

Cape Fear Arch Committee Meeting  
October 27, 2006

Logo Design and Tagline:

Dan Bell of the Nature Conservancy and Nancy Preston of the Coastal Land Trust met with Talk PR, a Wilmington, NC based design firm to develop a logo for the newly formed Cape Fear Arch. After reviewing multiple options, the two members chose the most accurate representation of the collaborative. The proposed logo was proposed to the full committee for review. The committee agreed upon the logo with a few minor revisions.

The committee then looked at taglines that were developed by Talk PR and conducted a brainstorming session and in the end agreed upon *A Collaborative Voice for Nature*.

NC Wildlife Action Plan:

Carol Price of the NCWRC gave a presentation on the NC Wildlife Action Plan. The Wildlife Action Plan is a federal program designed to support state efforts to keep animals off the endangered species list. The plan is currently funded at the 1.5 million dollar level. Funding fluctuates depending on congressional appropriations. All states must submit work plans to receive funding. Documentation is then used to guide wildlife diversity programs. The plan is pro-active and works to keep common animals common.

Carol sees the NCWRC working with the Cape Fear Arch to help focus on critical habitat, ensure the protection of priority species, assist in collaborative conservation planning, and in implementation of larger projects.

After the last meeting, Steve Everheart with the NCWRC offered partial, potential funding for a ten to fifteen hour coordinator position. The committee discussed this possibility and agreed to seek funding for a meeting coordinator type position that would eventually morph into a full time position. This position would coordinate committee meetings and partnerships between the various organizations, promote outreach and educational components of the CF Arch, and help facilitate the general workings of the committee.

Potential grant sources were then discussed and include the Wildlife Action Plan through the Wildlife Resources Commission, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Doris Duke Foundation (distributed through the NC Conservation Fund), CELCP funds, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. It was suggested that committee members review the Wildlife Conservation Society website and speak with Carol Price and Craig Groves (sp?) formerly with the Nature Conservancy to see about that funding source.

Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

David Ferrin of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) gave a presentation on the Brunswick County comprehensive transportation plan (CTP). Both North and South Carolina are proposing an interstate that run parallel to one another within a limited radius (25 miles apart). There has been no collaboration between the two states. Dan and

Dave met with Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives and discussed the feasibility study. The main issues are the following: there are two proposed interstates which would run 25 miles apart from each other; the proposed highway loop is not slated to come into Wilmington; the new port is anticipated to handle 250,000 trucks a day coming in from 74/76- this will lead to upgrades to current highways. Planning members feel that US Hwy 74/76 should merge into the bypass and not use 211, while 87 is the preferred route for the new port traffic.

The DOT is seeking input from environmental partners, but none of the committee members received an invitation or notification on the Brunswick County CTP. Maps have been drafted by DOT but are out of date or do not contain current information. The committee recommended that a letter be sent out to the DOT requesting two seats on the CTP council. A letter will be sent by the CF Arch group which will express our concerns and ask for representation on the council. Nominations for the council included Marilyn Meares, Pete Benjamin, and Dan Bell.

#### Cape Fear Arch Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The proposed MOU was finalized and will be submitted to all committee members for signing. We would like to have the MOU signed by all interested participants by the next full committee meeting.

#### Working Committees and One Year Goals

The committee made the following recommendations for calendar year 2007:

1. Sign MOU
2. Draft Charter
3. Finish map and publish as GIS format
4. Secure CTP steering committee appointment(s)
5. Acquire grant for part time coordinator
6. Establish working/sub committees
7. Continue infrastructure monitoring including the Cape Fear Skyway and the NC International Port
8. Host regular meetings and committee meetings

The following working/subcommittees were proposed:

1. Conservation Planning
2. Public Relations (would work on communications plan)
3. Infrastructure/policy
4. Fundraising
5. Executive