



**Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2013, 2 - 4 pm
Kitty Hawk Town Hall**

Attendance

| <u>LAC Members</u> | <u>Affiliation/Interest</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Bill Harris | Community Member | Yes |
| Officer Steve Jarvis | NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Enforcement | No |
| Aaron McCall | The Nature Conservancy | Yes |
| John McCord | UNC Coastal Studies Institute | No |
| Curtis Pentecost | Community Member | No |
| Mayor Clifton Perry | Town of Kitty Hawk | Yes |
| Jeff Pruitt | Community Member | Yes |
| Councilman Richard Reid | Town of Kitty Hawk | Yes |
| Ranger Rob Shackelford | NC Division of Forest Resources | Yes |
| Emily Klutz | Community Member | Yes |
| Gary Perry | Community Member | Yes |
| John Stockton | Town of Kitty Hawk, Town Manager | |
| Chief Joel Johnson | Town of Kitty Hawk, Police Dept. | No |
| <u>Others</u> | | |
| Denise Deacon | Community Member | Yes |
| Phil Haywood | Dare Co. Game Commission | Yes |
| Rebecca Ellin | DCM, Reserve Manager | Yes |
| Scott Crocker | DCM, Northern Sites Manager | Yes |

Reserve Update – Rebecca Ellin

- The new Northern Sites Manager Scott Crocker was introduced to the LAC and a brief background was given.
- 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.
- Mayor Perry confirmed that Town Manager John Stockton will represent Town of Kitty Hawk staff on the committee.

Site Update – Scott Crocker and Rebecca Ellin

- An update was given on the hunting information from this fall and winter. Approximately 181 hunters applied for permits to hunt at the Currituck Banks and Kitty Hawk Woods Reserves with 154 permitted to hunt Kitty Hawk Woods. Only 4 deer (3 bucks and 1 doe) were reported taken from Kitty Hawk Woods but several others who harvested deer did not designate which site the deer were taken on.
- An update on the guard shack at the entrance of Covered Bridge Road was provided. Options are being considered for how to address the future of the building.
- Summer intern opportunities were discussed and the YAIO internship is the only internship opportunity available for the summer. The group discussed other sources of help for projects including local Boy Scout troops, school groups, and volunteers from the town. Utilizing the town newsletter to advertise volunteer projects was suggested.

Roundtable and Other Comments

- Denise Deacon offered to volunteer to keep trails clear, trimmed and picked up when she takes her walks through the woods. Reserve and site managers both commented how it would be helpful and asked Mrs. Deacon to fill out the volunteer paperwork so the reserve could track hours and discuss trail trimming needs in more detail.
- Emily Klutz suggested meeting the Chair of the Recreation Committee (Christine Buckner) as a good contact for the new site manager.
- Bill Harris said the Reserve is doing a great job.
- Mayor Perry mentioned the duck hunting issue as his only concern at the moment (see public input section below).
- John Stockton inquired whether additional trails are needed in the Reserve. Rebecca Ellin suggested we need more data and input on this issue.

- Aaron McCall advised the Reserve that The Nature Conservancy is receiving CAMA notices intended for the Reserve. Property owner addresses need to be changed in the Dare County records to insure the notices are delivered appropriately.
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Public Input

- Jeff Pruitt introduced Phil Haywood from the Dare County Game Commission to discuss hunter conflicts in the marsh islands of Kitty Hawk Woods. Mr. Haywood stated the general public duck hunters permitted by the Reserve were conflicting with permitted duck blind owners by hunting too close to the permanent blinds. The Dare Co. Game Commission has a 500 yard distance that must be maintained from permitted blinds unless the hunters are hunting on private land, or land on which they have permission to hunt from the landowner. Mr. Haywood received 27 complaints this season and reports of littering, beer cans and trampling damage in the marsh where duck hunters were using islands. Jeff Pruitt also stated he heard late shots in the vicinity of the marsh islands. Rebecca Ellin suggested staff study the issue further and form a small discussion group to convene at a later date to discuss the issue in detail once information was gathered. Jeff Pruitt, Phil Haywood, Clifton Perry and Aaron McCall offered to be part of the group that will meet with the site manager.

Follow Up

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

