

SUMMARY OF COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS
KITTY HAWK TOWN HALL
KITTY HAWK, NC
October 26, 2004

Cumulative Impacts: What do we Measure?

Nancy White, director of UNC's Coastal Studies Institute presented some of the results of her work on the cumulative impacts of development. At Jumping Run Creek Watershed Study, Dr. White looked at land cover changes over 30 years from the 1960s to the 1990s. Her research revealed that drainage ditches were more strongly correlated with pollutant loading and transport than was impervious cover. Dr. White's Two Streams Study showed that despite a comprehensive set of stormwater Best Management Practices at a new residential development, nonpoint source pollution more than doubled. Impervious cover percentages alone are not a sufficient predictor of water quality impairment for a given watershed. The key is to manage the hydrology by keeping polluted runoff on land longer so that pollutants are infiltrated and less bacteria survive before runoff reaches the estuaries. In support of that, Dr. White noted:

- Planning and design should be done at the watershed level
- Over-reliance on restricting impervious cover can encourage sprawl and may not protect water quality as much as anticipated
- Green building techniques can mitigate runoff, e.g. taller buildings with smaller footprints and designing buildings into the landscape
- Where appropriate, the use of porous paving materials should be increased
- Stormwater management should be integrated into the planning and design process

Hertford Shore Protection Demonstration Project

CRAC member Carlton Davenport gave a report about the Hertford Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project. The project operates on a \$55,000 budget to protect 790 feet of shoreline and provide other amenities. Construction has only recently begun, but when complete the project will feature four different erosion protection technologies, including bio-logs that are made of coconut fiber and allow plants to root within them. The Advisory Council will be receiving updates of how the technologies perform.

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

Bill Crowell, director of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program briefed the Advisory Council about his agency and some of the programmatic changes that he is undertaking. Mr. Crowell has proposed a new organizational structure that consists of a Management Council and three Advisory Councils – a Citizen Advisory Council, a Local Government Advisory Council, and a Science and Technology Advisory Council. He invited CRAC comment on the proposed structure,. Other programmatic changes include increasing the visibility and autonomy of the program office, increasing the size of the staff, and better leveraging program funds.

Old/New Business

The Advisory Council then proceeded with nominations for CRAC chair and vice-chair for 2005. Consistent with the CRAC's practice of Council leadership committing to serving two consecutive terms, Dave Weaver nominated Chairman Bob Shupe and Bill Morrison to serve second one-year terms in the Chair and Vice Chair seats, respectively. The nominations were accepted, and following a successful motion from Harry Simmons, nominations were closed. Elections will be held in January.