

ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ESTUARINE STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 4, 1992
BEAUFORT, N. C.

MINUTES

Dr. Bud Cross called the meeting to order at 9:15 a. m. The attendees list is **Attachment A**. Co-chairmen Ray Cunningham, EPA IV, and Bill Cobey, DEHNR, were not able to attend. Dr. Cross introduced Mike McGhee, EPA IV, who was representing Ray Cunningham. Dr. Cross welcomed Mr. Keith Buttlerman, newly appointed PC member representing the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Chief Administrator for the Virginia Council on the Environment.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

As noted in December 4 PC minutes, Mr. Randall Waite reported that USGS anticipates spending all of the Army Corps of Engineers' funds, eliminating the possibility of redirecting some funds to the GIS for APES.

Mr. Dan Ashe asked that the December 4 PC minutes be amended on page 5 to correct the spelling of Mr. Alan Bromley's name. Approval of the minutes, with above amendments, was unanimous.

The agenda was modified to allow an update on the revision of the Wetlands Section in the Status and Trends Report.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Program Officer

Mr. Ted Bisterfeld reported the following items:

- 1) EPA has issued final guidance on funding for fiscal 1992. Key points are:
 - a) Annual work plans are due to EPA Headquarters for review by April 1.
 - b) Funding for the A/P Study this year will be \$550K. Of this amount, \$300,000 may be used unrestrictedly for finishing any tasks leading to the final management plan. The remainder is an incremental increase specifically to formulate implementation aspects of the management plan, such as developing model ordinances and local government regulations, refining the financing plan, and working on state legislative recommendations.

8. The Regional Office has received Coastal America funds (\$100,000) for the anadromous fish obstruction removal project. The A/P Study office must submit a federal assistance application, which will coordinate the intergovernmental activities on this implementation project.

The Coastal America Office would like more than the press release that Dr. Costlow called for at the last PC meeting. An official ceremony has been requested to mark the initiation of the APES project. Joan Giordano has been requested to look into PR possibilities when a prime site has been identified.

The President's FY 93 budget proposal does not earmark funds for Coastal America; therefore the identity of this program will likely change.

The PC recommended that Mr. Waite work with EPA on the announcement of the Coastal America funding, and that the PC be kept informed on developments.

9. On February 20, EPA announced a call for new NEP nominations, due on or before April 20. A package of guidance materials has been sent to each coastal state in Region IV. Nominations for Mobile Bay, Alabama and Peconic Bays in Long Island, New York were previously received.

Program Director

Mr. Waite reported as follows:

- 1) APES is scheduled to received \$500,000 in state appropriations for FY 92-93: \$125,000 for July through September 1992, and \$375,000 for October 1992 through June 1993.
- 2) The By-Laws state that voting members may not appoint a proxy to vote in their absence. After discussing this issue, no changes were made in this area of the By-Laws.

The By-Laws allow CACs the opportunity to receive reimbursement of travel when it causes hardship.

Dr. William Queen made a motion to change No. 8 of the By-Laws to extend reimbursement for travel to any PC member personally responsible for travel expenses. Dan Ashe seconded the motion. The motion was amended to allow the same options to TC and PC members. The amended motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Waite also stated that the By-Laws needed to be revised to reflect that the EPA Region IV Water Management Division Director and the Chief of the Coastal Programs Section were co-chairs of the Policy Committee and Technical Committee, respectively.

Ms. Gantt suggested that Steel develop slides of each site identified. Steel said that a memo has been sent out to initiate another round of site identification.

Public Involvement Report

Mrs. Joan Giordano reported the following:

- 1) The CAC members continue to meet regularly.
- 2) Public Service Announcements are running on eight stations: Washington, Raleigh, Durham, Winston-Salem, Greenville, two in Wilmington, and Morehead City.
- 3) A series of fact sheets are available. There are three other sets of fact sheets in various stages of development or finalization. APES is also participating with the U. S. FWS on fact sheets.
- 4) The "Life in the Estuary" poster (PTRF) is being reworked.
- 5) The education modules (Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County School District) have had comments incorporated, the children have tested the activities; some modifications were made.
- 6) The next edition of the APES newsletter, "The Advocate", will be published by the end of the month.
- 7) The GIS video has been distributed to 36 counties in the APES area.
- 8) The APES Exhibit is being transformed from an Early Demonstration theme to a CCMP theme.
- 9) The final Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring (CWQM) report is being reviewed. A workshop will be held in Washington in May for the CWQM program. A two-tier program is being considered for citizen water quality monitoring to allow more experienced monitors to conduct more extensive monitoring. Sites have been extended to include the Ocracoke.

Status and Trend Wetlands

Ms. Mike Gantt reported on the progress of the Wetlands task force in revising the Wetlands Section of the Status and Trends (STR) document. The first draft is expected in the next two weeks. The task force agreed to include data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife, the National Wetland Inventory, Landsat, and Forest Inventory and Analysis data. The task force agreed to cite "Wetlands" definitions each time they appear in the text. The task force will edit the existing tables and diagrams and include more where

Staff presented the draft goals and objectives for the Water Quality, Fisheries, Monitoring, Critical Areas, Human Environment, Public Involvement and Education, and Data Management Plans. There was broad discussion on the goals and objectives; however, the major concern raised was the lack of specific quantified objectives. Ms. Steel said that when such specifics appeared in previous drafts, reviewers usually marked out these references. It was also noted that participation at the Virginia state government level is going to be essential to the plans' success. Up to this point, only local governments in Virginia have been involved in the APES study.

FY 93 - WORKPLAN

Mr. Waite reported that final EPA guidance has been received on the FY 92-93 funds. He said that some funds have restrictions placed on them, in that these funds cannot go towards additional research but must be used to fill in gaps in the development of the management plan. Mr. Waite then reviewed the proposed FY 92-93 APES budget (Attachment B).

Potential projects under CCMP implementation strategy and development are how BMPs in agricultural areas affect ground water quality; technical assistance to municipalities regarding point source dischargers to improve their plant process; development of a PAR standard for SAV; assistance with NOAA's protection efforts; development of biological indicators for the estuarine system; collection of information on constructed wetlands; the costs of implementation of the secondary impacts on the regulated parties; and economic modeling and analysis.

Any proposed action plan demonstration project must be completed over the summer for inclusion in the CCMP. The Study anticipates \$40,000 in action plan demonstration funds. The TC is reviewing work proposed by the Division of Marine Fisheries on bycatch reduction studies of sciaenid pound nets and long haul seines in the Pamlico Sound. DMF would conduct post-mortality studies on a culling device and test escapement panels in long haul seines. This project would address a serious fisheries issue. Another project under consideration pertains to scallop recruitment by Dr. Pete Peterson.

Ms. Sybil Basnight asked about the purpose of the Coastal America program. Mr. Crum said that the program has developed into an opportunity for federal agencies, using existing authorities and existing funds, to cooperate in doing good works for the environment. The CCMP could identify projects that need to be implemented and funded, and the Coastal America program could bring the cooperative effort and resources together to accomplish implementation. It was also noted, however, that there is no money designated in the President's FY 93 budget for Coastal America.

Attachment A

Policy Committee
March 4, 1992
Attendance List

Name

Affiliation

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Karon Donnelly | APES |
| Jennifer Steel | APES |
| Kristin Rowles | APES |
| Margaret Scully | APES |
| Joan Giordano | APES |
| Mike McGhee | EPA |
| Dan Ashe | U.S. Congress/Cong. Walter Jones |
| Bud Cross | NOAA/PC |
| Randall Waite | APES |
| Keith Buttleman | Va. Council on Env. |
| Bill Queen | ECU |
| Don Bryan | PC |
| Mike Gantt | PC-FWS |
| Ernie Carl | DEHNR |
| Derb Carter | PCAC |
| Scott Tulloch | COE-Wilmington |
| Ted Bisterfeld | EPA, Atlanta |
| Jess Hawkins | NC Div. Marine Fish. |
| Bill Cole | USFWS |
| Polk Williams | ACAC |
| Larry Saunders | COE-Wilmington |
| Yates M. Barber | ACAC |
| Luther H. Daniels | PCAC |
| Sybil Basnight | CAC-Friends of Roanoke |
| Tom Quay | PCAC |
| Mike Wicker | USFWS |
| Ann DeWitt Brooks | Va. Council on Env. |
| Bo Crum | US EPA-Region IV |

Attachment B

DRAFT FY 92/93 BUDGET

TOTAL \$925,000

ADMINISTRATION 282,000
(Represents a 2.5% increase above current levels)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Personnel | 165,000 |
| Benefits | 45,000 |
| Travel | 15,000 |
| Equipment/Supplies | 5,000 |
| Printing, Postage, Advertising | 37,000 |
| Other Office Costs | 14,500 |

PUBLIC OUTREACH 155,000

| | |
|---|--------|
| Newsletter | 40,000 |
| Public Liaisons (Includes presentations to local officials, civic groups, and schools) | 70,000 |
| Citizen Monitoring | 45,000 |

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ASSESSMENT 288,000

| | |
|---|---------|
| Environmental Analysts (Includes our 2 contract assistants) | 60,000 |
| GIS Outreach (Includes GIS training for local government) | 93,000 |
| Assessment & Monitoring (Includes EHNR & USGS efforts to monitor environmental improvements) | 135,000 |

CCMP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT 200,000
(Includes consensus building and implementation
workshops, and filling in technical holes to
strengthen the Action Plans--for example, the
appropriate width of buffer strips, necessary septic
tank requirements, model land use plans, etc.)