

Living Shoreline Steering Committee NC

February 24, 2021; 10 am - 12 pm

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89627046757?pwd=UkRqY05Jb1Jd1VKUWZXSUV1ZjBUZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 2704 6757, Passcode: 037529

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Agenda

Attendees: Lexia Weaver, Trish Murphey, Spencer Rogers, Whitney Jenkins, Daniel Govoni, Rebecca Ellin, Rachel Gittman, Bill Cary, Mary-Margaret McKinney, Erin Fleckenstein, Anne Deaton, Carolyn Currin, Martin Posey, Mary Herring, Jimmy Johnson, Todd Miller, Rachel Bisesi

10:00 Welcome, Introductions and Purpose - Trish Murphey

10:10 Implementation of Living Shoreline Strategy in upcoming Oyster BluePrint - Lexia Weaver

- Highlighted group spreadsheet with action items of oyster blueprint included
 - to use as reference document for committee. We can start with 2021, but can be a 5 year plan if there are ongoing projects. A working document. Please add in information on your projects that fit.
 - Added in another tab for site-ideas for wave studies for Rachel Gittman.
 - Will also add a living shoreline master list for permitted living shorelines tab.
 - Group document, so feel free to add columns or information
- Group thoughts:
 - Anne: may be others who are not involved in Steering Committee who need to help fill out spreadsheet.
 - Lexia: yes, that is where DCM and Daniel can help.
 - Daniel: Yes, something Brandon and I have been talking about. Spreadsheet is helpful. Is a priority for them and will be working on it.
 - Lexia: We can merge with Brandon's spreadsheet.
 - Anne: also wanted the information for CHIPP, filling in the spreadsheet as soon as the permit is issued may be the best way to do it.
 - Rebecca: Supports the list. Important to make sure we are all operating from same source of information so we can be consistent. Need to have a conversation about the various lists and what the process is moving forward.
 - Todd: from a policy standpoint, we talked about upping the percentage of living shorelines over time compared to bulkheads. Would be good to see if the bulkhead was really the best option in places where that is chosen over a living shoreline. If there is some way to determine whether the bulkhead was the best option ?

- Lexia: would it make sense to have a similar list for bulkheads, maybe coordinates or number of how many issued per year.
- Daniel: how far can field reps go promoting living shorelines from a legal perspective? Advocacy. We aren't to the point of mandating that people shouldn't be building a bulkhead here..still up to property owners to make final decisions. Knowing how the property owners decided to make their decision would be helpful.
- Rachel Gittman: new project funded by ECU. looking at compiling data on living shorelines. One of main questions, what is the decision making process that property owners are going through? Funding to support a grad student, will follow up. Have specific questions related to this topic and would love to facilitate this data gathering.
- Rebecca: list of questions that we want answers to may be a good thing for us to compile.
- **Core group to talk this effort through: Lexia, Rachel Gittman, Daniel, Rebecca, Brandon**

10:40 Subcommittee Report-Outs and 2021 Outlook

- **Research - Rachel Gittman**

- Research subcommittee now being led by Rachel Gittman
- First meeting planned for March
- Trying to track all ongoing products and projects. A google sheet going around for researchers to fill in efforts as well as products (manuscripts, publications etc.) linked into the accomplishments spreadsheet, not exhaustive, is publicly available to anyone who is interested. Does not represent currently pending proposals, but can be added once funded.
- Rachel Gittman and partners currently working on several projects that are storm focused, projects 4 & 5 in spreadsheet, surveying LS after hurricanes. Partnership between UNCW and ECU, Duke. LS net accretion during storm events, are seeing loss of elevation in natural marsh post storm, larger events are not necessarily driving loss in elevation at LS sites.
 - New project with USACE to look at relief structure ... protective capability and oyster recruitment, marsh recruitment. 3 year project.
 - Spencer: Does Monitoring includes wave gauges?
 - Yes. built about a dozen wave gauges (following technique from Mississippi St.) just starting that work now. Hoping to gather a good amount of wave energy data.
 - Lexia: we have some higher relief sites just put in if you need more sites to study. Todd offered up living shoreline

site at new federation property along Bogue Sound.

- Coordinating with others to adopt same monitoring processes to broaden the study.
 - Spencer: positive feedback about Mississippi structures.
 - Anne: may want to look in Cape Fear River, because of large ship wakes. Martin: agrees that looking into sites along Cape Fear River is a good idea.
 - Rachel Gittman: thinks Devon may have some sites in Cape Fear and she'll bring it up. Spencer; project in Southport would be a better site than Brunswick Town. RG: will put a spreadsheet together with a list of sites and willing to see what others think will be the best locations. Bill Carey: displacement of ships will have to be assessed, is in crosshairs of analysis yet to be done by ____ authority.
 - Carolyn: wave energy model used in the past has been updated in ArcGIS...will touch base with Rachel Gittman and anyone else who is interested.
- **Incentives/Implementation - Lexia Weaver**
 - Build 3 miles of living shorelines is the goal, have added information into spreadsheet
 - Mostly working with contractors, not volunteers due to virus. May be able to hold volunteer efforts once virus calms down. Were fortunate to have grant funding to hire contractors.
 - Requested funding to continue cost-share projects for private homeowners. Applied for funding to do a project at Fort Macon State Park.
 - Martin Posey- just got funding to do a project at Fort Caswell.
 - **Education and Outreach - Whitney Jenkins**
 - Finalizing marine contractor training, April 22, 29, and May 26. Coastal Reserve, Coastal Federation & Sea Grant
 - Todd: Letter of encouragement from Braxton to marine contractors may be helpful
 - Coastal Federation updates- new living shoreline email that people can email for more information, signage at demonstration sites that direct to more information, media outreach, and bitmoji google classroom.
 - NC Coastal Reserve: Watershed Game- living shoreline component added to new update.

11:15 {10 min. Break}

11:25 **Regulatory Updates - Daniel Govoni**

- No major updates:
 - Everything going smoothly with General Permit, and there has been an increase in permits issued.
 - Any feedback from group to take back to DCM?:
 - Spencer: could you poll field staff to make sure there aren't any issues that we could help with? To get GP had to make the case that other office inspections weren't needed, ask if any field staff are facing something that we could help with and recommend what to look for, what not to look for etc.
 - Todd: any comments from someone in private businesses?
 - Mary-Margaret: have great turnaround, usually get permits within 2 weeks, get good feedback.
 - Only question is that it's \$200 per landowner even when there are multiple landowners building a continuous living shoreline together, separate permit for each landowner.
 - Daniel: permit goes to deed. Would have to go through major permit process if combined them. Co-applicants can become a legal issue if a property gets sold.
 - Lexia: would be great to increase that 500 ft. number, if we want more and more living shorelines.
 - Spencer: if we ask for increase other stabilization may want increase as well. Daniel agrees.
 - Todd: is there a way to help these larger agencies (DOT, military projects etc.) with the process? If too complicated, may deter agencies.

11:35 Accomplishments Document Discussion - Trish Murphey

- Got a lot of input on accomplishments document, has stayed internal, any ideas on how to make this document more useful? Do we want to do something like this every 5 years? How would you like to move forward on reporting the accomplishments that have been made on living shorelines?
 - Rebecca: checking in on the time interval would be helpful. Is a lot for an external audience to work through. Having a 1 or 2 page, simple, graphical document would be beneficial.
 - Todd agrees with Rebecca. Still in the business of encouraging people to use living shorelines. Having someone focused on putting this together is the challenge, maybe having an intern help put this together would be helpful.
 - Rachel Bisesi: having subcommittees identify major accomplishments in bullet points with a specific word count is how we made an annual report for the NC Marine Debris Action Plan. Might be a good method to keep it concise in future.

- Whitney: We could create something that is good for the current work, and then look over and make minor tweaks throughout the years since some things won't change as much over the years.
- Rebecca: great opportunity to focus on a major project, testimonials, case studies etc. helpful to think about audiences and what we want to get across to them.
- Lexia: this particular document served as a way to help compile information internally.
- **Todd, Lexia, Trish, Rachel Bisesi get together to make a plan for the accomplishments.**
- Rebecca: would be nice to release with National Estuaries Week in September.

11:55 Future Meeting Dates

- May 27, August 26, November 18 (10 am - 12 pm)
 - *August and November meetings during Marine Fisheries commission meetings

Other Updates or Thoughts:

- Carolyn and Anne: Expanding living shoreline mapper to other coastal counties may be helpful. Spencer: skeptical that we have enough information to accurately map that. Carolyn: limited to living shorelines as defined by general permit, something to talk about whether it's helpful or not.

12:00 Adjourn