



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

Coastal Advisory Council
November 3, 2025
Location: SSEL
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

The Summer Meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hunter.

Mr. Hunter introduced the new CAC members, Ms. Tina Skipper representing local government with the City of Ludowici and Mr. Andy Riggins representing local government with the Brantley County Commission.

Old Business:

The Summer 2025 meeting summary was provided to all CAC members and there were no additions or changes.

New Business:

Committee Reports – *Scott Hendricks*

Communications Committee – *Hyde Post*

Mr. Post offered his congratulations to Jennifer Kline and team for a well-done Resiliency Conference on Jekyll Island. There were no additional reports from the Communications Committee.

Legislative Committee – *Scott Hendricks*

Mr. Hendricks spoke with Mr. Shawn Jordan and there are no fall Legislative updates to report at this time.

Presentations:

Living Shorelines in Coastal Georgia - *Meghan Angelina Chrisp*

Meghan Angelina Chrisp gave an overview of the GCMP's Living Shoreline Program. Her presentation included the Standards and Best Management Practices document overview, living shoreline workshops that are held twice a year, a video clip from Mr. Doug Burger at Tolomoto Island speaking from the homeowner's perspective of installing his living shorelines and a video

highlighting the Martha Randolph Stevens Park living shoreline which is currently being constructed.

Questions and comments related to this presentation are included below.

- 1) Has there been consideration of streamlining living shoreline permitting?
There have been multiple years of discussion beginning with a 2022 change in processing permits for bank stabilizations. All bank stabilization projects must go through the same process now which puts living shorelines on an even playing field with other bank stabilization projects such as rip rap or bulkheads. We are in discussions with EPD regarding timing of projects that require a buffer review.
- 2) Is the permitting process similar between living shorelines and dune restoration.
Ms. Andrews stated that dune restoration falls under the Shore Protection Act and living shorelines as they are utilized in Georgia fall under the Shore Protection Act. As far as the timing of the permit process, it all depends on the site.
- 3) Do docks have an adverse impact on living shorelines from shading?
Docks can have an impact on Spartina growth through shading. Dr. Clark Alexander did a study many years ago that concluded that impacts were based on dock orientation which drives that amount of shading that is cast.

Resiliency Conference debrief – Jennifer Kline

Ms. Kline gave an overview of the Resiliency Conference which included two full days of information/presentations, 120 resiliency presentations and 28 project posters. Over 300 participants attended. Dr. Wayne Clough, retired president of Georgia Tech, and Monica Thornton, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy, were keynote speakers. We conducted a survey that showed that 98% of attendees identified new partnerships and/or Funding Opportunities, 75% will implement or share lessons learned, and 93% of participants are looking forward to the next GA DNR Resiliency Conference. Staff did highlight lessons learned to implement into the next conference, which will hopefully be held in 4 years.

Staff Updates

EPD 319 grant – Kelly Hill

Final draft of the EPD 319 grant to update the Coastal Stormwater Supplement is wrapping up to be submitted to a local business to create digital content. This will be completed in early 2026. We have worked with EPD to identify funding for workshops and trainings to be rolled out in 2026.

Clean Marina – Kelly Hill

The Clean Marina Program has been reestablished, and partners with GADNR CRD, UGA Marine Extension/GA Sea Grant and GA Marine Business Association have been working over the past 3 years to certify marinas under the new program requirements. Partners are certifying 2

new marinas this year, Safe Harbor Savannah Yacht Center and The Ford Field and River Club Marina in Richmond Hill. This will bring the number of coastal marinas certified to 9 total facilities.

Courtney Reich asked if they could post right whale signage created by the Georgia Conservancy. There was discussion regarding if this signage meets the conditions of permits that have specific language regarding right whale signage. Ms. Reich suggested it could supplant the signage required through permits. She will send a copy a copy to Ms. Hill for consideration.

CIG Cycle 29 – *Shy Duncan*

Ms. Duncan gave a Cycle 28 update – 3 projects have started on-time, and 7 projects are on hold waiting for final clearance when the federal government opens back up. Workshops were held to encourage participation in the Cycle 29 grant cycle (to start October 1, 2026). Three workshops were held on 3 consecutive days with over 30 participants. Ms. Duncan and Ms. Mackinnon are continuing to attend commission and council meetings throughout the 11-county service area to let them know of Coastal Incentive Grant funding. As of this date, we have visited 8 local governments so far and have 8 left to visit. We have received lots of positive feedback. December 5 is the pre-application deadline.

Member Announcements:

Mr. Hendricks echoed the earlier comments by congratulating staff on a job well done at the Resiliency Conference. Mr. Hendricks asked if we felt that we reached the local governments that we haven't reached before. Ms. Kline said we had several local governments that were outside of our 11-county area. Regional commissions were represented also. Christi Lambert said that she felt the panels were very helpful. Mr. Riggins said that as different as the counties are, he learned that there are so many shared issues/challenges.

Ms. Reich updated the Council on the Martha Randolph Stevens Park project. Contractors are close to the end of construction. The Georgia Conservancy partnered with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant to lead a replanting volunteer event.