

CFACC Conservation Planning Committee – February 21, 2012

Attendees: John Ann Shearer, James Slye, John Carpenter, Molly Elwood, Carson Wood, Dan Ryan, Ron Sutherland

Committee discussed whether or not to update the existing 2009 conservation plan or to simply make additions to the “working draft.” The group decided on the latter and will specifically add a short section on whether or not climate change is anticipated to impact some of our priority habitats in the Cape Fear Arch and to add information on NOAA’s current work on a strategy to conserve migratory fish habitat in the Lower Cape Fear.

The Committee decided to prepare a summary report of accomplishments over the past three years 2009 to 2011 which will include not only number of acres conserved through conservation easements or fee title acquisitions but will also include the number of acres in forest management cost share programs (e.g., WHIP, CRP), number of acres burned, acres addressed in a Forest Stewardship Plan, number of acres in agricultural cost share programs (e.g., CREP) and number of acres enrolled in Safe Harbor.

Ron Sutherland agreed to provide information on the Wild Lands Network’s efforts to identify priority corridors in this region of the Coastal Plain. We will provide him a copy of our conservation plan and focus area maps.

Finally, the Committee will revise the 1 to 3 year action items or goals for 2012 to 2015.