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

August 25, 2015

Attending:

**Committee Members**
Nancy Addison, Chairman
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Phyllis Johnson
Mike Phelps
Bodine Sinyard
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey
Ray Lambert, Board Chairman, ex-officio

**Staff Members**
Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Walter Rabon
Bryan Tucker
Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Mary Kathryn Yearta
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Mark Whitney
Doug Haymans
Doralyn Kirkland
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Wally Woods
John Bowers
Mary Walker
Stan Elrod
Tina Brunjes
Jon Ambrose
Terry West
Zachary Harris
Trip Addison

**Board Members**
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Rob Leeburn
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
Matt Sawhill
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt

**Visitors**
Jonathan Harding, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Bill Lott, UCCTU
Tom Redmon, Chattahoochee Park Conservancy
Ben Emanuel, American Rivers
Dewey G. Grantham, Jr., Liberty Tire Recycling
Dyna Kohler, Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy
Lisa Gordon, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Steve Levetan, Pull-a-Part, LLC
Alan Toney, citizen
Jim Harvey, Trout Unlimited
Jennette Gayer, Environment Georgia
Kent Strickland, Environment Georgia
Colleen McLoughlin, Environment Georgia
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition  
Mark Woodall, Friends of the Environment  
Dough Niell, Georgia Chamber  
Jeffrey Harvey, Farm Bureau  
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network  
Bill Cox, Chattahoochee River N.R.A.  
Alyse Williams, Office of Planning and Budget  
James Hamilton, North Georgia Mountain Authority  
Bill Donahue, North Georgia Mountain Authority  
Laura Hartt, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance  
Roger Huff, White Water Learning Center of Georgia  
Gerard Gunthert, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Joyce Shephard, City of Atlanta Council Member  
Jerry Stober, FOMR  
William Tomlin, The Sierra Club  
Jason Ulseth, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Harriet Peacock, citizen  
Sally Bethea, citizen  
Joshua Hanthorn, citizen  
Chris Scalley, Fishing Guide  
Roger Buerki, citizen
The August 25, 2015 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Lambert called on Nancy Addison, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, who called on Doug Haymans to present the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program.

Mr. Haymans stated the Georgia Coastal Management Program 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 since 1998, CIG sub-grants have funded over $17,810,000 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.

Mr. Haymans stated with assistance from the Coastal Resources Division of Georgia, the Coastal Advisory Council determines annual funding themes, project evaluation criteria, maximum funding amounts and maximum length of projects for the CIG program.

Mr. Haymans stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Yancey and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18, as presented.

Chairman Addison called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, to brief the Committee on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Shore Protection, Chapter 391-2-2.

Director Woodward stated in 1992 O.C.G.A Section 12-5-248 made it a criminal violation for any person to drive unlawfully on the beaches or sand dune system in Georgia without permission from a permit-issuing authority. He further stated “Beach Driving Authorizations” Appendix A to the rule, which lists beach access points on all of Georgia’s barrier islands, has not been updated since originally validated through Board action in 1998.

Director Woodward stated the proposed amendments would update Appendix A to include sites approved since 1998 and will also provide GPS coordinates for each site. He further stated the proposed amendments will modify the content of some sections of the rule for purpose of clarity and to make it consistent with the Shore Protection Act.

Director Woodward stated written public comment will be received through September 30, 2015. He further stated CRD anticipates presenting the final draft of the proposed amended rule at the October 27, 2015 Board Meeting.

Chairman Addison called on Director Woodward to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4.
Director Woodward stated the purpose of the proposed amendment is to increase the minimum size of spotted seatrout. He further stated spotted seatrout are non-migratory species that are prized by anglers for their attributes as a sportsfish and by seafood lovers as table fares. He added that the estimated catch in 2014 was slightly over 1 million fish with an estimated harvest of 256,068 fish.

Director Woodward stated CRD staff has discussed management of spotted seatrout with the 10-member Finfish Advisory Panel (FAP). He further stated these discussions led to a recommendation from the majority of FAP members that the Board of Natural Resources take action to increase the minimum size from 13 to 14 inches. He added this increase in the minimum size will allow spotted seatrout the opportunity to participate, on average, in two spawning seasons before they can be legally harvested leading to a greater reproductive output.

Director Woodward stated the expected result for this action is anticipated to be a higher abundance in spotted seatrout; larger fish in the population; and greater resiliency of the spotted seatrout population to extreme environmental events such as winter freezes and droughts.

Director Woodward stated two public hearings have been scheduled for September and written public comment will be received through October 2, 2015. He further stated CRD anticipates bringing the final draft of the proposed amendments to the Board at the October 28, 2015 Board Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.