



EAGLES ISLAND COALITION
January 18, 2012
Wilmington, North Carolina

Attendance sheet separate.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by Chair Phil Prete. Those in attendance introduced themselves and the organization they represent. Chair Phil Prete introduced a special guest, George T. Clark, a retired attorney who has been hunting and fishing on Eagles Island for over 50 years; Mr. Clark thanked the group for their efforts and shared some of his insights based on his extensive knowledge and experiences on the island.

Minutes from the previous meeting were circulated to the Coalition – 2 corrections were suggested; Bill Hart made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Kemp Burdette seconded; approval was unanimous.

UPDATES – Publicity – Chair Phil Prete

- The Outreach / Education Committee had put together a press release and the Star News has recently published an article; P.Prete has received several calls in response to the article.
- The group was reminded of the articles that was published in Wilma magazine, featuring Marilyn Meares; Rosemary Toumey mentioned that a copy of the Wilma article has been sent to the Hanbury group in Raleigh (this group is currently promoting Eastern NC as a National Historic Area).
- P.Prete was provided an invitation to speak to the Wilmington Area Hospitality Association – his presentation tied Eagles Island and ecotourism opportunities.

UPDATES – Grants – Grants Officer Dawn York

- Z.Smith Reynolds may be opportunity, but deadline is very short for this grant cycle - may consider putting together ideas/thoughts re: greenway/blueway trail so we can be prepared for future opportunities.
- D.York requested Committees to put together 1-page summary for grant needs so D.York can be on the lookout for funding opportunities.

UPDATES – Cape Fear Migratory Fish Working Group – Chair Phil Prete

- NOAA has established a working group on migratory fish passage on the Cape Fear River... project to try to develop plan to improve Cape Fear River water quality and fish passage for the migratory fish.
- Looking at economic impacts of fisheries on the area; enhance the work that the USACOE is doing.
- Year-long project; bringing together federal, state, local and university agencies to develop the plan – working hard to get the appropriate parties involved in the plan.

2012 Committee Workplans, Progress, and Group Discussion

Recreation & Cultural Resources – Jim Kapetsky, Jim Herstine, Rob Moul

- Committee working on signage for water / overland trails
- Water trails are the way to access the northern part of the island
- Enrich / broaden visitors' experience
- 5 kinds of signs that are needed – kiosks at launch sites, main trail entrance/exit; on-trail directional markers, minor trail identifiers (e.g. rice canals), signs on objects/places of interest (otter/alligator/bird watching, plants)
- Kiosks could contain goals of EIC, Eagles Island history, overview of water and land trails. Proposed locations - launch sites, battleship, Riverwalk
- Proposed sign design - Main trail entrances – color signs to identify trails, outline of trail map, EIC logo
- On-trail directional markers – color / directional re: which way to go
- Tributary, Creek and Canal Signs – names
- All signage linked back to map on the web – information will be shared re: when tides allow for navigation... not all trails are navigable at all tides
- Currently planning to mark 4 trails – orange, blue, green, yellow
- Signage grant obtained - \$1,250



- Purposes and locations of signs have been specified and mapped
- Preliminary designs for some signage
- Next steps – need to secure appropriate permits for signage, share kiosk information with park administrators, finalize sign priorities, design & costs, seek funding for sign construction, organize volunteers to install. Committee needs to coordinate with the outreach and education committee for Kiosk signage and any interpretive signs and come to the full Coalition with design for approval before committing to procurement.
- *Discussion* re: committee concerns - some of the trails and the ability for inexperienced paddlers to navigate
- Liability aspects re: specific instructions / dangers on trails... broad statements are probably better – “paddle at your own risk”
- Most committee work has been focused on trails, but looking at overall island as “sections” with broad ideas re: what could occur in each section – Master Plan for Recreation on Eagles Island
- Possible recreation opportunities on south end of island – guided environmental education classes / field trips – road access, fantastic environmental / ecological issues to discuss
- Battleship / high ground – walking trails / viewing platform / pier / launch site – fishing, observation
- Walking trails could be done in phases (~2 miles) – map shared with both upland / raised walkway design... seek to maximize trails through upland areas due to cost associated with construction of raised walkway
- High ground – suitable for camping – platforms or ground-camping
- “Orange” area – cultural signage – dikes, etc.
- Winner property – would be ideal location for “major” facility; perhaps historical snapshots of what the working waterfront looked like
- *Discussion*: Need to break map into grid to have consistent point of reference for EIC
- *Discussion* re: concerns with road noise on walking trails – need to distance trails from busy road and concern re: widening of 74/76 corridor and where fill material may come from
- *Discussion* re: Need to consider restroom facilities if encouraging camping
- Questions, thoughts, concerns should be shared with Niel Brooks - Chair

Outreach & Education – Kemp Burdette

- Committee Workplan developed – 3 main goals:
 1. identify target audiences deemed important to educate; establish a presentation schedule for community groups (develop stock PowerPoint for coalition members to share)
 2. create strategy to support campaign to educate and outreach target audiences (survey distributed and results being collected); work with coalition members to promote EIC within our own networks
 3. create and manage education materials (website up and running – open to suggestions re: what should be added) – iPod cast being considered from the Riverwalk and/or battleship – brochures – paddle maps – trail signage – considering an e-newsletter with consistent look & feel to get information to the community
- *Discussion*: Eagles Island Coalition paddle? Invite local paddle groups to come to Eagles Island – annual celebration event? Bring interest in the broader community
- *Discussion*: Work with Doug Springer to make sure EIC is included in tour
- *Discussion*: Contact with the Henrietta? May want to see if EIC could be something they mention during their tour
- *Discussion*: Develop strategic partnerships – work governments to increase resources to EIC; when more concrete “project” plans are developed, may be best time to approach local governments for funding

Acquisition & Land Conservation – Dru Harrison

- Established a timeline to complete the Conservation Management Plan for Eagles Island
- By March, define the important conservation elements of the island – establish scope, format, mapping
- Will seek input from experts to help develop certain planning aspects
- By the end of 2012, hope to have a complete draft plan – want to have full EIC input
- *Discussion*: Natural Heritage dedication could be something to rally around with Press Releases, etc.
- *Discussion*: Part of dedication language calls for research... consider how to engage UNCW in the EIC

Adjourn - Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:06.