

NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council
April 30, 2025
Double Tree New Bern Riverfront
New Bern, NC

Attendance

Robert “Bobby” Outten (Chair)	David Kellam
Daniel Adams	Mike Lopazanski
Daniel Brinn	Megan Morgan
Sandy Cross	Kris Noble
Ryan Davenport	Spencer Rogers
Webb Fuller	John Spruil
Ivy Ingram	Dave Weaver

Call to Order

Bobby Outten called the meeting to order with 14 members in attendance.

The CRAC elected officers and re-elected Bobby Outten as Chair and Spencer Rogers and Webb Fuller as co-Vice Chairs. There were originally three things on the CRAC's agenda, but the sentinel site item was pulled from the agenda with the intent to reschedule at a later date.

Artificial Turf Grass Updates

Jonathan Lucas provided part two of his presentation on artificial turf grass in the 30’ buffer. The history of the buffer rule was discussed and the allowable exceptions. The CRAC also discussed environmental concerns. Three options for CRAC consideration were presented and include 1. No longer regulate turf grass in the buffer, 2. Keep the status quo of regulating turf grass in the buffer, or 3. look at rule amendments to allow turf grass within the buffer. After discussion, a unanimous vote of the CRAC was to recommend keeping the rules as is and not recommend changes to the buffer rules.

Shorelock: Staff Report

Cameron Luck provided an update on the Staffs meetings with resource agencies and Shorelock. The meeting with the agencies resulted in a determination there is little information and science to back the use of this product. The next steps will be an additional interagency discussion and provide that feedback to Shorelock to get a better sense of what the State would need in order to consider this product's use in North Carolina. No action was taken on this matter.

Public Comment

Commissioner Bryan stated at the CRAC meeting there were comments received from Brunswick County about LPOs having difficulty with property owners installing artificial turf grass along canal lots in the buffer. The question was raised by Commissioner Andrew whether the CRC should consider the installation in different shoreline types? Chair Outten

stated the CRAC was asked to look at artificial turf and its installation in the buffer. The CRAC believes the buffer serves a protective purpose and the artificial turf should not be an exception. There is nothing to keep a property owner from asking for a rule change or a variance to allow this installation on a location by location basis. Chair Cahoon stated that even when permits are denied, there are not enough LPOs to enforce this installation. Chair Outten stated there is nothing in the rule that states that artificial turf is not landscaping. It could be helpful to explicitly state that in the rule. Chair Cahoon stated an amendment to add this definition to the rule could be one thing to consider. Commissioner Baldwin stated this is similar to what the Division of Water Quality went through with stormwater and the allowance of permeable pavement with infiltration. Commissioner Emory stated his takeaway from the discussion was that artificial grass can be permeable, but it also allows sediments and pollutants into the water. When there are natural plants in the buffer, they can process the pollutants. Chair Cahoon stated if Brunswick County wishes to make changes, they can bring something forward.

Adjourn

With no further business the Council adjourned