



**Bald Head Woods Reserve  
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 14, 2013 10 am**

**Attendance**

<b><u>LAC Partner Organization Members</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Bald Head Island Conservancy – Suzanne Dorsey, Poul Lindgaard, Nicki Dardinger, Patrick Amico	Yes
Village of Bald Head Island - Chris McCall	Yes
Village of Bald Head Island Public Safety	No
<b><u>Community Members and Community Organizations Members</u></b>	
Al Buzzard	No
Gene Douglas	Yes
Dr. Anthony Snider	No
Dr. Robert Timmons	Yes
<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	
Hope Sutton, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Stewardship Coordinator/Southern Sites Manager	
Judy Ward, Bald Head Island Limited	

**Reserve Update**

**Administrative Update**

- *Staffing News*
  - Kate Brogan was hired in May 2013 as the Reserve’s temporary Communications Specialist. Kate is focusing on the Reserve website, social media, and public relations campaigns related to visitor use at Reserve sites.
  - Marie Davis was also hired in May 2013 as the Reserve’s temporary Environmental Educator located in the Wilmington office. Marie is conducting a variety of general public programming in the region, including on-site field trips, public presentations, and a paddling trip.
  - Lori Davis, Education Coordinator for the Reserve, recently received the 2013 Environmental Educator of the Year Award from the Environmental Educators of North Carolina.

- *Budget Update*  
The Reserve receives funding from both the State of N.C. and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for operation of the program and a budget update was provided for the current fiscal year. The Reserve's total budget for FY13-14 is \$877,653 (\$265,000 from State appropriations and \$612,653 from NOAA, 90% of the NOAA funds support operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NCNERR)); this is a \$34,754 reduction in federal funding for operation of the NCNERR and excludes any external competitive grant funds.
- *Rules and Policies Review Process*  
The Reserve is not pursuing the update of its rules and policies at this time.

## Reserve Communications

### *Website*

- The Reserve is in the process of transferring its website to a new DENR hosting portal. This will help brand the Reserve as part of the Division of Coastal Management and establish consistency between DENR agencies, as well as providing more comprehensive and current information for website visitors in an easy-to-navigate format. The new website will be published in December 2013.
- The Hot Topics section of the current website is updated weekly to announce upcoming events/meetings, review projects and field trips, and establish a consistent "voice" for the Reserve that keeps website visitors excited about our work. The Hot Topics Archive can be found at the following link and will also be available on our new website:  
<http://www.nccoastalreserve.net/Resources/Hot-Topics-Archives/225.aspx>

### Facebook

- The Reserve has three Facebook pages: Rachel Carson, Masonboro Island, and a general N.C. Coastal Reserve page. Facebook is useful for interacting with visitors and community members that are interested in Reserve activities. Options for liking, sharing, and commenting on our pages mean that Reserve staff can listen to and educate the public in an informal setting.
- The Facebook pages reach hundreds of people each day (range of people viewing a post between July and October 2013 for Rachel Carson: 250-2,200; N.C. Coastal Reserve: 89-1,300; and Masonboro Island: 470-5,000).

### Newsletter

- The Reserve redesigned its newsletter, the Tidal Flat. The new version comes directly to your email inbox in a colorful new format. Local advisory committee members should have received a copy of the September 2013 issue via email; please let us know if you did not. The issue is also available on our website. A December newsletter is in development.

### Local Advisory Committee Operating Procedures

The Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Operating Procedures document was updated based on input from LAC members and staff, replacing the original version. No substantive changes were recommended by either LAC members or staff and thus, all changes are minor and serve to simplify or clarify without changing process or intent. The document you received is the final updated version with comments inserted to highlight the simplified or clarified language. A final PDF version without the comments will be emailed to committee members in December and posted on the Reserve website. Two updates to note: future committee meeting agendas will include more detail to preview discussion topics and action items will be employed to follow up on recommendations from the meetings as appropriate. Thank you to all committee members who reviewed the document and provided comments.

### Site Update & Old Business

- Canopy walk project – Ms. Dorsey reported that the Bald Head Island Conservancy Board of Directors have given her permission to pursue further exploration of the feasibility of constructing a canopy walk in the forest on the Reserve property. She is working to develop a budget and a funding strategy. The Conservancy believes that this structure will provide research and education opportunities, as well as be an attraction to draw additional visitors to the Reserve property during the spring and fall seasons. Discussion occurred regarding the potential uses and benefits of the canopy walk. It was agreed that clear goals for the research and education purposes need to be developed for the State to consider this project as well as to identify potential funding sources.

### New Business

- Deer management – Mr. Amico reported on the upcoming immune-contraceptive effort the Conservancy will be undertaking in conjunction with the Village. The 2014 protocol was presented. Bait stations will be set up on the Reserve property for several weeks prior to the darting operation. A private contractor, White Buffalo, Inc. will be conducting the field operations, to be completed in early January. The goal for 2014 is to dart and vaccinate 30 does. The Reserve will be provided with locations of bait stations.
- Trail maintenance work day – The Site Manager proposed scheduling a work day during the spring for Reserve staff, Conservancy staff, and volunteers to work together to address trail maintenance needs on the site. April 16<sup>th</sup> was proposed as the date for the work day, to follow the spring LAC meeting.

### Member Roundtable (with Reserve staff response in italics)

- Mr. Amico reported that the second Eagle Scout project involving interpretive stations along the south trail was completed.
- Mr. McCall expressed his appreciation of the Reserve's willingness to work with the Village on the recently considered zoning change.
- Mr. Lindgaard inquired about whether a restoration effort has been considered for the sparsely vegetated area near the northeastern entrance to the Reserve. *This has come up in*

*the past as a potential project; the interest and involvement of an independent researcher and external funding could allow this project to be considered.*

**Meeting Follow Up and Action Items**

- Proposed 2014 meeting dates are April 16 at 10 am, with work day to follow and October 29 at 10 am.
- Mr. Amico will provide the Reserve with bait station location information.
- Ms. Dardinger will contact the Site Manager as draft research and education goals for the canopy walk are developed.
- The Site Manager will continue to research questions related to the canopy walk concerning the approval process, requirements and limitations.