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Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study Technical Committee Meeting
February 17, 1993
Greenville, North Carolina

Minutes

Call to Order

Technical Committee Co-chair Bowman Crum called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He introduced his new Co-chair and Deputy Secretary of the N. C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (DEHNR), Steve Levitas, and asked Levitas for a brief self-introduction. Levitas discussed his work background, including his involvement with the N. C. Environmental Defense Fund, and his interest in North Carolina's natural resources, particularly those of the A/P Study area.

Next, Crum called for a self-introduction of committee and staff members present at the meeting (See Attachment A), and he thanked everyone for his or her participation in the Study. Crum asked committee members for their continued participation, as the Study was now at a very critical point in development, a point in which some major changes needed to be made in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) to make the Plan more implementable.

Approval of Minutes

Ted Bisterfeld requested a discussion of the minutes from the last two Technical Committee meetings. Bo Crum made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 1992 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. In addition, committee members voted to approve the minutes from the December 7, 1992 meeting.

Public Comments

Next, Crum welcomed public comments. A question was raised regarding the draft CCMP's discussion of shellfish waters; Crum stated that this question would be discussed during the CCMP discussion portion of the meeting.

Program Report - Bisterfeld

Ted Bisterfeld proceeded with the Program Report. He discussed the following issues:

- (1) **Paper work:**
 - * Bisterfeld stated that he and Program Director Randall Waite would be confronted with a large amount of paperwork related to closing out several grants or cooperative agreements issued since 1987. Another related concern was determining what data collected would be transmitted to the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA).
- (2) **Extensions:**
 - * Another major concern was the extension of the APES Management Conference. APES was considering "some extensions of the formal Management Conference to September 30th with a June 30th date for the final CCMP."
- (3) **Budget items:**
 - * Staff expected that the Study would not have the 30% budget reduction of which the Committee had been advised in December.
- (4) **NEP Meeting:**
 - * A National Estuary Program (NEP) Directors' Meeting had been tentatively scheduled for the first week of May. The Public Participation Coordinators from the four southeastern NEPs,

including APES Public Involvement Coordinator Joan Giordano, would also be invited to participate in this meeting.

Program Report - Waite

APES Program Director Randall Waite discussed the following:

(1) **CCMP Developments:**

- * Waite stated that, since the last Technical Committee Meeting, APES staff had been involved in revising the CCMP, releasing the second draft to the public, and holding Public Information Meetings in January. Before the day's meeting, a packet of comment letters representative of the types of public comments APES had received had been passed out to committee members.

(2) **Research Projects:**

- * Waite named the following new APES-related research projects that had been undertaken and were now in draft form:

Pat Cunningham's (Research Tri. Inst.) toxics analysis
 Resource Analytics' economic analysis
 Melany Earnhardt's legal analysis
 Joann Burkholder's (N. C. State Univ.) toxic dinoflagellate and eelgrass toxicity studies
 Randall Dodd's (Research Tri. Inst.) sub-basin summaries

(3) **Staff Change:**

- * Waite announced that APES environmental analyst Margaret Scully would be moving to Germany during the week of the day's meeting. Waite acknowledged and expressed appreciation for Scully's dedication to the Study and urged all committee members to meet with Scully after the day's meeting.

Program Report - APES Technical Staff

(1) **Scully:**

- * APES environmental analyst and critical areas/wetlands specialist Margaret Scully noted that Roger Rulifson's striped bass report was now in the process of being reviewed by the APES Publications Review Subcommittee. In addition, APES staff was awaiting the final version of the Natural Heritage Program's Critical Natural Areas Inventory, Phase III. In addition, Robert Holman's report entitled Evaluation of the APES Area Utilizing Population, Land Use, and Water Quality Information had been recently released as a final report.

(2) **Rowles:**

- * Fisheries specialist Kristin Rowles noted that the following reports were being completed:

Don Stanley's water quality study at the Greenville Detention Pond
 Spencer Roger's examination of off-shore break waters in combination with marsh grass as an alternative for erosion control
 The Soil Conservation Service's report on their demonstration projects
 Jess Hawkin's report on by-catch reduction gear for the long haul seine and pound net fisheries
 Will Ambrose's report on the impacts of by-catch reduction and commercial trawling on habitat in the sounds

- (3) **Stefanski:**
 * Water quality specialist Guy Stefanski noted that Stanley Riggs' sediment toxicity analyses had been recently released for review.

Program Report - Giordano

APES Public Involvement Coordinator Joan Giordano noted the following developments:

- (1) **Public Meetings:**
 * In January, Public Information Meetings had been held in Manteo, Morehead City, and Raleigh.
- (2) **Fact Sheets:**
 * Facts sheets prepared by the N. C. Coastal Federation were being either redrafted or printed. In addition, fact sheets from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission were being printed.
- (3) **Newsletter:**
 * The Advocate's 16000 member mailing list was being revised and expanded.
- (4) **Media Coverage:**
 * Giordano had arranged for Waite to appear with Tom Thompson, Director of the Craven County Eco. Development Commission, on "Newsleader Sunday", Feb. 28, at 12:30 PM (WCTI, New Bern)
 * APES had worked with the Charlotte Observer to prepare a 2-page, full color spread on the Study. This spread would appear on June 27.
- (5) **Public Participation:**
 * The Study had provided several materials and information to be used in an environmental forum.
 * Joe Hollowell had been hired as a public liaison with local government.
 * Mary-Walter Rumley had been hired as an education specialist for the APES Washington office.
 * Tom Stroud had been hired as a writer for the Study and editor of the Advocate.
 * An APES bookmark was being designed.
 * A proposal had been submitted to EPA, along with NCSU, for grant money for an environmental education summer day camp/SCILINK Teacher Training Workshop.
 * A Waters (Rivers), Wetlands, and People Workshop for elementary school teachers would be held on April 30 and May 1 at Goose Creek and the Washington Regional Office.
 * APES was working with Goose Creek Park on its Environmental Education Learning Experience (EELE), a "lab manual for wetlands activities targeted at middle school grades."
 * APES had participated, "through endorsement letters and review of the proposal and attendance during the site searches" in Northside High School's (Washington) ultimate selection as a technical laboratory site.

Later, Jess Hawkins suggested coordination of the efforts of agencies such as the Dept. of Public Instruction, APES, and the Div. of Soil and Water to enhance the Study's education processes.

Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Report

Giordano asked that Dr. Michael Orbach discuss developments in the APES Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program. Orbach stated that Dodd Galbreath had replaced Robbie Blinkoff as director of the Program. Orbach stated that Galbreath

would also be involved in the aspect of continuing public involvement with respect to the APES Foundation. Orbach noted that the Program was very crucial as a "bridge" between the Human Environment and Public Involvement functions of the draft CCMP.

New Research Findings - Smutko

Economist Steven Smutko (NCSU) presented a detailed discussion on the economic analysis of the CCMP he and his colleagues, Vernon Cox (NSCU) and Lucia Peck, John Chazal, and Laura Margeson (RAI) were developing. This analysis is now in draft form and is available from the APES main office.

New Research Findings - Cunningham

Dr. Pat Cunningham of Research Triangle Institute (RTI) presented a detailed discussion of RTI's research of "dischargers, ambient water, ambient sediment quality, and . . . chemically contaminated fish." The techniques used in this research and the findings from this research have been compiled into a series of reports entitled, Watershed Planning in the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System and are available free of charge from the APES office. Cunningham mentioned that, in addition to the questions on her research presented at the day's meeting, attendees could telephone her with further questions.

CCMP Discussion

Randall Waite led a discussion on the draft CCMP timeline, contents, and public perceptions. First of all, Waite discussed comments that had been received from the Second Public Draft of the CCMP. The following topics were discussed:

(1) **Public perception of the draft CCMP:**

- * Waite mentioned that the comments APES had received from the public on the draft CCMP indicated a loss of focus, when reading the document, of the "real problems with the System, especially as they may relate to water quality." Waite stated that he felt that, once subbasin river summaries were completed, these summaries would provide a "good starting point" to focus on and prioritize the individual problems in the System.
- * Waite stated that, in addition to "focusing" the Management Plan, staff would like to invest in putting available supporting information into an appendix for easy accessibility to the public.

(2) **CCMP Extension:**

- * Waite stated that staff would need a three month extension to further revise the draft Management Plan.
- * According to the new timeline, the third internal draft would be sent out for printing in early June.
- * This extension would allow time for the new administration (Sec. Howes, Deputy Sec. Levitas, Gov. Hunt) to get involved in the CCMP process. In addition, this extension would allow newly interested parties from the public to become involved in the process. Furthermore, this extension would provide time to begin filling in some technical holes and to begin "working with North Carolina legislature to see if we can set up a study commission that will deal with some implementing legislation."
- * **A motion was made and carried to recommend the three month extension to the Policy Committee.**
- * **Furthermore, a motion was made and carried to revise the CCMP schedule to "include a review by the appropriate committee prior to the final public review."**

(3) **Discussion of Management Actions**

- * **A motion was made and carried to use the Coastal Resources Commission's (CRC) definition of submerged aquatic vegetation in the draft CCMP and to recommend the same to the Policy Committee.**

- * **Under the Fisheries Management Action, there was consideration of a motion to change the wording of the draft CCMP to read 'evaluate the existing marine fisheries license structure and consider a license to sell a recreational fishing license for saltwater and commercial gear licenses.'**

- * **Under the Water Quality Management Action, a motion was made and approved to recommend a minimum 20 foot vegetative buffer with a list of appropriate considerations to be taken into account in any further definition of such a strip," and that any details be left to the regulatory agencies.**

- * **Committee members expressed concern about the dual definition for wetlands in the draft CCMP. No motion was made on this topic.**

(4) **APES Foundation**

- * **There was discussion on the post-CCMP APES Foundation. Committee members named several organizations, such as the Chesapeake Bay Alliance and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, as models for the Foundation.**

(5) **APES Budget**

- * **Waite stated that, after covering administrative costs through the end of the 1993 calendar year, there would probably be \$100,000 to \$200,000 left for improvement of the Management Plan in terms of collecting "additional resources to help evaluate some of the policies in the Plan" and developing workshops.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APES
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**GREENVILLE, NC
02/17/93**

NAME**AFFILIATION**

Jean Seidman	APES
Margaret Gally	APES
Guy Stotz	APES
Jerry Jordan	APES Corps of ENR
Ted Bisterfeld	EPA Atlanta
Steve Smith	Resource Analytics
Lynn Peeler	Resource Analytics
RANDY WHITE	APES
Bo Crum	EPA, Region IV, Atlanta
Jim Xouki	NC Marine Fisheries
Bob Hol	WRRI
Tom Stove	APES
Charles Clark	Practice
Todd Malbuath	CWQMP - ECU/ICMR
Jimmie Overton	NC DEM - "
Richard Hamilton	WILDLIFE
Roger Senecker	NE Div. Coastal Mgt
MIKE ORBACH	ECU/OCEAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL
David W Sidos	Soil + Water Cons DEHUR
BILL FARMER	SCS, USDA Raleigh NC.
Jim Turner	US Geological Survey
Bill Cole	US Fish Wildlife Service

NAME

AFFILIATION

SCOTT TULLOCH	CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SKYLAR LEVITAS	DEAN
Pat Cunningham	Research Triangle Institute
Mike Wecker & Patty Darby	USFWS
SYBIL BASNIGHT	APES ADVISORY - FRIENDS OF ROANOKE IS.
Yates Barber	Alle CAC
Daniel McNaught	PAM-TAR Foundation
Kristin Rawls	APES
Andy Witt Brooks	VA/Council on the Environment
Tom Quiper	PCA
Garland Kautz	USFWS
(35) Mary-Walter Rumley	APES
Katy West	DMF

Attachment B

DRAFT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

FEBRUARY 17, 1993
10:00 AM - RAMADA INN
GREENVILLE, N.C.

10:00	WELCOME	BO CRUM
10:15	PROGRAM REPORTS PROJECT OFFICER DIRECTOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR	TED BISTERFELD RANDALL WAITE JOAN GIORDANO
11:00	ECONOMIC ANALYSIS SUMMARY	STEVE SMUTKO
11:30	NEW RESEARCH FINDINGS	
12:00	LUNCH	
1:00	CCMP DISCUSSION PROBABLE TOPICS - BUFFER STRIPS - SHELLFISH WATERS - FISHING LICENSES - APES FOUNDATION - OTHERS	STAFF
4:30	APPROVAL OF REVISED CRITICAL AREAS CHAPTER OF STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT	MEG SCULLY
4:45	NEW BUSINESS	BO CRUM
5:00	ADJOURN	BO CRUM