

NC COASTAL RESOURCES COMMISSION (CRC)

June 18, 2026

DoubleTree New Bern Riverfront

The minutes are a summary of agenda items and associated votes/actions and are the written record to accompany the official record which is the livestream recording found on the NC Coastal Resources Commission's webpage (<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/division-coastal-management>).

Present CRC Members

Renee Cahoon, Chair
Neal Andrew, 1st Vice-chair
Larry Baldwin
D.R. Bryan
Bob Emory
Jordan Hennessy
Robert High
Steve King
Lauren Salter
Steve Shuttleworth
Earl Smith

Present from the Office of the Attorney General

Sarah Zambon

Present from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the General Counsel

Christine Goebel

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

CRC Chair Renee Cahoon called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. on June 18, 2026, reminding the Commissioners of the need to state any conflicts due to Executive Order Number 34 and the State Government Ethics Act. The State Government Ethics Act mandates that at the beginning of each meeting the Chair remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Commission. The Chair requested that if any member knows of a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest, they state when the roll is called. Commissioners Sheila Holman and Robbie Yates were absent. Commissioners Hennessy and King arrived at 11:10 a.m. No conflicts were reported. Based upon this roll call Chair Cahoon declared a quorum.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Cahoon recognized Kathie Dello, DEQ Assistant Secretary for Resilience, and thanked her for her attendance. Assistant Secretary Dello thanked the Commission for their collegiality and respect for one another and DCM Staff even when there are disagreements. North Carolinians in the 20 coastal counties benefit from the CRC's respectful dialogue and constructive debate. On

behalf of Secretary Wilson, we at DEQ thank the Commission for its commitment to protecting this beautiful coast. North Carolina is fortunate to have some of the best coastal scientists in the country and we are grateful that they have chosen to serve on the CRC's Science Panel. The Panel's report is an independent assessment of what we know about hardened structures and some of the tradeoffs, both positive and negative. This report will provide a baseline and understanding for us all to use as we move forward.

MINUTES

Larry Baldwin made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2026, Coastal Resources Commission meeting. Robert High seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Cahoon, Andrew, Baldwin, Bryan, High, Salter, Shuttleworth, Smith) (Hennessy, King absent for vote).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Director Miller gave the following report:

We have officially entered the Atlantic hurricane season, coupled with an El Niño that has the potential to strengthen to a Super El Niño and cause significant shifts in our weather patterns through the summer, fall and winter. While El Niños are generally understood to bring wetter but less stormy conditions to our coast, we all know the devastation that just one storm can bring, and we should all remain vigilant. I'll quickly run through a few more updates.

Planning & Resiliency

Since the last CRC meeting the Division certified land use plans for the Towns of Peletier and Holly Ridge.

Budget/Legislative

As you are probably aware there has been some legislative activity of interest to the Commission. Two Senate bills, S1001 and S1009, were voted out of the Senate Agriculture, Environment and Energy Committee yesterday. S1001 would make changes to adjacent riparian property owner notifications, transfer regulatory oversight of the reserves from the Department to the Commission, clarify certain permitting requirements for upland marina basins, and appropriate \$800,000 to the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund and allow those funds to be used for the permitting, construction, or repair of any of the terminal groins permitted under the pilot projects allowed under CAMA. As you know, CAMA does not currently allow State funds to be used on these structures. The bill now moves to the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee. S1009 would eliminate the State's prohibition on new permanent erosion control structures on the oceanfront, giving the CRC the authority to develop rules for permitting them. The bill would also appropriate \$850,000 to the UNC Collaboratory at Chapel Hill to be used to update the Beach & Inlet Management Plan (BIMP) that was last updated 10 years ago. This bill also now goes to the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget.

Conclusion

Your August meeting will be a busy one as we have several rulemaking items to bring back to you. In closing I'd like to add my sincere thanks to the Science Panel for the tremendous amount of work in preparing this report and presentation. This is a truly impressive group, and our State is incredibly fortunate that they are willing to serve.

SCIENCE PANEL/OCEANFRONT HARDENED STRUCTURES DISCUSSION

On behalf of the Science Panel, Dr. Laura Moore, Science Panel Chair, provided a comprehensive review of the effects of hard structures on sandy, open ocean coastlines, including case studies, policies, ecological impacts, and management recommendations.

After discussion, Chair Cahoon directed the Commission to provide any questions or interest in other case studies to the Division. The Division will provide the follow-up requests to the Science Panel for their review and response. This item will be on the August agenda for continued discussion.

PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENT

(written comments read aloud by DCM staff) Chris Squire, homeowner in Emerald Isle, provided comments against the proposed Inlet Hazard Area rule changes as they are overly conservative, inconsistent and inequitable with their effect on property owners.

Brian Harris, representing the Buxton Civic Association, requested the Commission support a responsible approach by backing the legislative packages allowing shoreline erosion alternatives advancing in Raleigh.

Clark Wright, representing himself, stated all oceanfront development is hardened structure. While this issue is surrounding erosion control structures. During the prohibition on hardened structures there have been many variances with many methodologies for having flexibility. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) needs to be amended to better address some of these issues. The Legislature needs to think about making changes to the prohibition on hardened structures.

LEGAL UPDATE

Update on Litigation of Interest to the Commission (CRC 25-25)

Sarah Zambon

Sarah Zambon reviewed the legal update as outlined in her memo to the CRC May 28, 2026 .

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Emory asked for a presentation that addresses barrier island dynamics at a future meeting addressing the islands' dependency on overwash to maintain elevation. Additionally, it would be helpful to have a presentation from NCDOT regarding their conversations and plans to address the issues facing Highway NC-12. Commissioner Bryan asked for a presentation on how other states address oceanfront hardened structures. Commissioner Baldwin stated the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHHP) is being updated and it will be coming to the CRC for review and approval later in the fall.

With no further business, the CRC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tancred Miller, Executive Secretary

Angela Willis, Recording Secretary