NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council Archdale Building Raleigh, NC July 23, 2003 Meeting Summary

Attendance

Bob Shupe, Vice-Chair Gary Mercer Bill Morrison Joseph Beck Gordon Cashin Jim Mulligan Spencer Rogers Carlton Davenport Lester Simpson Don Davenport Tom Ellis Mike Street Gary Ferguson (for Ginger Webster) Ray Sturza Webb Fuller Penny Tysinger Harrison Marshall David Weaver

Council Call to Order

Bob Shupe called the meeting to order at 9:00AM with 18 members in attendance. The Council had a condensed business meeting in order to accommodate a planned field trip.

NC Wetlands Restoration Program – Site Visit

The CRAC watched a brief presentation from Ron Ferrell and Mac Haupt, from the NC Wetlands Restoration Program. The presentation set the stage for a field visit to one of the Program's stream restoration sites in Franklin County.

The site visit was intended to give members a more thorough appreciation of the costs, benefits and usefulness of restoration as a mitigation tool. The experience illustrated the theory behind restoration as one mitigation option, and the practical on-the-ground potential of the science. The visit allowed Council members to make concrete connections between restoration, a watershed approach to planning, and the downstream implications for coastal habitat.

The Wetlands Restoration Program focuses its efforts in the middle Neuse area – roughly between Goldsboro and New Bern – as this is where their science tells them their efforts are most efficient. As such, the Program has completed only about 250 acres of wetlands restoration in the CAMA counties, with the large majority of that at one site in Carteret County.

Ferrell mentioned that the Wetlands Restoration Program will be folded in to the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) within the next few weeks, and that the EEP will use a watershed approach to mitigation, focusing initially on preservation as they continue to improve the science of restoration.

Old Business/New Business

The Council adopted two resolutions to bring to the CRC:

First, the CRAC voted unanimously in favor of returning to a six meeting per year schedule. Second, the Council voted unanimously in favor of having the CRAC meeting the day before the CRC meeting so that CRAC members can again fully participate in the

entire CRC meeting. Shupe offered to present these resolutions at the "OLD/NEW BUSINESS" portion of the CRC's agenda.

The Agenda subcommittee discussed potential agenda items for future meetings, including a variety of presentations relevant to the CHPP, and the possibility of another related field trip.

Adjourn

With no further business, the site visit and meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.