



Local Advisory Committee Meeting  
Permuda Island Reserve

November 14, 2025, 10 a.m.  
North Topsail Beach Town Hall  
2008 Loggerhead Court  
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

Webex option for out-of-town members

**Attendance**

Partner Organization Members	Present
Deborah Hill, Town of North Topsail Beach, Planning Director	No
William Younginer, Town of North Topsail Beach, Chief of Police	No
Alice Derian, Town of North Topsail Beach, Town Manager	No
Jillian Schuler, Office of State Archaeology, Assistant State Archaeologist Underwater Archaeology Branch	Yes (virtual)
Kerri Allen, North Carolina Coastal Federation, Coastal Management Program Director	Yes
Community Members	Present
Jan Farmer	Yes
Mike Yawn	Yes
Others Present	
Ben Wunderly, NC Coastal Reserve, Central Sites Manager	
Brady Golden, Town of North Topsail Beach, Town Planner	

**Reserve-wide Program Business – Ben Wunderly**

- *New Central Sites Manager Introduction*

The new Central Sites Manager, Ben Wunderly, gave an introduction about themselves to include their experiences and education as it relates to the position. Local Advisory Committee (LAC) members introduced themselves to the Central Sites Manager.

- Reserve-wide Update

The Reserve-Wide Update was prepared by program manager Rebecca Ellin and contains highlights from all sites across the Reserve system. The document was shared with Local Advisory Committee (LAC) members via email and discussed in this meeting. A copy is attached as Appendix A.

- **Retail Sales Policy**

Retail Sales Policy - A Reserve-wide retail sales policy will be developed in consultation with division management, legal counsel, and department officials. This stems from a recent request to sell food at a Reserve site. LAC members discussed the topic. Some key points of the conversation follow.

- LAC members had questions about how the process works for creating a new policy.
- Jan Farmer mentioned that even though Permuda Island is remote, there could still be businesses interested in conducting private sales at the site, like oyster farm tours and tastings for example.
- All members agreed that such a policy would benefit the reserve by protecting the island and its culturally and naturally significant features. They would also be glad to provide any support during the process of developing the policy if needed.
- Mike Yawn stated that creating a policy would also lessen the chance for legal issues related to any kind of commercial sales.

### **Permuda Island Reserve Business** – Ben Wunderly

- *Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)*

In 2023 the Rules Review Commission objected to re-adopting the Coastal Area Management Act rule that designates Permuda Island as a significant coastal archaeological resource area of environmental concern.

- The Site Manager reviewed the timeline of events regarding the Rules Review Commission process and decisions related to the Coastal Resources Commission rules.
- Though the designation is important, the site is also protected by General Statute 121, The NC Archives and History Act, as it is state owned property and described as a significant archaeological site.
- An outcome on the matter should be announced by late spring or summer 2026.
- Kerri Allen gave input on the AEC issue and shared with the group.

- *Site Update*

An overview of current research and shoreline study, as well as experiences from a site visit, was presented to members.

- Research permits – 2025
  - All members were interested in Sam Holberg's (NC State University) current research at the site focusing on Assessing Hydrodynamic and Biogeomorphologic Impacts of Floating Oyster Aquaculture to Further Shoreline Stabilization Strategies.
  - LAC members commented they would be interested in having Sam present on his research at an LAC meeting.
  - The shellfish aquaculture lease moratorium was brought up at the meeting. Keri Allen stated there is no movement on the matter currently but that the NC Coastal Federation (NCCF) did receive a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) aquaculture grant for mapping Stump Sound. Recommended buffers, closed areas, and potential areas related to leasing could be addressed. There will also be focus on the NC Oyster Trail, oyster seed production, and a mariculture hub.
- Shoreline changes / Culturally significant artifacts – Information on the Reserves scoping work that focuses on advancing culturally sensitive environmental planning to prepare

for updating the Permuda Island Reserve site management plan was discussed as well as current shoreline change assessment by Reserve staff for the site.

- Jillian Schuler commented that the cultural materials from Permuda Island are being cared for at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) collection office in Raleigh and that the OSA Research Center may be able to help with Reserve planning efforts. She also stated that working with a Federally recognized group like the Tuscarora would be helpful for the planning efforts and that a consulting group could assess the condition of the island related to cultural artifacts.
  - Kerri Allen stated that the NCCF would be glad to assist with the project and could assess the complete picture of the natural conditions of the site.
- July site visit – Reserve staff visited the Permuda Island Reserve in July for an initial introduction to the new Central Sites Manager. Staff circumnavigated the island and assessed the current shoreline of the site. A presentation on the experience was given for LAC members.
- Clarification of Reserve Rules and Town of North Topsail Beach ordinances – The Site Manager received a question about the hunting regulations on Permuda Island. It was determined that, though the Reserve system on a whole can allow traditional uses such as hunting, it does not pertain to a site where any federal, state, or local rules exist that would supersede. Permuda Island is located within the town limits of North Topsail Beach where hunting and trapping are prohibited.
  - Reserve site brochure translated to Spanish – Both an English and Spanish version of the Permuda Island Reserve are available on the Reserve’s website. A QR code with a link to the website will be produced.
    - Jan Farmer commented that the QR codes could be used on rules/boundary signs at the site and that the code could be shared with Paddle NC concessions or posted at Onslow County Recreation water access site #2. She also mentioned that bigger boundary markers would be better at Permuda Island.
    - Kerri Allen mentioned that the QR code and a sign could be placed at the NCCF property and water access site at Morris Landing.

#### **Roundtable discussion**

- Kerri Allen commented that the NCCF large scale marine debris clean-up is still happening and that large amounts of debris are being removed from the environment. NCCF uses funds to hire commercial fishermen to carry out the work. Most of the debris is from docks or marine construction. NCCF has a completed guide for homeowners on how to build resilient and storm ready docks. They also have partnered with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to promote an abandoned and derelict vessel program across the coast.
- Jillian Schuler mentioned she may soon cover a different region with the OSA Underwater Archaeology Branch, it could be possible that Will Nassif would be the new representative to cover Pender County.

**Public Comment** - None.

#### **Final Comments, Review of Action Items, and Wrap-up**

- Ben will reach out to Sam Holberg to inquire about a presentation on Sam's research for an upcoming LAC meeting.
- Ben will work with the Reserve systems Communications Specialist on creating a QR code for the site that will link users to the site brochure, and safety and rules information.
- Staff will communicate with LAC members about upcoming LAC term limits and open application period for new members, as well as the following reviews: LAC Operating Procedures, N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:55 a.m.