estuarine shoreline stabilization: research, education, and public policy in North Carolina" with NOAA and University partners and funded by the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET). Research results indicate that natural marshes provide higher levels of ecosystem services than marshes associated with bulkheads. Results also indicate that small, narrow fringing marshes in front of bulkheads are still capable of providing important ecosystem services compared to bulkhead sites with no marsh, which provided almost no ecosystem services. An alternative shoreline stabilization demonstration project was installed as part of this project on the east end of the Rachel Carson Reserve featuring a living shoreline constructed with natural materials including oyster cultch and *Spartina alterniflora*. Outreach activities effectively reached target stakeholders and are ongoing.
- Established three sentinel sites at the Rachel Carson, Masonboro Island, and Zeke's Island components of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve to measure change in coastal habitats related to sea level rise and inundation.
- Reached over 2,300 students, teachers, local government officials, coastal decision makers, and other members of the coastal community through workshops, reserve site field trips, summer camps, and other educational activities conducted by the staff of the N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve. Participants learned about the importance of estuaries, environmental stewardship, estuarine shoreline stabilization alternatives, sustainable communities and low impact development, and research conducted at reserve sites.
- Utilized community and student volunteers in a variety of stewardship activities across the ten Reserve sites, from clean-ups to species monitoring, resulting in over 1,200 hours of service to the program.
- Updated the membership of existing and created three new Local Advisory Committees to inform management of the ten Reserve sites. The Local Advisory Committees function as advisory groups, providing feedback and recommendations to staff on site management, research, and education activities, and reviewing policies and implementation strategies. The committees operate per the adopted Operating Procedures document (February 2012); the procedures document, committee membership, and minutes are available on the Reserve's website.

www.nccoastalreserve.net

The N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve is a program of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management. The N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve is managed through a federal-state partnership between NOAA and the Division.