

**Living Shoreline Steering Committee
NC Division of Coastal Management
Morehead City, NC 28557
Jan 17, 2019**

Attendees: Trish Murphey (APNEP), Lexia Weaver (NCCF), Todd Miller (NCCF), Casey Knight (DMF), Whitney Jenkins (NERR), Rebecca Elin (NERR), Daniel Govoni (DCM), Jimmy Johnson (APNEP), Rachel Bisesi (NCCF),

Phone Attendees: Reide Corbett (ECU), Erin Fleckenstein (NCCF), Anne Deaton (DMF), Emory Wellman (ECU), Devon Eulie (UNC-W), Lora Eddy (TNC), Suzanne Simon (RAE)

10:00 Welcome, Introductions and Purpose

Trish welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the latest draft of the working strategy document, and get updates from the various subcommittees, on the National Living Shoreline Workshop and get on regulation changes.

10:15 Draft Living Shoreline Working Strategy

The group discussed edits made to the draft working strategy, and Trish explained that most changes since the last meeting include the removal of MOU language. The group discussed keeping the strategy a living document where changes can be made as needed. Lexia suggested using Google Drive to track changes between users and offered to set up the google drive and share with everyone. Everyone agreed.

The group then discussed other changes that should be included in the working strategy such as operational details of the steering committee, setting goals and actions to be accomplished within a certain time frame. The group then discussed other edits that were received from the group

The steering committee also discussed whether to continue to include Phragmites management within this committee. The group went through options for consideration of how best to address Phragmites management and came to the conclusion that it may be a better fit under the APNEP Invasive Species Implementation Team where it could be made a priority. Trish will discuss with APNEP staff. There was also further discussion about communication and the need for a liaison between the two teams.

The group also noted that there is no implementation of actions within the working strategy or the action document. For example, how many living shorelines per year and what things do we want to implement and how to track progress. Discussion continued on how and what to track. The group concluded that an implementation sub-committee should be formed or else include it with the incentives committee. Lexia and Trish will work together to combine incentives and implementation within the incentives subcommittee.

ACTION: Lexia and Trish will set up the google drive and share with the group

ACTION: Todd, Lexia, Trish and Rebecca will go through the working strategy document and the action document to develop a vision and better direction for the committee

ACTION: Trish will discuss with APNEP staff about the possibility of the Invasive Team take on Phragmites management in regards to living shorelines.

ACTION: Lexia and Trish will develop a sub-committee to combine implementation with incentives.

10:45 Subcommittee Updates

Whitney provided an update from the Education and Outreach Subcommittee. The subcommittee reviewed existing outreach efforts and discussed reducing any redundancy among organizations. They also discussed reaching out to contractors, eco-tours, and educating towns at town meetings. They discussed upcoming workshops and brainstormed on other target audiences such as nurseries. Devon suggested the possibility of offering a one credit course at UNC-W.

Devon provided an update from the Research Subcommittee. This group discussed before/after Florence/Michael work being done. The group also discussed the development of a survey of property owner perceptions. The steering committee was very encouraged to hear about the work being done and talked about how to create a more cohesive message to the public about living shorelines.

Lexia provided an update on the Incentives subgroup. Although there has been no formal meeting she has been working internally with partners (CCAP) and are receiving and applying for cost-share grants. Other incentives to consider are providing technical how-to consultations, compensatory mitigation incentives and contacting mitigation companies. The steering committee talked about the new bill at the federal level that will be a funding mechanism and the Governor's executive order where resilience and living shorelines could be included. This can also be good language to include in the working strategy. Other grant opportunities may come from the DWR grant fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

11:30 National Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop

Suzanne Simon with Restore America's Estuaries provided an update on the fall National Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop. The workshop steering committee has had a number of calls to develop a rough agenda. The group is working to identify topics and speakers. She is also waiting on final contracts from the New Bern Convention center but still plan to move forward with an Oct 2019 meeting. She talked about the large field component and the need for trip leaders. The plan is to split into smaller field trip groups to visit local living shorelines. Agenda ideas offered to her from this steering committee included compensatory mitigation, regulatory reforms, training for professionals and contractors, creating consumer demand as well as several other ideas. A suggestion for a plenary was the idea of current conditions of living shorelines and the basic health of the overall estuary.

11:45 Regulatory Update

Daniel provided a regulatory update. DCM has had permit for marsh sills since 2005, but there have been a lot of requirements. There was an ongoing effort to remove coordination requirements and make consistent with bulkheads. The nationwide permit 54 was supposed to help streamline permitting of living shorelines but it did not help NC. DCM and Coastal Federation created a stakeholder group and worked with USACE resulting in a proposed regional general permit. This removed coordination requirements, and has been adopted by CRC and is now in the rule making to be adopted. The General Assembly gave authority to have a temporary rule processed. Now there is an equal playing field for all shoreline stabilization methods. Suzanne suggested that a discussion about the nationwide permit nationwide 54 would be helpful in the workshop.

12:00 Definitions

Daniel and Trish worked on living shoreline definitions after previous meeting and developed a list of definitions for the Atlantic coast including DCM's definition. They are similar amongst all states- erosion control, stabilizing shoreline, maintain connections between upland, native materials, ecosystem processes. Differences were that some states talk about long term protection, strategic placement, different types (natural, hybrid, structural), approved engineered structures. It was suggested that we start with the DCM definition and could tweak it using other definitions if needed. Everyone was in agreement to stick with the current DCM definition and to incorporate it into the working strategy.

12:30 Adjourn

The next meeting will be May 15 with agenda topics including updates on the strategy document, an update on the Technology Transfer workshop, an update on Phragmites coordination.

ACTION: Subcommittees to look at action list and see if there is anything to take off, prioritize, or add to the list.

ACTION: Working Strategy Sub-Committee to add expectations of subcommittees to strategy document.