

**Minutes
Coastal Committee
Lanier Islands
7000 Lanier Islands Parkway
Buford, GA 30518**

**Tuesday, August 27, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chair
Randy Dellinger
Charles DePriest
Mark Hennessy
Bill Jones
Brent Layton
Lesley Reynolds
Paul Shailendra
Gary Vowell
Joe Hatfield, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Jeff Andrews
Patrick Denney
Dan Garcia
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert

Guests

Scott Hendricks, Georgia Power Company
Cindy Nix, GA DNR / EPD
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Government Relations
Dominic Weatherhill, Georgia Power Company

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Taylor Brown Fisher
Cathy Barnette
Kyle Pearson
Artica Gaston
Mike England
Doug Haymans
Angie Johnson
Ted Will
Brent Womack
Royce Johnson

John Eunice, Deputy Director

The August 27, 2024 meeting of the Coastal Resources Committee was called to order by Joe Hatfield, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Hatfield called on Nancy Addison, Chair of the Coastal Resources Committee. Ms. Addison called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

Director Haymans 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. He further stated that each year the GCMP allocates a portion of its federal funding for Coastal Incentive Grants (CIG). He 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.

Director Haymans 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 \$50,000,000.

Director Haymans stated that with assistance from CRD, the Coastal Advisory Council determines annual funding themes, and project evaluation criteria for the CIG program. He 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.

Director Haymans stated the request for proposals solicits projects that are related to the themes identified by the Coastal Advisory Council (CAC) for the FY 2024-2025 Cycle 28 awards. He further stated that projects that are acceptable, but for which there are no available funds, may be awarded a CIG at a later date if funds become available. He added that all CIG applications must be matched annually \$1.00 federal to \$1.00 local (1:1). He further added that the match may be either cash from local, state or private sources or “in kind” service(s).

Director Haymans stated that if selected, CIG Cycle 28 contracts will run for one year beginning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. He further stated that applications will be accepted for two-year sub-grant requests with the second year of support being contingent

upon approval and receipt of federal funds. He added that Year 1 funding is not transferable to Year 2, if applicant submits a two (2) year project.

Director Haymans stated that CIGs are reimbursable sub-grants. He further stated that a Request for Reimbursement of federal project costs, along with a report of applicable non-federal match, is to be submitted with the Final Report, using the format provided by the DNR. He added that reimbursement will be made following completion of the terms of the sub-grant contract and receipt and performance of all deliverables for each sub-grant year.

Director Haymans stated the funding themes of the FY 2025-2026 Cycle 28 CIG Program as adopted by the CAC are as follows: Oceans and Wetlands, Public Access and Land Conservation, Sustainable Communities, Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards, and Nature-Based Solutions.

Director Haymans stated the timeline is as follows: Pre-application deadline is at 4:30 p.m. on December 6, 2024, Full application deadline is at 4:30 p.m. on February 7, 2025, the anticipated NOAA approval is August 29, 2025, and the project start date is October 1, 2025.

Director Haymans requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Layton, seconded by Mr. Vowell, 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 Director Haymans to continue with a briefing on the proposed amendment to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4.

Director Haymans stated the Coastal Resources Division is proposing one amendment to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, which would increase the number of bait minnow traps that a licensed bait dealer may fish at any given time from 10-20 but does not increase the total allowable harvest. He further stated that currently licensed bait dealers are allowed to employ 10 or fewer traps at a given time and the requested change would increase the number of traps employed to 20, while not possessing more than 100 quarts of bait minnows at any time.

Director Haymans stated that written public comments will be received through Tuesday, October 1, 2024, and the Board will consider the proposed amendment at the board meeting on October 22, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.