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SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

1988-1989

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State Budget And Control Board

August 30, 1989

The Honorable Carroll Campbell
Office of the Governor
State of South Carolina
Post Office Box 11450
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Governor Campbell:

By way of this letter and the enclosed report, the South Carolina Coastal Council respectfully submits to you our annual report for fiscal year 1988-89, which ended on June 30, 1989.

Sincerely,

John C. Hayes, III
Chairman
South Carolina Coastal Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The South Carolina Coastal Council was created by Act 123 of the 1977 South Carolina Legislature. This Act is codified as Section 48-39-10 et. seq. of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws as amended. The Act created an 18 member governing body which is empowered to employ a professional staff and develop and implement a comprehensive coastal management program.

The regulatory authority of the Coastal Council is divided into two parts (permitting and certification) and is limited to eight coastal counties: Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Horry and Georgetown. In these counties, jurisdictional boundaries are established for the "critical areas" - the beaches, primary oceanfront sand dunes, tidelands, and coastal waters. These areas are under the agency's direct permitting authority.

Outside of the critical area (but still within the eight coastal counties) the Coastal Council's planning and certification division reviews and must certify all state and federal activities (this includes loans, grants, licenses and permit applications) to ensure consistency with South Carolina's Coastal Zone Management Program. The agency has a Memoranda of Understanding with several state agencies to coordinate their cooperation with the permitting and certification program.

The Coastal Council began implementing its program on September 28, 1977. The comprehensive Coastal Management Program created by the Council, with implementing procedural regulations, was approved by Governor Richard W. Riley following legislative adoption in February of 1979. In September of 1979, the program received formal federal approval from the Office of Oceans and Coastal Resources Management the U. S. Department of Commerces in ceremonies conducted in Beaufort's Waterfront Park.

a. Federal Authority

The central component of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act is a set of policies used to guide all development activities in this country's coastal zone. In an effort to protect our coastal resources, these policies, or performance standards, outline the ways in which proposed activities may be sited, constructed, or developed.

Federally approved state programs implement these policies. Federal goals and objectives are met through each state's careful adherence to federal program policies.

South Carolina's coastal program receives over half of its annual operating budget from the federal government, namely the Office of Oceans and Coastal Resource Management. Since program approval, the State has received \$10,919,312 in matching grants.

b. Beachfront Management Act of 1988

In response to citizen demands for additional protection for the State's beaches, the Coastal Zone Management Act was amended by the South Carolina General Assembly with the revision taking effect on July 1, 1988. Beachfront jurisdictional boundaries, formerly determined by the location of sand dunes or seawalls and revetments, are now determined by erosion rates. The higher the annual erosion rate the farther landward the jurisdiction or "setback." A different methodology is used for more dynamic areas affected by unstabilized inlets. Here the most seaward location of the shoreline within the past forty years dictates the placement of the lines of jurisdiction.

The amendments also ban new hard erosion control structures; new structures within the setback are limited to 5000 square feet; and a beachfront no-construction zone was created.

II. ONGOING PROGRAMS

The Coastal Council continues to implement South Carolina's Coastal Zone Management Act, including the permitting and certification program.

Situations clearly addressed in the Act are handled on a staff level. A permit application or certification request is brought before the board if it is controversial, precedent setting, a Council member or government official requests it, or a Coastal Council sponsored public hearing was held.

A summary of the agency's ongoing programs is as follows:

a. Permitting

The permitting section of the program reviews all proposed changes or alterations to the critical area. Many involve requests to alter salt marsh. This is usually the case with applications that deal with docks, boat ramps, marinas, bridges, public or private roads, port expansions, etc. Alterations in the beach critical area, from the construction of a house to landscaping to beach nourishment, require a permit. Statistics for this department's activities can be found in Appendix A.

b. Certification and Planning

All development activities in the coastal counties that require a state or federal permit must be certified by the Coastal Council. This generally includes all new subdivisions, industries and commercial development. Coastal zone policies emphasize water quality protection through stormwater management and wetland protection. Statistics for this department can be found in Appendix A.

c. Enforcement

Enforcing the actions and policies of the agency is an important aspect of the program. Enforcement is coordinated and carried out by the Council's enforcement staff and includes the chief of enforcement and three enforcement biologists. This department utilizes cars, boats, and aircraft to patrol for unauthorized alterations of critical areas and to monitor permitted activities for compliance with permit specifications and conditions.

There were 188 illegal reports logged and filed from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1989. Of these, approximately 108 have been terminated and a few are under appeal. Approximately 60 more were handled in the field by the investigating enforcement biologists and compliance accomplished without having to file a formal investigative report.

In about one half of the remaining cases a settlement was reached and the agency is waiting to receive payment of a fine and/or restoration. For the others, settlements are being negotiated.

d. Appeals

The Coastal Council has a very "approachable" program in that an administrative appeal process is available for all permitting, enforcement, and certification decisions. During this report period the agency's legal staff were involved in eighty-six appeals.

III. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

a. Implementing the Amended Coastal Zone Management Act

Council staff spent a considerable amount of time performing the tasks necessary to implement the Beachfront Management Act of 1988. Many man hours were spent setting and checking the variables that go into locating the new regulatory boundaries. In addition, the Council had to interpret provisions of the Act and disseminate this information to the public. Another important communications task was the creation of survey data and aerial photographs used to locate setbacks and baselines.

A new permitting program was established to deal with permit requests within the newly expanded beachfront jurisdiction. Relevant information was exchanged and new permitting procedures coordinated with local governments. The Council also finalized proposed rules and regulations to implement the Act and will submit these regulations to the General Assembly for approval in 1990.

b. Marina Committee

The Council formed a marina committee (comprised of five members of the full Council) to review problems associated with marinas and docks in the coastal zone. The committee invited speakers from various public agencies, marina organizations, private associations and individuals to discuss the growing number of facilities constructed in coastal waters. The committee intends to report to the full Council concerning its findings and possibly propose changes in the permitting procedures and standards.

c. Rules and Regulations Committee

The Council created a five member rules and regulations committee as part of the implementation of the 1988 Beachfront Management Act. The committee is rewriting the existing rules and regulations to conform to the amending legislation. Their work will be reviewed by the General Assembly in 1990.

d. Shorefront and Special Area Management Plans

The Beachfront Management Act of 1988 required all local beachfront communities (cities and counties) to develop and implement comprehensive local beachfront management plans. These plans will contain beach profile and erosion data; an inventory of all beachfront structures; public access points; a land use plan; an analysis of beach erosion control alternatives; a drainage plan; a post-disaster plan; and a detailed strategy for achieving the goals of the legislation.

In January, 1989, the Coastal Council published "Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plans." This document described both state and local contributions to the local plans. Since that time, the staff of the Coastal Council has completed a "Beach Profile Inventory and Historic Erosion Rate Data" report for the following communities: Pawleys Island, Myrtle Beach, Sullivans Island, Georgetown County, N. Myrtle Beach, Isle of Palms, Surfside Beach, Edisto Beach, Hilton Head Island, Atlantic Beach, Folly Beach, Seabrook Island, Briarcliffe Acres, and Kiawah Island. By September 1, 1989, reports for the remaining three communities (Colleton County, Beaufort County and Charleston County) will be complete.

e. Beach Monitoring Program

In order to obtain accurate measurements of the movements of our beaches, the agency created a state-wide beach monitoring program. Benchmarks (survey markers) are located every 1000 to 2000 feet along our shorefront and are surveyed at least twice per year. From this information, the stability of the beach is determined. The benchmarks and the information obtained from this program is an integral part of the new beachfront legislation and is used by surveyors and the staff to determine the no construction zone and setback area jurisdictional boundaries.

d. Stormwater Runoff Management

The Coastal Council reviews drainage plans for most of the residential, commercial and industrial developments constructed within the coastal zone. The purpose of this review is to insure that stormwater runoff from these projects will not have a degrading impact on adjacent marsh areas or water bodies. Water pollution control, prevention of sedimentation and erosion are the major points emphasized during this review.

During this fiscal year the Coastal Council assisted the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in the development of a state non-point source pollution assessment, contributing information relevant to the coastal zone. As part of this effort, a survey was made of stormwater outfalls along South Carolina's northern beaches. The final report is scheduled for completion in September 1989.

e. Freshwater Wetlands Management

In addition to management of saltwater wetlands, the Council is concerned with developmental impacts on our coastal freshwater wetlands. The Council, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers, participated in the National Wetland Inventory Program.

Wetland mapping for all eight coastal counties was completed in 1988 at a scale of 1:24,000. As a continuing three year project, this information is being digitized for computer storage by the cartography division of the SC Land Resources Commission, to be completed in October, 1990. The maps will provide an excellent first level planning tool for determining potential wetland impacts in the coastal zone. In addition, the Council has worked out basic procedures for wetland master planning and for handling projects with small, isolated wetlands. In cooperation with the USACOE, the Council has produced a "Developers Handbook For Freshwater Wetlands."

f. Newsletters and Public Meetings

The Council publishes a newsletter of Council activities on a quarterly schedule. Approximately 2,000 copies of "Carolina Currents" are distributed each period. A Coastal Council produced "Legislative Update" is distributed monthly when the Legislature is in session. In addition, Council meetings are rotated among the eight coastal counties and public attendance by interested citizens is encouraged at all meetings.

Council staff members also spoke to approximately 200 school, civic, and professional organizations throughout the state.

g. Teacher and Student Enrichment Program

The Coastal Council, in cooperation with the Friends of the Coast and the University of South Carolina, sponsor a series of upper level college credit courses for secondary school teachers. These coastal geology courses were held on weekends at various spots along the coast. The purpose of this program is to improve the quantity and quality of coastal environment education in our secondary schools.

Field trips for entire classes were also organized through this program, which is headquartered in Bluffton, South Carolina. Each trip was tailored to fit the needs of the class; a field trip could last a few hours or an entire week. Hundreds of students participated in this program.

h. Creek and Beach Watch Program

The Council initiated a Creek and Beach Watch program in March of 1986. Individuals or groups observe the coastal resources in their area and report problems or possible violations of the Coastal Zone Management Act to the Council's enforcement staff. Training workshops are being planned to discuss the program and the new beach management legislation. This program is an aid to the Council's enforcement program and an excellent educational tool.

SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL

1989

Senator John C. Hayes, III - Chairman

Senator Herbert U. Fielding

Representative Lenoir Sturkie

Representative R. Linwood Altman

Mr. J. Lynn McCants - 1st District

Mr. J. McCauley Bennett - 2nd District

Dr. Jack Scurry - 3rd District

Mr. Bradford W. Wyche - 4th District

Mr. James D. Leitner, Jr. - 5th District

Mr. Delton W. Powers, Jr. - 6th District

Mr. William W. Jones - Vice-Chairman - Beaufort County

Mr. Wallace W. Scott, Jr. - Berkeley County

Mr. Bruce A. Berlinsky - Charleston County

Mr. Keith Kinard - Colleton County

Mr. Arthur Willis - Dorchester County

Mr. Claymon Grimes* - Georgetown County

Mr. W. Sump Strickland - Horry County

Mr. Joe F. Vaigneur - Jasper County

*Mr. Grimes resigned from the Coastal Council and was replaced by Mr. Robert Harper representing Georgetown County, effective June, 1989.

South Carolina Coastal Council Staff
September, 1989

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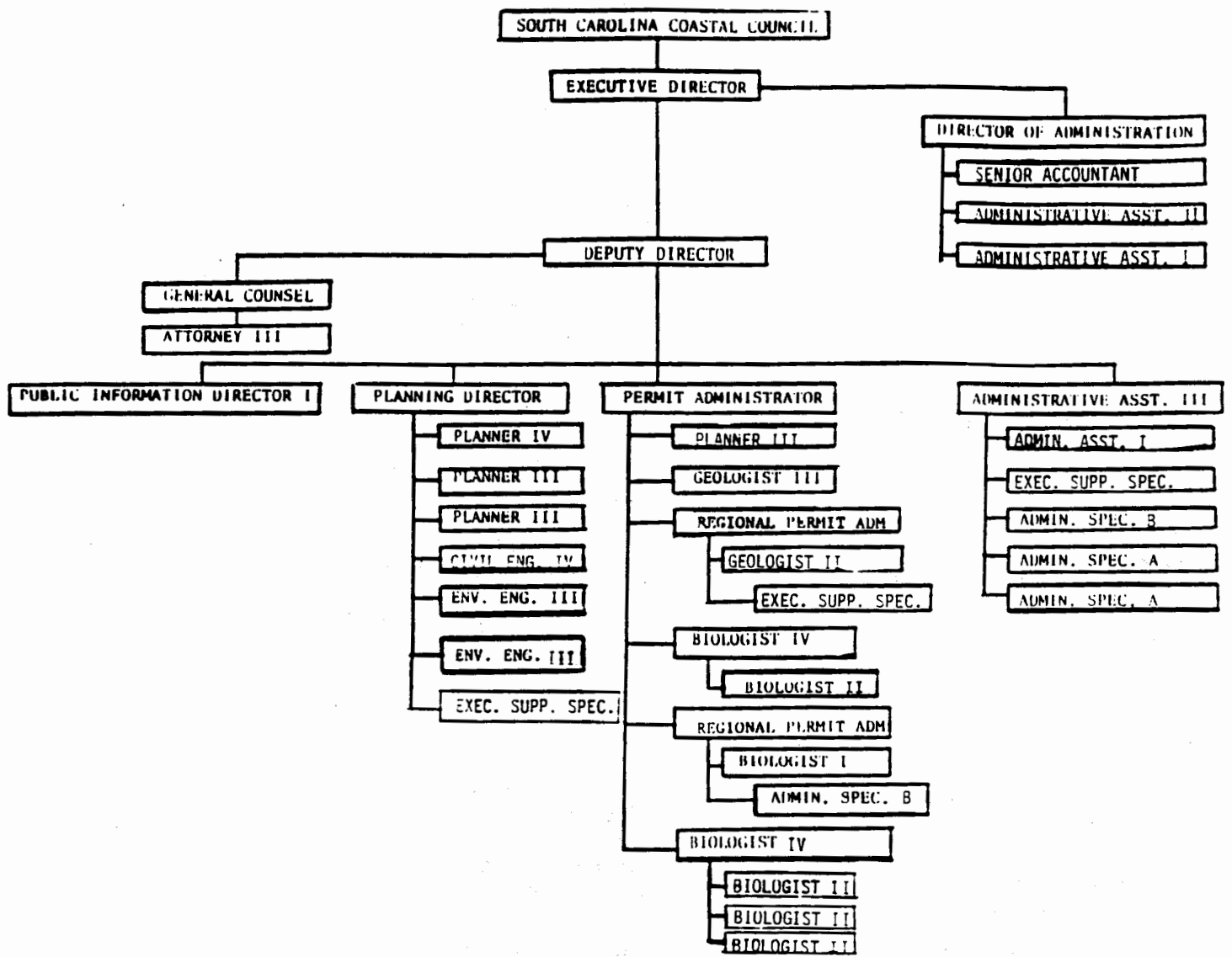
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VII.

SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1988-1989

	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
Personal Services	1,160,561.11	477,157.42
Employer Contributions	213,278.06	88,148.61
Per Diem	<u>12,880.00</u>	<u>12,740.00</u>
Total Personal Services	1,386,719.17	578,046.03
Other Operating Expenses:		
Contractual Services	966,297.23	326,593.92
Supplies	130,759.71	80,000.00
Fixed Charges	272,114.88	142,956.66
Travel	106,994.55	106,192.01
Equipment	99,812.07	70,596.77
Library Books, Maps, Film	0.00	0.00
Light/Power/Heat	1,729.84	500.00
Transportation	<u>5,402.50</u>	<u>1,476.45</u>
Total Other Operating Expenses	1,583,110.78	728,315.51
Non-recurring funds	30,070.00	30,000.00
Total Coastal Council	<u>2,999,829.95</u>	<u>1,336,361.84</u>

VIII.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND STUDIES

1. South Carolina Coastal Council Long Range Program Plan
2. South Carolina Coastal Council Post-Hurricane Redevelopment Plan and Recommended Local Post Hurricane Redevelopment Plan
3. Guidelines for Dock Corridors and Master Plans
4. Stormwater Management Guidelines (Revised 9/1/88)
5. Southern Pawley's Island Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)
6. Isle of Palms SAMP
7. Ricefield Survey
8. Highway 61 Report of Stormwater Certifications
9. Carolina Currents
10. Understanding Our Coastal Environment
11. Brochures: Overview of the Coastal Council; Permitting and Certification; Public Participation
12. South Carolina Coastal Council Marina Report
13. North Myrtle Beach Shorefront Management Plan
14. Boating Access Study for the Greater Charleston Area (SAMP)
15. Shorefront Management Plans for the Unincorporated Areas of Horry and Georgetown Counties
16. Hurricane Preparedness Tape Series
17. Analysis of Beach Survey Data Along the SC Coast
18. Edisto Beach Shorefront Management Plan
19. Hilton Head Island Shorefront Management Plan
20. City of Georgetown Sampit River Special Area Management Plan
21. Salt Water Marsh Mitigation Study

Note: A master file for all Coastal Council produced or sponsored publications or studies is also available. In addition, the Council maintains a library in the Charleston office which contains hundreds of technical reports, books and periodicals.

APPENDIX A

Permits processed by the Coastal Council from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1989.

ACTION	NUMBER
<u>Direct Permits</u>	
Permits Applied For	470
*Majors	150
*Minors	320
Issued	398
Denied	10
Cancelled	16
Active	46

Certification of other State and Federal permits by the Coastal Council from July 1, 1987, to June 30, 1988.

<u>Federal Permits</u>	215
Certified	163
Denied	26
Active	21
Withdrawn	5
 <u>State Permits</u>	 1153
Certified	1064
Denied	2
Active	68
Withdrawn	19

*Major permits - activities such as the construction of a marina, oceanfront erosion control structures, boat ramp, dredging or filling of marsh areas, etc.

*Minor permits - private boat dock construction, non oceanfront erosion control structures.

