

Living Shoreline Steering Committee NC

May 27, 2021; 10 am - 12 pm

Attendees: Lexia Weaver, Rachel Bisesi, Whitney Jenkins, Spencer Rogers, Martin Posey, Mary-Margaret McKinney, Rachel Gittman, Morgan Rudd, Rebecca Ellin, Todd Miller, Anne Deaton, Erin Fleckenstein, Colin Mellor (NCDOT), Bill Cary, Aaron Wendt (Virginia DCR), Lora Eddy, Bill Crowell, Jimmy Johnson, Dr. Eulie, Reide Corbett, Mary Herring

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions and Purpose – Lexia Weaver

10:10 Update on 2021 Oyster Blue Print - Lexia Weaver/Erin Fleckenstein

- Erin gave an overview of highlights within the Oyster Blueprint and its living shoreline components.

10:35 [Living Shoreline Permit Master List](#) – Lexia Weaver

- Lexia reminded everyone to populate the master list if they know of any living shoreline projects, including plantings that are missing.
- Rebecca Ellin: Do we need to revisit connecting with Brandon and Daniel on permitting
 - Lexia: will let Rachel Gittman speak on that, because she has been in touch with both of them.
- Did speak with Brandon and Daniel, and database Brandon has ends in 2018 she believes. Some discussion on how best to align the databases. One issue with some of the types of LS may not be included in their spreadsheet vs. the Master List the SC has. Not sure they came to a solution on how to merge the two.
- Rachel has a separate effort focused on Carteret County, where Daniel and another staff member have agreed to have access to permit records from a number of years to gather all permits issued from that time (bulkhead, riprap, LS) to better understand the decision making process and how the trainings, outreach, and changes in permitting process is impacting people's decision making. Funded through a pilot grant through ECU.
- 3 different efforts, but not a move to merge them...
 - LW it would be great to bring the databases together and merge the different lists.
 - Marsh-toe revetments are not represented in Brandon's list, so at some point someone would need to go back and look into that
 - Devon mentioned having a student help do something ...????
 - Spencer - encourages us to go back in time since the numbers of LS will be low. Some older projects important to document that are successful and were probably not permitted, ex. Golf course planting in Pine Knoll Shores.

- RG: will we use the collective knowledge of this group to fill those gaps? Or do we assign somebody to do this?
- Devon: What about getting an intern or two to do the legwork on this? To call some of the agencies, put together the spreadsheets etc.
- Spencer: need an intern in the DCM offices with their paper files. Workable with cooperation with DCM.
- RG: has undergrads who can go, but it will still take some DCM staff time to organize and supervise etc. Maybe focus on one county as a pilot.
- Todd: didn't DCM 10 years ago characterize shoreline through aerial photos, GIS files ?
 - Devon has this information, and get a student to easily organize and attach spreadsheet data about permits etc. Not necessarily that big of a deal if we have a student with GIS experience. 2010 - 2012 - review update 2015 (mostly focused on Dare Co.), Devon has done small followups on specific counties as part of a class. Could filter by attributing on files.
 - Anne: you can't tell by the structure if it was...may have trouble with that. Etc. Rip rap revetment wasn't put in as a LS but would look like a LS.
 - Devon: can filter down by onshore, offshore structure, can start to fill some of that in, then a student would have to go to some of those sites on the computer to determine whether or not we think it is a LS or not. Can at least get a high level.
 - Aaron: looking at similar information in VA, working on that since 2017. They went back all the way to 2008 and had a Sea Grant student go back through the records. Sounds like the permits are easier to access in VA than here.
 - Also, a researcher at VIMS do a survey.
- Probably need a followup conversation with Rachel Gittman, Lexia, Brandon, Daniel, Devon, Rebecca Ellin whoever else wants to join. Perhaps we can identify a funding source to help get this process started to combine the permitting data.
- Bill Cary- a lot of groups I'm talking with are talking about improving detail of mapping, SURPAS (?) and salt marsh initiatives are very map dependent. A lot of entities are interested in getting more detailed mapping information which sounds like it would link to this.
- Anne: with funding easier to do for entire Southeast than one state...
- Bill Cary: former office of economic adjustment makes grants that support communities and help support resilience, defense installations.

They can't plan resilience, until they understand the problem. A potential source of funding- they have a lot of money and want to spend more money on resilience. Thinking of this as a resilience problem, may be opening the doors to more funding.

- Spencer:
- Martin: Anne on the 5 year mapping coming up, will the division be making a schedule of what will be done when?
 - Anne: not sure, but I will find out.
- Rebecca Ellin: determine what different group needs are for this information.
- Todd: might be critical to think ahead as well as back, and analyze the information currently being collected on the permits, to make sure we're getting the correct information and what we need on the applications.
- Lexia: please just include your projects into the spreadsheet, so at least we have somewhere to start.
 - It would be wonderful to have a 100% accurate list, but if we can dump everything we know into the spreadsheet that can be organized later.

10:40 Subcommittee Reports-Major Accomplishments

- Research - Rachel Gittman
 - RG: Research committee did meet on May 18, and added some new members. A coastal engineer and phd student joined. Increased interest in documenting the physical processes that influence living shorelines (hurricanes, sea level rise). New focus- trying to quantify forms of different energy (waves, boat wake, etc.) discussed efforts to deploy sensors and such. Talked about different substrates for LS. newer substrate evaluations, and evaluations of traditional rock and oyster bag sills as well. In waiting now for funding, all proposals pending.
 - Bill Cary- DARPA Defense Mass Research Project Agency- getting involved in oyster and coral reefs as protective structures
- Incentives/Implementation - Lexia Weaver
 - Construction project updates.
 - Coastal Federation having a busy planting season- 74,000 plugs in Atlantic, planting Whittaker Pointe, 28,000 plugs at Carteret Community College- Carter Smith doing a study there with the plantings (fertilizer vs non fertilizer, and ways to plant etc.), working with DOT on HWY 24 project. All large scale projects funded through NFWF. Cherry Point project moving forward. Cost-share program (NC Land & Water fund) for mostly private shorelines.

- All sites available for future research.
 - Mary Margaret: accretion has been happening very quickly at a lot of these private shoreline sites.
 - Lexia: Very productive SAV year, definitely impacting some LS construction. Eel grass.
 - Martin: part of it due to cooler spring. Eel grass growing better, and shoal grass (halodule) a few months behind.
- Education and Outreach - Whitney Jenkins
 - Whitney gave an update on the Living Shoreline trainings.
 - To increase the knowledge of living shoreline construction practices among marine contractors, engineers, environmental consultants, and regulatory staff, the N.C. Coastal Reserve, North Carolina Coastal Federation, and North Carolina Sea Grant partnered to offer a training course for marine construction professionals. The course focused on living shoreline design for typical structures in residential settings along North Carolina's estuarine shorelines. The training combined three online sessions (April 22, 29, and May 6) with on-the-ground field training..
 - Coastal Federation updates:
 - education efforts during volunteer planting workdays. Involved several community and business groups during recent plantings at the Carteret Community College site.
 - Inclusion of living shorelines resources on Distance Learning Lab webpage.
 - Rachel B. spoke on living shorelines during a live Youtube and Facebook presentation for the NC Museum of Natural Sciences

11:15 {10 min. Break}

11:25 [Accomplishments Document Discussion](#) – Rachel Bisesi

11:35 Regulatory Updates – Daniel Govoni

11:55 Future Meeting Dates

- August 26, November 18 (10 am - 12 pm)

12:00 Adjourn