



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 20, 2011 Regular 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](#)

Dr. Hoskins welcomed everyone, and then called the meeting to order at 3:41 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 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [07.21.2011 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Mr. Paul Wolff made a motion to approve the July 21, 2011 meeting minutes, and **Mr. Larry Miles** second the motion.

Board Action:

Approval. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Paul H. Wolff

Second: James L. Miles Jr.

Mark T. Bouy - Aye

Dr. Dionne L. Hoskins - Aye

Felton Jenkins - Aye

James L. Miles Jr. - Aye

Kristina Williams - Aye

III. Presentations

3. [Sea Level Rise, Clay Mobley, GA Conservancy Coastal Director](#)

Ms. Ellen Harris introduced **Mr. Clay Mobley**, the Coastal Director for the Georgia Conservancy. Mr. Mobley greeted everyone and noted that Mr. Sonny Emmert is here to answer any technical questions.

In 2008 the River Basin Center at the University of Georgia was awarded a three year grant to research the impacts of sea level rise on the Georgia coast, and provide guidance for future development. A computer model was created to forecast a one meter rise in sea level by the year 2100. The Sea Level Rise Study is a useful tool for planning. Our one hundred mile coastline contains about one-third of the marshland on the Eastern Seaboard. We have thirteen barrier islands, the majority of which are undeveloped they're beautiful and unique.

Georgia's Coast as we all know, is low in elevation. It's very flat, unlike in other areas with steep slopes, a small amount of sea level rise will be noticeable in our low lying areas. Brunswick is 10 to 14 feet above sea level, and they really do need to plan ahead. Savannah City Hall is at 42 feet, so clearly General Oglethorpe was planning for sea level rise and our Islands are much lower. Tybee is at 10 feet.

Sonny Emmert stated for every one meter of rise, you're going to have one hundred units of run. So, our coast is sloping. It's very dramatic on our Coast verses the West Coast.

Clay Mobley stated there's also some data here on a local level. There's a structure located at the Coast Guard Station at Fort Pulaski. It's a station with a gauge, that's been in operation since 1935. What's been recorded by NOAA since 1995, is 3 mm a year rise in sea level. The results showed a decrease by 8% or 290 square miles in undeveloped dry land, and an increase of 11% or 381 miles of open water. This model can be very useful to project storm surge, for hazard planning, such as hurricanes. As the sea level rises the amount of dry land on our Coast decreases. Developments directly on the coast will be affected. The model does show hospitals, schools, businesses, roads and causeways will be affected.

The River Center is currently working on a document that will assist government agencies on planning for the future.

This is three year project 2008-2011 conducted by UGA River Basin Center, funded through Coastal Incentive Grants provided by the Georgia Coastal Management program's CZM Awards from NOAA. The NOAA Grant is administered by the State Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resource Division.

Mr. Felton Jenkins asked why is the sea rising ?

Mr. Clay Mobley stated there are alot of theories on that, but I'm here today to educate you on the facts we have of the past, and then project going forward, so we can properly plan.

Mr. Sonny Emmert explained when you review the charts that are out there, and you see the exponential increase due to global warming, increase in CO2 levels in the atmosphere, and expansion of our ocean's rapidly melting ice caps. Those are all factors.

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 a goal was to update stormwater ordinances both City and County, by 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 increases 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 the 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. [Request from the TAC](#)

Ms. Ellen Harris explained what Dennis just presented are amendments to the current Comprehensive Plan, and they have not been adopted by the MPC yet. Once adopted, they'll be forwarded to the City and County for adoption. When they were presented initially to the MPC, there were questions and some concerns. So, the TAC asked if it would be possible to give a presentation on sea level rise to the MPC Commission, to help them understand the importance of including this in our Comprehensive Plan. They felt proper protocol for doing that, as a sub-committee of this group, would be to come to you. I'm presenting their request to ask permission to be on the MPC agenda at an upcoming agenda meeting.

Board Action:

Approval provided the CCRPC has the opportunity to review the presentation. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Paul H. Wolff

Second: James L. Miles Jr.	
Mark T. Bouy	- Aye
Dr. Dionne L. Hoskins	- Aye
Felton Jenkins	- Aye
James L. Miles Jr.	- Aye
Kristina Williams	- Aye
Paul H. Wolff	- Aye

V. Update on Technical Advisory Committee

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

Ms. Harris proceeded to give an update on the 5k Run/Walk. The total registrants were 241. It was a great family oriented event.

VI. Commissioners' Items

7. [Commissioners' Items](#)

There were none.

VII. Adjournment

8. [Adjournment](#)

There being no other business to come before the board Dr. Hoskins adjourned the Chatham County Resource Protection meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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.