

**Minutes
Coastal Committee
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334**

**Tuesday, August 22, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chair
Bill Jones, Vice Chair
Randy Dellinger
Charles DePriest
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Kevin Jackson
Tim Lowe
Paul Shailendra
Gary Vowell
Dwight Davis, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Patrick Denney
Dan Garcia
Penn Hodge
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Harley Yancey

Guests

Debbie Phillips, GA Industry Environmental Coalition
Josh Purdy, Georgia State Parks
Melanie Reed, GA DNR
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeepers
Brooks Varnell, DNR Law Enforcement
Nic Matthew, Office of Planning and Budget
David Anderson, Office of Planning and Budget
Rick Dunn, Office of Planning and Budget
Meris Lutz, Atlanta Journal and Constitution
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Government Relations

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Donald Kirkland
Cathy Barnette
Thomas Barnard
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Angie Johnson
Ted Will
Jill Andrews
Antoinette Norfleet
Scott Robinson

Jeff Cown, Director
James Boylan
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski

The August 22, 2023 meeting of the Coastal Resources Committee was called to order by Dwight Davis, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Davis called on Nancy Addison, Chair of the Coastal Resources Committee.

Ms. Addison called on Jill Andrews, Chief of the Coastal Management Section to present the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.15.

Ms. Andrews stated the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP) is made possible by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through Congressional funding pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. She further stated that each year the GCMP allocates a portion of its federal funding for Coastal Incentive Grants (CIG). She added these sub-grants may be awarded to qualified county and municipal governments, regional commissions, state-affiliated research or educational institutions, or state agencies, except DNR, provided the project takes place entirely within the eleven-county service area of the program.

Ms. Andrews stated that since 1998, CIG sub-grants have funded over \$25,000,000 in projects throughout the coastal zone including multi-year scientific studies on coastal processes, local government plans and ordinance development, and low-cost construction for public access. She further stated that each project leverages at least 100% local match, bringing the total economic impact of this program to over \$40,000,000.

Ms. Andrews stated that with assistance from CRD, the Coastal Advisory Council determines annual funding themes, and project evaluation criteria for the CIG program. She further stated that these changes are then brought to the Board of Natural Resources for approval before being transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State for public notice per the Fair and Open Grants Act, O.C.G.A. §28-5-122.

Ms. Andrews stated the request for proposals period just ended for 2022, which is the Cycle 26 competition. She further stated the review committee selected eight new projects which will start in October and five additional projects which will also flow through year 2 funding, for a total pass-thru for Cycle 26 of just over \$800,000.

Ms. Andrews stated that coming up on Cycle 27, the proposal is to retain the same five funding themes from the past several years. She further stated that the themes are designed around the coastal management program focus areas and each proposal must demonstrate how they meet the themes in order to be selected for funding. She added that this is assurance

to NOAA that the pass-thru funding is furthering current grant goals. She further added that having the same themes for several years, they feel confident that the applicants know what to expect and how to apply for these projects.

Ms. Andrews stated the Coastal Advisory Council considers the amount and term of grants and based on their consensus and as in past years, we will award up to \$80,000 per year for successful applicants for up to two years. She further stated that it is expected to have enough funds for eight to twelve new projects and will have \$400,000 to carry over from Cycle 26. She added that these projects will start in October 2024.

Ms. Andrews stated that regarding the timeline, they anticipate announcing the request for proposals in mid-September. She further stated that it is a long process that includes the letter of intent process with pre-applications and full applications. She further stated the projects will be selected in 2024 and funding will start in October 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.15.

Ms. Addison asked Ms. Andrews to continue with a briefing on the Proposed Amendments to the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division, Regulation of Upland Component of a Project, Chapter 391-2-3-.02.

Ms. Andrews stated the proposed amendment of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division relates to regulating of upland components of projects such as marinas, community docks, and commercial docks located over coastal marshlands. These proposed amendments would clarify what type projects would be subject to the rule by modifying the definition of the upland component.

Ms. Andrews stated that today's briefing, the public notice of comment period will be issued on August 23, a public hearing will be held in Brunswick on September 6, the public comment period will close on September 25, and the Board will consider final action on the proposed rule at the October 24 board meeting.

There being no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.