



C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning Commission
112 East State Street, Savannah
Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2011 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

This Agenda and supporting material will be available prior to the meeting date at <http://www.thempc.org/administrative/Archive/2012agenda.htm>

I. Call to Order and Welcome

1. [Call to Order and Welcome](#)

Dale Thorpe welcomed everyone and then called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. The mission of the Commission is to establish a uniform procedure to provide for the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of areas having significant natural, historic cultural or aesthetic interest or value, or which protect current or future sources of potable water.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2. [July 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [07.18.2011 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Ms. Sue Moore made a motion that the Chatham County Resource Protection Commission Technical Advisory Committee approve the July 18, 2011 meeting minutes. **Ms. Diane Houston** seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Board Action:

Approval. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Sue Moore

Second: Diane Houston

Beth Blalock - Aye

Chris Emmer - Aye

Sonny Emmert - Aye

Jo Hickson - Aye

Diane Houston	- Aye
Karen Jenkins	- Aye
Shelly Krueger	- Aye
Joseph P. Maggioni	- Aye
Bob Marshall	- Aye
Clay Mobley	- Aye
Sue Moore	- Aye
Maria Procopio	- Aye
Daniel Ramsay	- Aye
Dale Thorpe	- Aye

III. Presentations

3. [Sea Level Rise, Beth Blalock, General Counsel, GA Conservancy](#)

Ms. Dale Thorpe introduced **Ms. Beth Blalock**, General Counsel, Georgia Conservancy. **Ms. Blalock** greeted everyone and stated that she will give a brief overview of a project that was conducted by the UGA River Basin Center. They looked at the Georgia coast, and tried to get a sense of what sea level rise might do in order to aid planners in looking at where to place infrastructure in the future. It has some implications for conservation planning as well and not just where we site our buildings, but where we're actively conserving land in terms of corridors. Georgia's coast has an abundance of natural resources that we're blessed to possess through a combination of history, economics and legislation. When you think about Georgia, consideration of sea level rise is especially important because our coast is so low lying. For example Brunswick is only ten to fourteen feet above sea level elevation. Other places have a steep dipping surface like the west coast. They may experience some erosion but it may not impact their placement as much. NOAA has been measuring sea level rise at Fort Pulaski since 1935 and they found about a .33 millimeter annual rise that was incorporated into this model but also there is some expectation that the rise will be exponential. A meter sea level rise was modeled for 2100. This is a three year study. The first year they looked at the entire coast, an overall and general 300,000 foot view using the Sea Level Affective Marshes Model or SLAMM, an accepted model. The overall findings from that year was an 8% decrease in dry land and 11% increase of wetland. The first year looked at inundation model which can also be used for hazard planning and storm surge. An example from Tybee Island shows what a hurricane can do. The marshes and wetland will be the first to inundated, and that water will come into the tidal creeks not only beach front but river front and marsh front property can be impacted. Year two of the LIDAR data gave us a closer look of what can happen in Glenn County. The purpose is to help planners identify areas that will be vulnerable to sea level rise, and plan where infrastructure should go. It could also be critical for conservation purposes and where are corridors going to be. This was a partnership including University of Georgia River Basin Center, NOAA, Coastal Resources Division Center DNR.

4. [Sea Level Rise in the Comprehensive Plan, Dennis Hutton, Director of Comprehensive Planning](#)

Mr. Dennis Hutton greeted everyone and began his presentation. In terms of our planning efforts here the recommendation was to update stormwater ordinances both City and County, adopting a Coastal Stormwater Supplement. The Tricentennial Plan has two parts: the Comprehensive Plan and the Unified

Zoning Ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2006. As you know UZO is out for public comment right now. CEMA is working on preparing Flood Litigation Plans and Pre-disaster Litigation plans. The specific recommendation within the Zoning Ordinance are buffers to provide protection for river corridors and green space. Green space is very important and increase pervious material throughout the County. There are some objections to 35 feet buffers, since the State is only requiring 25 feet. Also, there are requirements for green space, as recommended by Chatham Environmental Forum Road Map to become the greenest County in the State.

Mr. Hutton said he believes this Commission should be congratulated for what's happening along the Coast.

IV. Regular Business

5. [Archaeological Ordinance Task Force](#)

Ms. Harris informed the TAC that the comment period on UZO has been extended until January 31, 2012. In response to comments that we have from the community about the lack of an archaeology ordinance in both the City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County, we've decided to put together a Task Force to look at the possibility of including an archaeology ordinance. We felt like this TAC would be a good group to draw from, for that Task Force. If anyone is interested in serving on the Task Force, let Ms. Harris know. It would be a voluntary ordinance, and would be incentivized.

V. Update on Technical Advisory Committee

6. [Update on Technical Advisory Committee](#)

Ms. Dale Thorpe stated at this time, there are no updates on the Technical Advisory Committee.

VI. Commissioners' Items

7. [Commissioners' Items](#)

Ms. Dale Thorpe asked if anyone have any comments they would like to make?

Ms. Jo Hickson asked if they can present the sea level rise information to the MPC.

Ms. Ellen Harris stated we have to follow protocol, and make a request.

Ms. Jo Hickson made a motion to go to the RPC to get approval to make a presentation about sea level rise to the MPC. **Ms. Dale Thorpe** seconded the motion.

Board Action:

Approval to ask the RPC for approval to make a presentation about sea level rise to the MPC. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Jo Hickson

Second: Dale Thorpe

- Beth Blalock - Aye
- Chris Emmer - Aye
- Sonny Emmert - Aye
- Jo Hickson - Aye
- Diane Houston - Aye
- Karen Jenkins - Aye
- Shelly Krueger - Aye
- Joseph P. Maggioni - Aye
- Bob Marshall - Aye
- Clay Mobley - Aye
- Sue Moore - Aye
- Maria Procopio - Aye
- Daniel Ramsay - Aye
- Dale Thorpe - Aye

VII. Adjournment

8. [Adjournment](#)

There being no other business to come before the board, Mr. Bob Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Karen Jenkins seconded the motion. Ms. Dale Thorpe declared the Chatham County Resource Protection Technical Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Ellen Harris, LEED A.P.
Cultural Resource and Urban Planning Manager

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.