



Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2013, 2 - 4 pm
Buxton Fire Department, Buxton, NC

Attendance

<u>LAC Members</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>	<u>Present</u>
Carol Anderson	Community Member	No
Commissioner Allen Burrus	Dare County	No
Kathy Kiddy	Community Member	No
Russ Kiddy	Community Member	No
Marcia Lyons	Community Member	Yes
Officer Bob Martine	NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Enforcement	Yes
John McCord	UNC Coastal Studies Institute	No
Pat Moore	Community Member	Yes
Lt. Doug Oberbeck	Dare County Sheriff's Office	Yes
Harvey Scarborough	NC Ferry Division	Yes
Ranger Randy Swilling	Cape Hatteras National Seashore	No
Ranger Rob Shackelford	NC Division of Forest Resources	Yes
<u>Others</u>		
Bryan Perry	Buxton Fire Dept.	Yes
Clyde Perry	Buxton Fire Dept.	Yes
Rebecca Ellin	DCM, Reserve Manager	Yes
Scott Crocker	DCM, Northern Sites Manager	Yes

Reserve Update – Rebecca Ellin

Staffing News

- The new Northern Sites Manager Scott Crocker was introduced to the LAC and a brief background was given. Lori Davis was hired as the Education Coordinator effective February 16, 2012. Lori served as the Reserve's Education Specialist for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. In her new role, she manages all K-12 student and teacher and general public programming. Lori has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Methodist College.
- Paula Gillikin was hired as the Central Sites Manager effective February 20, 2012. Paula served as the Reserve's Rachel Carson Site Manager in a temporary capacity since 2007. She will continue to steward the Rachel Carson site in her new role and is also responsible for our Permuda Island Reserve. Paula has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and a Master of Science from Tufts University in Animals and Public Policy.
- Whitney Jenkins was hired as the Coastal Training Program Coordinator effective August 31, 2012. Whitney served as the Reserve's Coastal Training Program Coordinator for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. She will continue her coastal training duties and coordinate communications for the program. Whitney has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Florida and a Masters degree from Duke University in Coastal Environmental Management.

Other News

- The Reserve's budget outlook for the next fiscal year, including possible impacts of federal sequestration on the Reserve's federal funding for the program, were discussed. Neither the state nor federal budgets for next fiscal year have been finalized.

The Reserve program updated the membership of existing Local Advisory Committees and created three new Local Advisory Committees to inform management of the ten Reserve sites. The Local Advisory Committees function as advisory groups, providing feedback and recommendations to staff on site management, research, and education activities, and reviewing policies and implementation strategies. The committees operate per the adopted Operating Procedures document (February 2012); the procedures document, committee membership, and minutes are available on the Reserve's website.

Site Update – Scott Crocker and Rebecca Ellin

- A volunteer clean-up group from NCSU organized by volunteer Jonathan Burrus returned again this spring break. The group spent several days cleaning up the roads and trails of Buxton Woods. Most trails were walked and trimmed back with hand tools. Dump sites and trash along roads was collected by the group. The volunteer effort was cut short by a strong spring storm that washed out the road and ended the clean-up a couple days early.
- Summer intern opportunities were discussed and the YAIO internship is the only internship opportunity available for the summer.

Wildfire Plan update

- Wild fire response was discussed and the committee was asked to identify current items of concern. The concerns mostly focused around the urban interface, i.e., the proximity of the woods to houses and what can be done to protect neighborhoods in the event of a fire in Buxton Woods.
- The Buxton Fire Dept. attempted to educate the community about what they can do on their own property to reduce fire danger but received very little interest. Fires have jumped from residences into the woods in recent history according to Bryan Perry. Education of landowners essential to preventing further incidents.
- The history of fire in Buxton Woods was discussed and further research is needed on this topic.
- Next steps include: staff to post “no fires” signs at gates in the Reserve and near current signage; research education opportunities with Bryan Perry and Rob Shackleford; and draft a wildfire response plan to guide response to future wildfires.

Roundtable and Other Comments

- Marcia Lyons asked about future monitoring projects. Scott and Rebecca responded the Reserve was evaluating what to continue monitoring system-wide for the future.
- Rob Shackleford was interested in having further discussion on the topic of fire response in Buxton Woods Reserve..
- Clyde had concerns about rough roads and holes on property. Rebecca mentioned an upcoming meeting with WRC to discuss upkeep of roads when they come to perform work on the game lands annually. Adding a 4WD sign was discussed as an option.
- Bryan Perry mentioned fire was his main concern.
- Officer Martine requested more signage stating Reserve rules posted at gates and on boundaries where appropriate.
- Harvey Scarborough expressed interest in working with staff on vegetation transects and reptile/amphibian monitoring.
- Doug suggested emailing members about clean-up efforts and trail work opportunities in the future.
- Pat expressed interest in school kids and field trips to the Reserve. She also asked if there were records of bird counts and discussed the possibility of future Wings over Water programs in Buxton Woods.

Follow Up

- The next meeting of the Buxton Woods LAC will be set in the fall and is TBA.
- An updated list of LAC members will be sent out to the LAC.