

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, June 24, 2022
Virtual Meeting Via GoToMeeting

MAC Members Present: D. Swygert, B. Rose, P. Brown, R. Dukes, P. Keener, C. Woods (virtual)

MAC Members Absent: J. Massey

DNR Staff Present: B. Keppler, M. Bell, T. Darden, T. Snoots, L. Riggin, J. Thibault, G. Sundin, J. Bina, M. Perkinson, R. Boyles, PKS, J. Ballenger (virtual), M. Ingle

Guests: Chaplain Jeff Shealy,

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

2. Housekeeping- R. Milan:

Rachel reviewed the processes in place for the Virtual Meeting

3. Invocation- Pastor Jeff Shealy:

Pastor Shealy led the Invocation for the meeting.

4. Pledge of Allegiance- B. Rose:

Dr. Bailey led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes (April 2022). B. rose made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. P. Keener 2nd. Motion carried unanimously

6. Public Comment – Chairman Swygert/ R. Milan:

N/A

7. Reports:

There were two reports presented at the meeting.

Report 1:

• **Crab Bank: Overview, Shorebird Use, and Aerial Monitoring-**

Lorianne Riggin, Janet Thibault and Gary Sundin gave a presentation on Crab Bank. The report included an overview of the restoration project, how UAV's are used in the monitoring of the habitat – both of nesting birds and condition of the physical changes to the bank such as elevation and vegetation. The report concluded with a video and images of current birds nesting on the bank. Continued monitoring of

both the nesting birds and the physical characteristics of the bank will continue.

Ms. Keener asked the group if microplastics are found in the sediment. J. Thibault responded that a study was done in 2015 and Dr. Kingsley-Smith noted that MRD'S Environmental Research Section will be doing that in the not-too-distant future.

Director Boyle's commended the work and the presentation. He suggested that it be presented to the DNR Board.

Ms. Keener asked if there was a national recognition or award that could be applied for or given for the project. Staff said they were not aware of any.

Report 2:

- ***Navigating Coastal Conservation Careers-***

Julie Binz reported on a new project on Navigating Coastal Conservation Careers which is funded from Sea Grant and the ACE NERR. The program is aimed at building interest in Marine/Conservation science as a career path. Targeting students beginning at the middle school level to increase interest and engaging them through high school and support through college and offering internships, job shadowing and career days. MRD has 5 (paid) interns this summer in addition to two NOAA interns. The program targets coastal students and Title 1 schools on who would benefit from these internships.

8. Deputy Director Comments – B. Keppler:

Deputy Director Keppler's comments included the following points:

- Shellfish season closed on 5/31.
- Shrimp Trawl season opened on 6/1.
- Crab Traps must be removed in the General Trawl Zone by July 15, 2022.
- Governor's Cup Billfishing Series is ongoing.
- The R/V Coastal Venture was deployed on the S.C. Memorial Reef.
- A Legislative Update
- A budget proviso that the Dept. must provide a report on the status of the Blue Crab Fishery in South Carolina to the Legislature. MRD will be doing both recreational and commercial surveys and the information will be provided to the MAC at the September meeting.
- The May Forest master plan is in process.
- Presented an example of "Species Snapshot" that will be on our website.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to Brian Rose, Peter Brown and Ryan Dukes for completing their terms of service on the Committee.

9. Date, Place & Time of Next Meeting – Chairman Swygert:

The next scheduled meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee is Friday, September 30th at 10:00 am.

10. Adjourn – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.