



**Rachel Carson Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 15 March, 2011, 9-11 am**

Attendance

<u>LAC Members</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>	<u>Present</u>
Ms. Heather Styron	N.C. Division of Coastal Management	Yes
Mr. Perry Barrow	Community Member	No
Chief Steve Lewis	Beaufort Police Department	Yes
Mr. Tommy McArthur	Community Member	No
Ms. Kelly Odom	N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries	Yes
Mr. Bob Rappaport	Community Member	No
Mr. Frank Tursi	N.C. Coastal Federation	No
Ms. Ann Carter	Community Member	Yes
Mr. John Fussell	Community Member	No
Dr. Dan Rittschoff	Community Member	No
<u>Others Present</u>		
Rebecca Ellin	DCM, Reserve Manager	
Paula Gillikin	DCM, Rachel Carson Site Manager	
Scott Kucera	DCM, Education Coordinator	

Rachel Carson Reserve Update – Paula Gillikin

Research at the site

A new research project will soon begin at Middle Marshes. A student from UNC-IMS – supported by a Coastal Reserve/N.C. Seagrant fellowship – will begin a project titled “Managing intertidal oyster reefs in a changing climate: How macroalgal cover affects reef dynamics within the Rachel Carson Reserve.” Oyster culch will be deposited within the next two months at the southeast end of Carrot Island as part of an alternative shoreline stabilization project. Upcoming activities at the site include school field trips and outreach, summer camps, and a free public field trip series.

Feral horse management

A late foal was born on the Reserve in December. Selective darting of mares has been completed and several foals are expected in the next few years to maintain the herd as close to 30-head as possible. The current population is between 31 and 33. An activity budget study was initiated in February. Particular attention will be paid to per cent time spent grazing, which can indicate forage availability as compared to years past. Body condition score data is currently being collected and will be compared to years past; it is expected that overall herd body condition has improved with decreasing herd size.

Update on Reserve rules review process

The objective of the Rules Review Process is to produce recommendations for updating the current rule language for the ten Reserve sites to make rules that are: clear and consistent for the public, effective for management of the sites, and enforceable by the appropriate agencies. The Reserve held two rules review workshops in January and one in February 2011. The next steps are to draft rule language and submit to the Department for approval.

A summary of rules review topics as they relate to the Rachel Carson Reserve was reviewed and discussed by LAC members. LAC members were invited to provide additional feedback at any time by contacting Paula Gillikin.

Member Roundtable and other comments

- Ann Carter suggested implementing a commercial vendor permitting and/or tracking system to manage increased visitors that are brought to the Reserve by local ferry services.
- LAC members suggested that due to new boat ramp construction on the Beaufort Morehead causeway, boat ramp improvements at Lenoxville, increased coastal development and population, and Beaufort possibly being the new Cape Lookout National Seashore departure point (“gateway”), the Rachel Carson Reserve will likely receive more visitors and increased boat traffic in the near future.
- Chief Steve Lewis offered for a Beaufort Officer to accompany Paula Gillikin on future site visits. This will increase the public’s awareness that enforceable rules exist on the Reserve. In particular, the occasional presence of law enforcement at the site would deter nudity, dogs off leash, and illegal hunting.
- The Town of Beaufort plans to purchase a law enforcement vessel in the next few years, which can be used to address enforcement issues at the Reserve.

Meeting Follow Up

- Next meeting tentatively scheduled for November 9th.