

**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

**Board Members**

William Bagwell  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Rob Leebern  
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

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams  
Jud Turner  
Walter Rabon  
Bryan Tucker  
Eddie Henderson  
Becky Kelley  
Spud Woodward  
Steve Friedman  
Kyle Pearson  
Mary Kathryn Yearata  
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

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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.