

NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council
November 13, 2024
Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall
Ocean Isle Beach, NC

Attendance

Robert “Bobby” Outten (Chair)	David Weaver
Spencer Rogers (Co Vice-Chair)	Candy Bohmert
John Farrell	Kyle Brewer
Davit Hewett	Webb Fuller
David Kellam	Debbie Smith

Call to Order

Bobby Outten called the meeting to order with 10 members in attendance.

Permitting of Sentinel Sites

The CRAC discussed Sea Grant’s deployment of sentinels on the beach during storms to monitor and get data. Jonathan Howell presented current permitting pathway options. The permitting system does not currently allow a streamlined permitting process in terms of timing and adjacent property owner notifications. The CRAC asked staff to bring back rule language that would allow a Minor Permit, issued by the LPO, that does not require adjacent property owner notifications only notification to the property owner where the sentinel would be placed. Additionally, the CRAC would like a definition for “research purposes”.

Artificial Turf in the 30’ Buffer

The next issue was artificial turf in the AEC on the waterways and near the ocean. Jonathan Lucas provided an overview of the current CRC rules and how they would apply to turf grass placement in the Ocean Hazard System AEC and Coastal Shoreline AECs. There is rule language that creates issues in allowing this installation. The CRAC asked staff to bring back the pros and cons to allowing the installation of this material, including information from manufacturers and researchers to learn more.

Local Permitting Officer Program

Kyle Brewer discussed the Towns of Topsail, North Topsail and Surf City’s issues with the Local Permit Officer Program. Currently the State administers that program for them. These Towns have concerns that because the Minor Permit program only generates about \$25,000 in revenue that isn’t enough to pay a full-time person in the Town to administer the program. Staff stated that the fees had not been increased since the 1980s. The CRAC asked staff to look at the fee schedule and work with these three towns to see if there are any solutions available to assist these programs.

Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

The last item on the CRAC’s agenda was an update given by Ania Bayers on the NOAA 5-year 309 assessment. The timeframe that is important for the CRC to know is the public comment period will be February – March 2025, and then in June there will be a final document turned in

to NOAA and then in June 2026 the Division can begin the implementation. This presentation was for information purposes only and no action was required. Sheila Holman added that at this time there is a survey that is available that can be responded to provide input on the nine critical areas that are being looked at and is open until late November 2024.

Adjourn

With no further business the Council adjourned