



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
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Coastal Advisory Council
July 15, 2025
Location: SSELC
Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Ms. Jaynie Gaskin introduced Ms. Alana Johnson and Ms. Campbell Fretz, two new members of the Culvert Assessment Team, to the Coastal Advisory Council.

Old Business:

The Spring 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 reported that there are currently no updates from the Communications Committee. The Communications Committee continues to prioritize staff presentations. Kelly Hill presented at the Spring meeting on Green Growth which was a result of a survey conducted by CRD, illuminating interest of the CAC in learning more about certain topics. The next staff presentation will be during the Fall 2025 meeting. The Committee will likely look to conduct another survey upcoming to get thoughts and feedback for CRD related to additional knowledge gaps to be filled.

Legislative Committee – Scott Hendricks

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

Executive Committee – John Hunter

Mr. Hunter reported that there is a current vacancy in Local Government and that they have five applicants. Applicants have been asked for letters of support from their local governments. Mr. Alan Roberson recently resigned from the CAC and the City of Tybee has expressed wanting to have one of their new employees represent the city on the CAC now.

News from Hill – *Jill Andrews*

Ms. Andrews reported that the coastal program has received their funding for the 2025 fiscal year that will be available in October 2025. The White House released their proposed budget for the next fiscal year and the Coastal Management Program has been given zero funding. The Coastal States Organization has been garnering friends support letters and the responses they have received from individuals and organizations have exceeded expectations; with over 1,000 organizations having signed the letter. The coastal program does not advocate for itself, so Ms. Andrews highlighted the importance of local support for coastal programs and encouraged members to share stories relating to how the coastal program has positively impacted their communities.

CIG Cycle 29 – *Shy Duncan*

Ms. Duncan presented Cycle 29 of the Coastal Incentive Grant program. Ms. Duncan highlighted an increase in project proposals from local governments in Cycle 28 and attributes this to strengthened outreach efforts performed by CRD staff. Staff proposed themes were reviewed for Cycle 29, which did not change from Cycle 28, along with staff identified research needs. The ranking criteria to score research and non-research CIG proposals have not undergone any revisions. Mr. John Hunter called a motion for the CAC to approve the staff proposed themes for CIG Cycle 29 – a motion was made by Mr. Hyde Post and a second by Ms. Stacia Hendricks. The motion to approve themes and criteria received unanimous approval from members. Mr. Scott Hendricks mentioned that CAC members can help support the CIG process by sharing CIG Workshops with their networks.

CRD’s Culvert Assessment Project overview– *Jaynie Gaskin, Harrison Faulk, Alana Johnson, and Campbell Fretz*

Ms. Gaskin and the culvert assessment team presented on their work conducting coastal aquatic barrier assessments throughout the Coastal Resource Division’s 11-county service area. The team conducts culvert assessments based on survey methods developed by the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP). Their goal is to survey all barriers within the 11-county service area so they can share this information with communities to help inform long-term planning and create potential opportunities to help communities find and apply for funding opportunities. The presentation included their methodology for assessing culverts and summary figures and statistics relating to barriers that have been surveyed.

Other Announcements:

Dock Rules – *Jill Andrews*

Ms. Andrews reported that the stakeholder group pertaining to new rules associated with private, recreational docks has wrapped up. The findings from this stakeholder group will be presented at a public town hall meeting which will also serve as an opportunity to receive additional public feedback on the new rules. Once these meetings have been completed, the results will be taken to the DNR Board.

Beach Week – Jan Mackinnon

Ms. Mackinnon reported that CRD held our Annual Beach Week during the week of the 4th of July. Events were held on Jekyll Island, St. Simons Island, and Tybee Island. This effort to engage with members of the public to share the agency’s efforts on the coast was successful.

Georgia Resiliency Conference – Jennifer Kline

Ms. Kline reported that CRD is still moving forward with the Georgia Resiliency Conference. We are still waiting for confirmation on the welcome speaker and second keynote speaker. Meghan Angelina reported that there will be a poster session on the evening of October 20th and encouraged CAC members to share calls for posters within their networks.

DNR Career Academy – Jaynie Gaskin

Ms. Gaskin reported that next week DNR’s 4th Annual Career Academy begins, a program which is intended to introduce rising junior and senior high school students interested in natural resources with possible career opportunities within the state. The Career Academy is a weeklong experience that allows 24 students to work alongside entry-level DNR staff in all four divisions.

Living Shoreline Standards and Best Management Practices – Meghan Angelina

Ms. Angelina reported that CRD’s Living Shoreline Site Suitability Standards and Best Management Practices guide will be posted on CRD’s website at the end of this week. This guidance document will be geared towards diverse audiences (i.e., homeowners, engineers, landscape architects, and contractors) and will be a great comprehensive resource for the coast. This document also serves as the foundation for CRD’s living shoreline workshops.

Clean Marina – Kelly Hill

Ms. Hill is working through the third cohort of Clean Marina applications. The program has certified six marinas in the last two years and is expecting two more in the next year. Ms. Hill also mentioned that the NFWF project has a community outreach event in Brunswick on September 18th to showcase flood related projects.

Thin-Layer Placement site update – Tyler Cooper-Kolb

Mr. Cooper-Kolb reported that the most recent multi-spectral UAV imagery of the thin-layer placement site on Jekyll Island, captured in September 2024, has been processed and digitized. Based on the analysis of digitized vegetation areas, the vegetated area within the 5-acre site has increased since the previous flight in September 2023 (75.9% in 2023 to 84.1% in 2024).

Member Announcements:

Courtney Reich – Ms. Reich announced that the Darien-McIntosh County Chamber, Georgia Conservancy and Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve will be holding the “Tides and Tales” film festival on August 7, 2025, with short films highlighting the beauty, history and ecological importance of our marshes and coastline. This event will be held at Tabby House Brewing company and tickets are \$15.