

FINAL

Living Shoreline Steering Committee

NC Coastal Federation

Newport, NC 28570

July 25, 2018

Attendees: Trish Murphey (APNEP), Lexia Weaver (NCCF), Todd Miller (NCCF), Brian Boutin (TNC), Spencer Rogers (NCSG), Bill Crowell (APNEP), Carolyn Currin (NOAA), Rachel Gittman (ECU), Devon Eulie (UNC-W), Casey Knight (DMF), Brian Silliman (Duke), Whitney Jenkins (NERR), Daniel Govoni (DCM), Jimmy Johnson (APNEP), Paul Wojoski (DWR), Karen Higgins (DWR), Rachel Bisesi (NCCF), Larry Baldwin (CC Shore keeper)

Phone Attendees: Reide Corbett (ECU), Tracy Skrabal (NCCF), Erin Fleckinsteen (NCCF), Dean Carpenter (APNEP), Heather Jennings (APNEP), Tim Ellis (APNEP)

10:00 Welcome, Introductions and Purpose

Trish welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to get everyone together involved in living shorelines in one place in order to communicate and collaborate on the different actions listed in the Living Shoreline Action Document (action document) provided. She noted there was some overlap of actions between different groups and through this committee, replication or redundancy of some of these actions may be avoided. We also want to discuss how to begin developing a *Phragmites* management strategy

10:15 Draft MOU

The group discussed whether an MOU was the appropriate way to move forward in establishing a framework for what the committee plans to accomplish and to help guide them. After discussion from several members, it was decided to not establish an MOU because of the intense review required by the chain of command of the different agencies/organizations/universities. It will now be called a **working strategy**.

Further discussion revolved around regulation and permitting issues and why this was not included in the document. Daniel explained that DCM had gone as far as they could at this point and is in the hands of the USACE. If they are able to do a regional general permit, DCM will go to the commission and adopt it. However, this committee will be mindful of permitting and regulation issues for the future and will be included as part of future agendas as an update from those on the committee who are involved with regulations. It was also suggested that someone from the USACE be invited to future meetings.

Rachel G. suggested adding a social science component to the strategy because of some research involving people.

Action: Trish will reach out to USACE and invite them to a meeting.

Action: Everyone will send edits to whole group for the MOU/working strategy document.

Action: Rachel G. will add edits to address the social science component.

Action: Trish will edit educational incentives to reflect continuing education credits.

The committee discussed the *Phragmites* portion of the MOU/Strategy document and what is the main goal for *Phragmites*; is it containment and slow down expansion or is it to reduce overall coverage? There appears to be little coordinated effort to address *Phragmites* even though it is a huge issue and whether it might be better to focus this committee's efforts only on living shorelines.

Tim shared with the committee that APNEP is co-leading the NC Aquatic Species Management Plan steering committee who is working on a comprehensive management plan. *Phragmites* is a high priority species and mapping is a priority. This group is a diverse group of invasive species experts. It would be good to engage some of those members for participation on this *Phragmites* subcommittee. There was a workshop on invasive species in early 2000 and the Coastal Federation also held a *Phragmites* workshop in 2017. It was recommended to get the notes and presentations from the *Phragmites* workshop. There are also students that we may want to also include who are researching mapping techniques.

Action: Trish/Lexia will get *Phragmites* workshop notes and presentations and make available to Brian S. and the steering committee.

10:45 Actions of the Steering Committee

The committee began discussions about the action document. The overall vision for the steering committee is to form sub-committees. These subcommittees are: Education and Outreach, Research, Incentives and *Phragmites* management and are based on the action categories within the action document. These subcommittees would be more like action teams that will bring back items to the steering committee for input and refinement. This will also be a good way to connect with others and collaborate. As other topics emerge specifically, there may be need for additional subcommittees. It may be helpful to have goals for the steering committee to help the subcommittees know what their goals will be.

The group brainstormed about incentives such as BMPs or mitigation options, CCAP, NOAA resiliency, CRFL funding, and state appropriations to build momentum politically. It was suggested that the Incentives subcommittee look at grant opportunities and could also focus on all the different ways living shorelines could be funded, as well as funding for research and/or demonstration. This subcommittee would be called Incentives and Opportunities.

Action: Whitney to develop and lead the Education and Outreach subcommittee

Action: Carolyn to develop and lead the Research subcommittee

Action: Lexia to develop and lead the Incentives and Opportunities subcommittee

Action: Brian S. to find a lead for the *Phragmites* subcommittee

The committee discussed what people may think that limit living shorelines and whether it is the permitting process, peoples' attitudes, skepticism on long term performance, or property owners having already made up their minds based on contractors. Property owners need to know about costs, maintenance costs, damage/storm repair costs. Cost information from other states will be useful. Workshops will also be more effective with cost comparison information.

The committee discussed the need to develop a definition of living shorelines and what limits we may want to allow to fit in that term. There are some projects that are not what we would call living shorelines. However, we do not want to limit thinking out of the box, retrofitting, ways to rehabilitate sea walls, etc. Everyone has a different image of living shoreline in their minds.

Action: Trish and Daniel will compile different living shoreline definitions for the committee to discuss.

11:30 National Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop

Todd provided an overview about the Restore America's Estuaries hosting the 3rd workshop in October or early November 2019, in New Bern. DCM will co-sponsor and APNEP is considering sponsoring. A steering committee will be put together made up of out of state and in-state members to formalize the agenda. The plan is to incorporate more of a field component into the workshop, with multiple trips incorporated, and instead of talking with PowerPoint, the presentations will be in the field. Potential sites include Pivers Island, Carrot Island, Jones Island, Private Shorelines, Community College, Sandbar Oyster Company are some ideas. A reception could be here in MHC instead of New Bern. Ideas discussed were:

- Work in groups of 50 people, rotate through stations etc.
 - Pivers Island would be a good site, Carolyn happy to try and facilitate that.
 - Rachel G and Devon discussed integrating camera and time lapse of different sites, make it more media diverse.
 - There are lots of technology techniques to tie in to the presentations aside from ppt.
 - Logistically boating people will be complicated.
- CERF workshop is usually in November, make sure we do not overlap with other conferences. CERF will be meeting Nov 3-7, 2019
- NERRS annual meeting is tentatively Nov 18-22, 2019.
- Other topics that should not be missed:
 - getting regional coverage
 - Emerging options for retrofitting hardened shorelines. We need more information about non-standard methods, get people together to talk about those options.
 - Low salinity to no salinity living shorelines would be a good topic as well.
 - Promote living shorelines as a product. Effectiveness committee, accounting, permission- patenting, time from production to use, marketing- people's perception and understanding of product and costs (education addresses that).

Could get someone with a business background to assist with this. Education and outreach becomes critical in the marketing plan.

12:00 Roundtable Discussion – Next Steps

Trish reviewed the highlights of the meeting including not having an MOU but to have a working strategy. She also reviewed leads for the subcommittees and to have them meet before the next steering committee meeting. The question was asked as far as a goal for the steering committee. Is the goal to promote living shorelines or improve the management of how we treat our estuarine shorelines? It was determined to be the latter. Rachel sent Trish a goal to be incorporated into the strategy. The goal is: "To support sustainable management of estuarine shorelines in North Carolina." The next meeting will be in January and May of 2019. Webinar and conference calls for next meetings will be available. Mornings work well for meetings.

Action: Everyone contact Todd if interested in being 2019 workshop volunteers (Devon and Rachel)

Action: Subcommittee leaders will gather their groups and meet and then they will report back on efforts in January.

Action: Trish will send a doodle poll for next two meetings in January and May for 2019.

12:30 Lunch

1:00 Adjourn