

**Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study  
Policy Committee Meeting  
December 9, 1992  
14th Floor Conference Room  
Archdale Building, Raleigh**

*Minutes*

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Co-chair William Cobey called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM. He moved to approve the March 4 Policy Committee minutes and to postpone approving the August 5 minutes until all committee members had had the opportunity to review them. The motions were seconded and passed unanimously. Next, Cobey welcomed public comments. As there were none, he turned the meeting over to Randall Waite, APES Program Director.

**Program Report**

Waite discussed a memorandum entitled "Action Alert" (Attachment B), which detailed EPA's consideration of "cutting the National Estuary Program in 1992 budgets by 30% across the board". Waite stated that this budget cut could mean that the potential \$300,000 that APES was hoping to receive from EPA next year would be cut to \$210,000. Yet his greater concern was that the initial funding guidance suggested that, if funds were short, the budgets for estuarine programs with completed CCMPs, including APES, would be the first to be cut. However, he also noted that a draft bill on Capitol Hill could authorize \$50 million of implementation funding nationwide.

Waite noted that he and his staff were considering the plans for user group workshops, development of land use planning guidelines, BMP (Best Management Practice) mapping demonstration, septic tanks research, and investigation of the effects of BMPs on groundwater. He also noted that several draft reports were in review, including:

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|--|------------|
| * Toxicants Analysis   | Cunningham |
| * Watershed Planning report  | Dodd       |
| * Toxic Dinoflagellate report; SAV (submerged aquatic vegetation) toxicity | Burkholder |
| * Metals Analysis; SAV mapping   | Riggs      |
| * Effects of trawling  | Ambrose    |

Waite stated that Resource Analytics had been contracted to produce an economic characterization of the draft Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). He mentioned that such a characterization was important to the study to provide sufficient economic information to address the economic concerns of local governments and the public. He noted that, in addition to analyzing the effects of implementing the CCMP recommendations, the team would also analyze the effects of not implementing the recommendations. Furthermore, Waite mentioned that Melany Earnhardt had been hired to provide legal analyses of the CCMP recommendations.

**Summary of CCMP Revisions**

Waite summarized changes which would be incorporated into the second public draft of the CCMP, including:

- \*discussion of the economic impacts of the recommendations
- \*clarification of time frames for the recommendations
- \*clarification of terms which may be misinterpreted

- \*changes in the Water Quality Action Plan under septic tanks, buffers, and marinas
- \*rewriting and extending the Executive Summary to more clearly introduce and spell out concepts for the first-time reader

Waite noted that in the second internal draft, the title of the Wetlands Protection Program was changed to the Wetlands Stewardship Program in order to emphasize a voluntary and educational approach.

### ***New APES Staff Member***

Waite announced that Guy Stefanski (not present for the meeting) had replaced Jennifer Steel on the APES staff. He will focus on the Water Quality Action Plan.

### ***Local Government Concerns***

A discussion of the local government's perception of the CCMP's recommendations followed. One committee member expressed that the study's "Achilles Heel" could be the lack of consensus in local government regarding the CCMP. Waite noted several options, including writing an explanatory letter to local government officials, stepping up outreach efforts specifically to commissioners, and increasing personal communication with county managers and planners. He noted that Joe Hollowell (Albemarle CAC) had been hired half-time to conduct outreach efforts for local governments. In addition, Waite had discussed with Paula Thomas of the League of Municipalities the possibility of holding a consensus-building workshop for local government officials. He mentioned that fact sheets specifically for counties and municipalities were also under consideration.

### **CAC Report**

Derb Carter and Brewster Brown were not present for the meeting. Discussion of the Citizens' Advisory Committees report was deferred.

### **Technical Committee Report**

Dr. Carl stated that the format and content for the Technical Committee meeting, which had taken place on December 7, were so similar to those of this Policy Committee meeting that a detailed discussion about the Technical Committee meeting was not necessary. He stated that the APES technical staff would mention highlights of the Technical Committee meeting as they discussed the draft management plan. In general, the Technical Committee expressed that, while much progress had been made on the draft management plan, they felt that much work still needed to be done. He noted that the Technical Committee had also expressed concern about a number of outstanding reports which could influence the document.

### **Public Comment**

Since there were no members of the public present at the meeting, there were no public comments.

### **CCMP Discussion**

#### ***Human Environment***

APES environmental analyst Margaret Scully led the discussion of the Human Environment Action Plan of the draft CCMP. She pointed out that for the second internal draft, background information on the study's user groups, discussion of the environmental impacts, and some of the economic values of certain

recommendations had been moved to the Introduction chapter because this information is pertinent to all sections of the CCMP.

Scully discussed the following changes for the second public draft:

\*Under the management action for the Public Access Master Plan, the concept of "ocean and estuarine shoreline" would be extended to "any public trust shoreline" in order that lakes, ponds, and riparian areas could be included. This recommendation would be consistent with the Division of Coastal Management's public access program.

\*Based on the work of the APES legal analyst, four options for implementing the land and water plans management action would be discussed in the next draft. The Policy Committee felt that there would have to be much continued discussion on these options before deciding on any one of them.

### ***Vital Terrestrial Areas and Wetlands***

Scully noted that in Management Action D, the title of the Wetlands Protection Program had been changed to Wetlands Stewardship Program. She also noted that under this program, the CCMP would recommend that DEM continue to research the potential for developing a joint permit review program.

Scully discussed the following considerations for the second public draft:

\*Moving the recommendation concerning strengthening existing management programs for consolidation in other parts of the CCMP. However, the Technical Committee and CAC Committees had felt that this information should probably be left intact and cross-referenced in the education and monitoring plans. The Policy Committee agreed.

\*Similarly, under Management Action H, moving the recommendation for increased public education about wetlands and other important natural areas to the Public Involvement and Education Plan. The TC and CACs had felt that this information should be left intact and cross-referenced. The Policy Committee agreed.

In general, committees members felt that the technical information in the Vital Areas and Wetlands section, particularly the Landsat chart on page 9 and the acreage numbers on page 18, would need to be further researched for accuracy.

### ***Water Quality***

Since APES environmental analyst Guy Stefanski, due to the birth of a new child, was unable to attend the meeting, Randall Waite led discussion on the Water Quality Action Plan. Waite pointed out the major considerations under this plan:

- \*Under Management Action B, DEM's implementation procedures for the anti-degradation clause will be looked into further and clarified.
- \*Under Management Action E, which recommended a new non-agricultural nonpoint source cost share program, APES will recommend that this program be placed in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation.
- \*Under Management Action F, which had recommended strengthening existing septic tanks regulations, APES was changing the thrust of this recommendation to reflect a more proactive, positive approach to septic tanks regulations.
- \*For Management Action G, which set a minimum buffer strip of 20 feet or a functional equivalent, the Technical Committee had voted to delete "or functional equivalent", and the CACs did not object. APES had also written in a grandfather clause, so that the buffer strip recommendation would not apply to present land uses. The CACs had asked that the

Policy Committee consider whether activities such as mowing and grazing would be allowed in the buffer.

- \*The recommendation for a notice of intent for logging was deleted, and the focus of this management action was shifted to training and education.
- \*Under Management Action J, regarding marinas, the CCMP had recommended more stringently regulating marinas. The focus would now be shifted to recommend a state siting policy that would give consideration to concerns for future environmental impacts, cumulative impacts, adequate pump-out facilities, and boater education.
- \*APES would recommend that Management Action P, which had dealt with dischargers that were under special order, be deleted.

Gantt noted that, to address public concerns with the buffer strip recommendation, the scientific rationale from the first public draft should remain in the second public draft. Gantt noted that, in general, she felt that the second draft had been weakened from the first draft. She said that APES needed to examine how its policies would act with those of the Division of Environmental Management. In addition, she suggested that more concrete examples should be provided (e.g., examples of land-disturbing activities).

### ***Fisheries Action Plan***

APES environmental analyst Kristin Rowles briefly addressed the Fisheries Action Plan of the draft CCMP. There were no major comments under this action plan. Ford Cross mentioned that he felt that the action plan was well written; he had only a few minor comments, and he stated that he would send them to Rowles at a later time. Rowles added that she would be including some of the economic information from Lucia Peck's economic analysis in the second public draft.

### ***Public Education and Involvement Action Plan***

APES Public Involvement Coordinator, Joan Giordano, briefly discussed the Public Education and Involvement Action Plan. She noted the following changes in the second internal draft:

- \*This draft had been written in a manner more consistent with that of other sections of the management plan.
- \*Benefits, costs of implementation, and time limits had been added to the plan.
- \*Some of the descriptions, discussions, and introductory information from the last draft had been removed.
- \*All of the new information had been underlined.
- \*Management Actions A and B from the first draft, which had dealt with determining the most effective ways of implementing environmental science in schools, would be consolidated under Management Action A, which would focus on altering state guidelines. In the second public draft, Management Action A would focus on clarifying the Department of Public Instruction's new science education curriculum.
- \*The CACs had suggested recommending that environmental science education in the schools focus on the local environment.

### **Vote on CCMP Recommendation**

A motion was made to release the second draft of the CCMP, as amended by the Policy Committee and Technical Committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**New Business/Public Comment**

Since this meeting would be Secretary Cobey's last Policy Committee meeting, Waite thanked Cobey for his involvement in the program and presented him with a T-shirt bearing the APES logo. Cobey expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of having worked with APES; he stated that he would continue to follow the APES program and would be glad to offer further help. He commended Waite, his staff, Dr. Carl, and fellow committee members on their performance and asked that Waite give the new secretary a briefing on the project. Cobey mentioned that he would also give the new secretary a personal briefing.

**Adjourn**

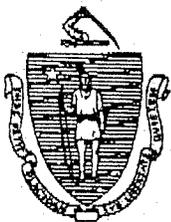
The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

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**Policy Committee Meeting  
December 9, 1992**

**Draft List of Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Randall C. Waite	APES
Kristin Rowles	APES
Margaret Sully	A.P.E.S.
FORD CROSS	NMFS/NOAA
BO CRUM	EPA, REGION IV
JOE BRYAN	Policy Comm
Mike Gull	Policy Committee
John Giordano	APES
Bill Cober	Policy Committee
Veep Bestfeld	EPA, Atlanta
Tom Stroud	APES
JOHN M. CARLOCK	HIZPIDC
Lucia Peek	Resource Analytics Inc
Melany Earnhardt	APES
Mural King	APES
Ernie Carl	DEHNR
WILLEM VAN ECK	FRI & NAT. ENV. TRAINING CTR



COASTAL ZONE  
MANAGEMENT

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

*100 Cambridge Street*

*Boston, Massachusetts 02202*

## **ACTION ALERT**

**To:** NEP Directors, and Management Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee Chairs  
**From:** Jeffrey Benoit, Chair, Mass Bays Program Management Committee/Director, CZM  
**Date:** December 1, 1992  
**Re:** NEP Budget Cuts

In case you have not yet heard, EPA is considering cutting the National Estuary Program 1992 budgets by 30% across the board!

**This is an IMMEDIATE CALL FOR ACTION** to mobilize a letter-writing response in support of **FULL FUNDING OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS!**

If this rumor becomes reality, it could spell disaster for many of our estuary programs. It would substantially weaken, if not destroy:

- \* The progress coastal states have made in creating an identity for the nation's estuaries,
- \* The strides coastal states have made in building cooperative working relationships around shared resources,
- \* The interchange of information and ideas among agencies at all levels of government, and between government and citizens,
- \* The ability to fund critical research, educate and involve the public, demonstrate effective pollution prevention and remediation projects, and implement our action agendas.

The outreach, planning, and research elements of the states' programs have begun to harness a desire within the many residents of the nation's watersheds to take action where needed, and to address environmental issues head-on. EPA should not be cutting NEP budgets, but should be expanding them all to allow for implementation of these plans.

The National Estuary Programs are just beginning to taste success as the two oldest programs begin implementing their CCMP's. Slashing NEP budgets after years of research, planning, and coalition building is unconscionable.

## **TAKE ACTION NOW**

- 1) Mobilize your Citizens Advisory Committees in protest of this threat.
- 2) Write ASAP with your support of NEP's to:  
 William K. Reilly with copies to:  
 Marian Mlay, EPA/NEP and Bob Wayland, EPA/OWOW
- 3) Write ASAP to your representatives in Congress.

Act now in full force in order to maintain full-funding of the NEP's.