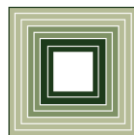


Department of Environment and Natural Resources
**Office of Conservation, Planning &
Community Affairs**



NER Appropriations Subcommittee

April 10, 2013



FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION
A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

Office of Conservation, Planning, and Community Affairs (OCPCA)

Mission:

To develop and implement a comprehensive approach to guide statewide natural resource conservation.



OCPCA Fast Facts

- Merged in 2010 from two department subunits
 - Office of Conservation and Community Affairs
 - Natural Resources Planning and Conservation
- Non-regulatory
- Primarily receipt supported
- 25.5 FTES
- FY 2012-13 Total Budget = \$3.14 million

Office of Conservation, Planning, and Community Affairs

Conservation & Planning Branch

- Natural Heritage Program
- Conservation Incentives Program
- Stewardship Program

Community Affairs Branch

- Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
- Sustainable Communities Program
- Mountain Resources Commission
- Coastal Habitat Protection Plan

Note: Office does not include NHTF

OCPCA – Natural Heritage Program

- Founded in 1976
- Non-regulatory
- Conducts natural area inventories
- NC's main database for conservation information
- Provides information to citizens, companies, corporations, local governments, agencies
 - Rare species information, significant natural areas, & conservation lands
 - 5,000+ responses in 2012 (written & web page)

Conservation Incentives Program

- Conservation Tax Credit Program
 - ~100 reviews per year
 - Average \$6 conservation value for \$1 credit
 - 232,000 acres certified (1983-present) at estimated value of more than \$1.3 billion



Stewardship Program

Monitors state-held conservation easements to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and provide open space.

Funded through agreement with EEP and NC DOT and return on \$1.5 million dollar restricted endowment

- The program manages 118 EEP properties totaling 13,394 acres.
- One staff position





Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)

- Funded by EPA under the Clean Water Act
- 4 staff
- Current budget: ~ \$600K
- ~\$300K salaries and administration, remainder granted to communities for restoration, education, and research initiatives.
- Staff coordinates science and management initiatives among federal, state, and local partners.



NC Sustainable Communities Task Force

- Created by the NCGA in 2010 (G.S.143B-344.34-38)
 - 13 members appointed by General Assembly
 - Local Government, Regional Organizations, Private Sector representation
- Provides technical assistance to communities “to plan and accommodate healthy and equitable development without compromising natural systems and the needs of future generations...”
- One GF supported staff position



Other OCPCA Efforts

- Support the Mountain Resources Commission
- Support Coastal Habitat Protection Plan process



OCPCA Funding History

Budget History

| | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | Actual | Actual | Authorized | Governor's Recommended | |
| Expenditures | 3,146,954 | 2,547,114 | 3,138,773 | 3,138,773 | 3,138,773 |
| Less Receipts | (2,603,968) | (2,352,993) | (3,043,442) | (3,043,442) | (3,043,442) |
| <i>State Appropriations</i> | <i>542,987</i> | <i>194,121</i> | <i>95,331</i> | <i>95,331</i> | <i>95,331</i> |

Recent General Assembly Budget Actions

2011 Session

- Eliminated Working Lands Program (\$78,195 R & 1 FTE)
- Eliminated most GF support and replaced with receipts from NHTF (\$279,271 R & 3 FTE)

2012 Session

- No specific action

FY 2013-15 Governor Recommended Continuation & Expansion Items

- No continuation budget changes
 - FYs 2013-14 & 2014-15 = FY 2012-13
- Eliminates funding (\$95,331) and position for Sustainable Communities Task Force – work will be preformed by existing staff

OCPCA Contacts & Questions

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