

Living Shoreline Task Force of the SC Floodwater Commission

January 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Unapproved

Attendees: John Cleveland, Governor's office; Tom Mullikin, Chairman SCFC; Elizabeth Von Kolnitz, SCDHEC OCRM; Sharon Richardson, Executive Director, Audubon; Paul Gayes, Coastal Carolina Univ.; Nicole Elko, Elko Coastal Consulting & South Carolina Beach Advocates; Rob Young, Western Carolina Univ.

The meeting was **called to order** at 2:30 p.m. EST with several announcements by Tom Mullikin including: Feb 8, Charleston Landing, next commission meeting.

Mr. Mullikin recommended the **nomination of task force** of Paul Gayes as chair and Sharon Richardson as Secretary. Nicole Elko made a motion to nominate Paul Gayes as chair and Sharron Richardson as Secretary, motion seconded by Elizabeth Von Kolnitz. The motion was unanimously approved.

Committee held a discussion of living shoreline white paper as follows.

Paul Gayes summarized his concerns as follows:

- "Living Shorelines" as traditionally practiced tend to be small-scale reactive efforts. For the goals of the committee- perhaps flood plains overall should be considered as living shoreline features and functions.
- A meaningful part of the challenge (rising sea level and flooding) is ultimately influenced by energy policy and portfolio. It would be worrisome to target certain protection levels in one policy area and promote changing the risks and decreasing the protections afforded by those efforts from other activities and policy areas.

Elizabeth Von Kolnitz described the DHEC Living Shoreline Working Group whose goals include the development of success criteria for evaluating the performance of living shorelines, monitoring of existing living shorelines, establishment a regulatory definition of living shorelines, and the development of specific regulatory project standards for the permitting of living shoreline projects in South Carolina. Elizabeth mentioned that the timeline of this committee might be a bit fast considering the timeline of the DHEC task force which aims to have regulations ready for start of promulgation season in 2020. This Working Group has already compiled a lot of information, data, papers, which Elizabeth will pull together. She will also invite Denise Sanger, SCDNR to present to our Working Group.

Nicole Elko asked whether our Working Groups' focus is on estuarine shorelines or also open ocean coasts because the white paper includes aspects of both coastal systems. It was also questioned whether "up the river" shorelines should also be included. The group agreed that while the Working Group focus is on estuarine shorelines, we should also mention beachfront lessons learned and include up river shorelines.

The task force held a discussion on our planning horizon with most members agreeing on an 8-10 year horizon. There was general agreement on the need to look ahead and identify the spatial scales of solutions (i.e., short-, medium-, long-term).

Case studies/pilot projects such as the Folly Beach Marshfront Management Plan (Nicole Elko), the Crab Bank at the mouth of Shem Creek (Sharon Richardson) were mentioned.

Do Outs:

1. Elizabeth Von Kolnitz will lead the effort to pull write ups and existing information together for our next meeting. Please send your papers/suggestions to her.
2. Paul Gayes to enlist student volunteers to assist the Task Force.
3. All members to complete a doodle poll to identify a face-to-face meeting time in the next 2 weeks in advance of our Feb 8 full commission meeting.
4. Goals of the upcoming meeting will be to create a presentation for Feb 8 meeting and identify one or two deliverables for September 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. EST.

Meeting minutes submitted by Nicole Elko on January 22, 2019.