



EAGLES ISLAND COALITION

July 18, 2013

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, 1 Estelle Lee Dr.

Wilmington, North Carolina

Attendance list at end.

Welcome and Introductions / brief announcements

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by Chair Phil Prete. Attendees introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

- New Hanover SWCD seeking to fill a vacancy on the district board – contact Dru Harrison if interested
- DCM, CAMA and USACE permits acquired for paddle trails; company to donate pipes; Rob Moul has a boat and is willing to install as needed
- Battleship update – ready to carry forward the overnight camping project (can accommodate 100+ children); Battleship Capital Campaign underway – over \$4.5M pledged for construction projects including a kayak launch
- Cape Fear River Watch – working hard on fish restoration projects on the river

Phil Prete shared map of Eagles Island; all properties north of the causeway are in public ownership with the exception of the Stone Tug property (river front near the Battleship) and the McLaughlin tract (northern-most tract). Opportunities may be available to protect these properties (by obtaining title or easement) with funds available through Tronox settlement. Meeting with Stone Tug owners is planned for tomorrow, and initial conversation has been started with McLaughlin heirs to determine if options to purchase can be agreed upon.

Two additional properties (DOT owned and “horseshoe” owned by Duke Progress) may be possibilities for donation.

Minutes – January 16, 2013 and May 10, 2013

Motion to approve both sets of minutes as circulated by CR; second by Kemp; minutes approved.

Revisit MOU and Protocol

Brainstorming on missing partners

Phil Prete – Chair

Current MOU and Operating Protocol distributed to coalition members prior to meeting; Phil Prete reviewed existing MOU with group as refresher.

- General discussion regarding the use of the name “Eagles Island Coalition”; membership should be mindful of protocol
- Group is encouraged to promote the efforts of the coalition
- Brainstorming on missing partners – names that were mentioned include – also attached name:
 - Wilmington Harbor Enhancement Trust (WHET) – Ron Wilson
 - Hunters, fisherman, birdwatchers, kayakers – current users – Cape Fear Rowing Club, local chapters Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club (member & **). Kemp Burdette to explore kayakers; CR to check with fisherman; Dru Harrison to check with Ducks Unlimited.
 - Cape Fear Museum – Phil Prete
 - Cape Fear Community College – Ron Wilson
 - Residents of Old Wilmington (ROW) - Rosemary
 - Cape Fear Power Squadron – Kemp Burdett
 - PPD**
 - Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce (member & **)
 - The Nature Conservancy – Phil Prete
 - McAllister Tug**
 - Riverfront businesses / corporations**
 - Moran Tug – recently opened up an environmental response segment**
 - Bordeaux – David Brinkley**
 - Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District – Mamie Caison



- Brunswick County – Mamie Caison
- Town of Belville – Niel Brooks
- Coast Guard Auxiliary
- USACE – possibly pursue partnership agreement
- Friends of Eagles Island – private entities and private individuals that may be donors – consider which is the appropriate place for new members. Marked with ** above.

Refresher on committees and their goals with discussion

Recommended committee chairs

Phil Prete - Chair

Committee profiles distributed to coalition members prior to the meeting.

- General discussion on how to help committees to be successful; suggestion to set overall goals for coalition for coming year and committees should gear their tasks to accomplish these. Suggestions re: overall goals that were brainstormed follow:
 - Develop/Adopt Recreation Plan = number one action item for committee – *motion by Kemp, second by Kemp, unanimous approval*
 - Complete paddle trail markers – Recreation Committee
 - Signage is an item that needs to be considered – Outreach and Education Committee
 - Develop/Adopt Outreach & Education Plan = suggestion as number one action item for committee

Expectations of committee chairs:

- Revisit 2012 Work Plans – by next meeting
 - Goals met?
 - Revisit goals and objectives?
 - Revise for 2013
 - Plans should include component of what is needed from other committees
- Recruit and engage members
- Meet at least quarterly
- Report to quarterly meetings

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Officers

Phil Prete – Chair

Recommended slate of officers for next year:

- Chair – Niel Brooks
- Vice Chair – Chris Vargo
- Secretary – Dawn York
- Treasurer – Dru Harrison
- Past Chair – Phil Prete

Phil Prete made motion to accept slate as presented; Kemp Burdette second; unanimous approval.

Recommended committee chairs for next year:

- Funding and Development Committee Chair – Marilyn Meares
- Outreach / Education Committee Chair – Nancy Keith (if willing) or Gordon Johnson
- Acquisition and Conservation Planning Committee Chair – Kristina Fischer
- Recreation and Cultural Resources Committee Chair – Jim Herstine

Phil Prete made motion to accept slate as presented; Gordon Johnson second; unanimous approval.

Themes for future meetings – discussion and wrap up

Phil Prete – Past Chair

- Next meeting; October 16 – topic planned is rice cultivation, working to meet / tour at Orton Plantation



- Set meeting dates – third Wednesdays suggested
- Quarterly “themes” – business, historical/cultural, geology/geomorphology, field trip
- Future theme - Storyteller
- Future theme - Fish restoration in CFR
- Future theme – invasive plants
- Future theme – primary nursery areas
- Future theme – maritime history
- Future theme – blueway/greenway opportunities

Adjourn

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25.

Attendees

Niel Brooks
Chris Vargo
Gordon Johnson
Kristina Fischer
Rosemary Toumey
Phil Prete
Ron Wilson
Mamie Caison
Kemp Burdette
Charles Robbins
Nancy Buckingham
John Carpenter
Dru Harrison
Bill Hart
Jim Herstine
Clark Hipp
James Kapetsky
Dan Ryan
Dawn York