



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
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Coastal Advisory Council  
April 25, 2025  
Location: SSELC  
Meeting Summary

**Welcome and Introductions:**

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

New CAC members introduced themselves:

Amy Spinks is a new Citizen at Large affiliate who currently works with the Darien Telephone Company, previously worked in Marine Construction and is involved in the Darien Chamber of Commerce.

Courtney Reich is representing an Environmental Organization, Georgia Conservancy. She was previously an environmental consultant and has also worked with local governments.

**Old Business:**

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

**Committee Reports**

**Communications Committee- *Stacia Hendricks***

Ms. Hendricks reported that the Communications Committee has continued to prioritize staff presentations. Jennifer Kline presented at the Winter meeting on coastal hazards which was a result of the survey we did illuminating interest of CAC in learning more about certain topics. At the Spring meeting (today’s meeting) Kelly Hill will talk about Green Growth and then another deep dive in the Fall with a staff presentation. The Committee will likely look to another survey upcoming to get thoughts and feedback for CRD related to additional knowledge gaps to be filled.

**Legislative Committee – *Shawn Jordan***

Mr. Jordan provided an update from the Legislative Committee.

- **House Bill 117 – *Food service establishments; require notification of the country of origin of seafood items***; the bill passed the House and was tabled in the Senate.

- **House Resolution 97** - *Conveyance of certain state-owned property*; this resolution is believed to be, in part, focused on Wally's Leg, Glynn County, for a proposed mitigation bank; the resolution passed the House and Senate.
- **HB 287** - *Environmental Protection Division; Environmental Advisory Council; update reference date to standards, rules, and regulations*; line 92 speaks to commercial fishing licenses with shellfish endorsement and master harvester permit or harvester permit; made it to the Governor's desk.

Mr. Hendricks gave another plug for committee membership. Ms. Reich and Mr. Tony Robinson are joining the Legislative Committee and Mr. Robinson has joined the Executive Committee as well. There are still openings for a State/Regional representative on the Executive Committee and the Legislative Committee.

### **New Business:**

#### **Presentation** – Georgia Coastal Management Program staff updates

GCMP staff each gave a 3-5 minute presentation of their work this past year. Information regarding these presentations can be found in the presentation file online at <https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/CAC/CAC%20Spring%202025%20Staff%20updates.pdf>

Mr. Hunter then called on Kelly Hill to provide an overview of the Green Growth program. The presentation can be found at [https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/CAC/CAC%20Green%20Growth\\_2025.pdf](https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/CAC/CAC%20Green%20Growth_2025.pdf)

#### **News from the Hill** – *Jill Andrews*

Jill Andrews gave an update on the status of funding. We are watching things closely and we do not expect to see a “claw back” of money in our hands currently. Our next grant cycle starts in October, 2025 for FY25, and normally we would have our instructions already. We know NOAA did not receive full funding but we are waiting to see how funds were allocated. Coastal states have been told to prepare for reductions, but we don't really have any idea if we are facing 5% or 50% cuts. We are planning ahead. The good news is that there is a lot of congressional support for coastal states. There is a congressional letter going around that outlines the importance of CZM to the states. Both GA senators and Buddy Carter have signed on to that letter in support.

Ms. Hendricks asked who authored these letters previously? Ms. Andrews responded that two coastal congressional representatives are bipartisan co-signers. CZM was eliminated by Trump 1 administration, but Congress successfully put CZM back into the budget. We have used Friends Letter and networks to help communicate the information before. This will also be the case this time. CZM and National Estuarine Research Reserves (SINERR) are both affected. Governor Kemp is being briefed today. Other DNR work is being affected by federal funding cuts, such as EPD and WRD. We appreciate the support and please feel free to reach out to us and share with your networks.

**Other Announcements:** There were none. Chairman Hunter adjourned the meeting.