

**Technical Committee Meeting  
July 30, 1992  
Ground Floor Hearing Room  
Archdale Building, Raleigh**

*Minutes*

***Welcome and Approval of Minutes***

Co-chair Ernie Carl called the meeting to order at 10:00 A. M. As the minutes for the last Technical Committee meeting had not yet been prepared, there were no proposed changes to those minutes. There were also no proposed changes to the agenda.

***Program Report***

APES Program Director Randall Waite introduced the new members to the APES clerical staff: Meta Vreeland, replacing Cybil Shirley in the Washington Regional Office (not present for the meeting); Marlene Eubanks, replacing Kathy Norris; and Murial King, replacing Karon Donnelly. Waite also mentioned that Jennifer Steel, Technical Coordinator of the APES program, would be leaving the study in August to join the Sea Grant program as Executive Director of the South Atlantic Regional Marine Research Program. In addition, Waite noted that, because of other concerns, the APES staff had not yet prepared the minutes for the last Technical Committee meeting; however, the staff would be sending out these minutes at a later time.

After mentioning the above developments, Waite briefly discussed the program news. He noted the success of the Legislative Reception on July 1 at the Legislative Building. In addition, Waite noted that several staff members and non-program individuals were present at the reception; furthermore, lobbyists at this meeting were able to receive a good introduction to the APES program. Finally, Waite commended the Center for Geographic Analysis for its success in the program.

Waite discussed the progress of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). He mentioned that the first draft had been sent out, yet the Executive Summary for the report had not yet been developed. According to Waite, the staff still needed more specific estimations on cost and a more refined Financial Management Plan. In addition, the Regional Summary for the report would be released in future Research Triangle Institute (RTI) projects.

Next, Waite discussed the public aspect of the CCMP. He announced that APES should be releasing the second draft of the CCMP in mid-to-late August. Then, in the last week of September, the program would host a series of public meetings. APES would also receive television coverage on four consecutive Thursday nights in September from 8:00 to 9:00. The programs would be broadcast on both satellite and Cable television and would consist of panel discussions on the APES action plans.

Waite stated that APES expected to receive much coverage from these airings and would allot \$10,000 for television publicity. He noted that, considering the degree of coverage that such television publicity should offer the program, the \$10,000 allotment was a relatively small sum of money. Furthermore, at the Annual Meeting in Manteo on Saturday, October 10, the public should receive further information on the program's developments.

### ***Update on Publications***

APES staff members presented a short update on new APES-sponsored reports. First of all, Technical Coordinator Jennifer Steel mentioned that the Sedimentation Toxicity Report by Gulf Breeze was in the process of being revised. In addition, several fact sheets were in different stages of revision. Finally, Steel noted that Pat Cunningham had released her Toxics Inventory report.

Next, environmental analyst Kristin Rowles announced that APES had released three more draft reports: Sean McKenna's Blue Crab report, Dave Engel's Environmental Quality report, and Susie Little's (RTI) Groundwater report.

Carl mentioned that JoAnn Burkholder had received significant publicity for her work on the toxic dinoflagellate, the most notable publicity being a recent article in the British journal Nature; both Carl and Quay emphasized that this journal had highest standard of any biological journal in the world. In addition, Waite noted that Burkholder's work had discovered in effect a new genus and species of dinoflagellate.

### ***CAC Report***

Waite discussed the CAC meeting held Tuesday night, July 28, at the Washington Regional Office. According to Waite, the agenda for that meeting was the same as the agenda for this Technical Committee meeting. Yet there was some concern at the CAC meeting about citizen input; in general, committee members agreed that there existed the need for well-structured citizen input and more balanced citizen representation.

### ***Public Comments***

Tom Quay expressed some concern about CAC representation. According to Quay, many members either arrived late or did not attend the CAC meetings at all; in addition, Quay felt that there was excessive "complaining" at these meetings.

### ***Revised Workplan***

Waite discussed Scope of Work document, noting that the budget had been revised to reflect EPA guidelines. He also mentioned that, although the EPA headquarters and the local APES program had had some different interpretations of the guidance, both sectors agreed that, in compliance with the extension request, the CCMP would be due in February. Then, after four months of review of the CCMP, the project should terminate next June, as opposed to September.

Waite also highlighted other portions of the workplan's budget section, including the following:

- Task 1:** The salary amount presented in this segment was based on nine months instead of 12.
- Task 2:** The items in this section had been broken down, yet the projects presented were the same. However, the Public Liaison section had been modified to reflect a change in salary amount.
- Task 3:** No significant changes.

**Task 4:** The salaries for environmental analysts, GIS Analysis and Maps, and Planning Guidelines and Model Ordinances had been increased to account for these sections' extra efforts in the study.

**Task 5:** APES had received extra funding from the EPA (along with a match from the Div. of Marine Fisheries) for bycatch reduction, and also special funding from the EPA for Dr. Charles Peterson's scallop recruitment project.

### ***Presentation of CCMP***

Waite had prepared a slide presentation outlining the structure, goals, and objectives of the CCMP, but, in order to accelerate the meeting, the committee voted on omitting this portion of the presentation.

### ***Discussion of CCMP***

Next, Waite discussed specific issues addressed in the first draft of the CCMP. One major issue addressed was the Human Environment section. There was some concern that the document had put too much emphasis on agriculture as a source of environmental problems, but ignored factors such as marinas, residential areas, and tourist sites as equal - if not greater - contributors to environmental problems in the A/P study area.

Another major issue addressed was the buffer question. Committee members noted that there existed major disagreement in the general public about the size of buffer strips and the overall effectiveness of buffers. In addition, the A/P study area had not developed an equation for buffer size. In addition, Carl noted that buffers were only one means of reducing nonpoint-source pollution, not the "cure-all" for nonpoint-source pollution.

The committee also addressed the importance of the Executive Summary, which had not yet been produced, as a general overview of the management plan. Several committee members noted that the general public would probably not take the time to read the entire management plan and would thus rely on the Executive Summary as a complete outline of the plan. In addition, committee members noted that, in preparing this document, the authors should use terminology which the general public could readily comprehend.

### ***Vote on CCMP Recommendation***

The committee voted to make several technical adjustments to specific sections of the document in order to present more accurate information to the reader. Several of these changes were simply a matter of adding words or deleting entire passages where the information presented was technically inaccurate or misleading. These proposed modifications would be addressed at the next Policy Committee on August 5, and, if agreed upon, would appear in the second draft of the CCMP.

In addition, some Technical Committee members were concerned that a few of the figures in the document could not be proven as technically correct; in these instances, committee members agreed that these figures would be verified by outside experts.

Committee members also discussed the issue of Best Management Practices, noting that the general public may readily confuse Best Management Practices for environmental health with Best Management Practices for the economy. Furthermore, some members expressed a concern for the lack of a timetable or compliance schedule for implementation of practices such as stormwater regulation, best fishing practices, and harvesting regulations outlined in the plan. In general, committee members agreed that the timetable/penalties should be flexible and depend on the economic situation of the region where the recommendation Practice is to be implemented. In addition, members agreed that the goals of the management plan should be reasonable and attainable.

In conclusion, Dr. Carl expressed that he was pleased with the CCMP in general and congratulated the APES staff and committees for their work on the document.

***New Business/Public Comment***

There was no new business discussed. However, for the public comment segment, Tom Leahy of Virginia made a five-minute presentation on the legal implications of striped bass recommendations. The primary subject of Leahy's presentation was the moratorium issue. According to Leahy, "What we're looking for is a plan, not a moratorium".

After Leahy's presentation, Mike Wicker introduced the subject of water sampling problems. Though the Fisheries section of the management plan called for the establishment of a regionwide database for fish kills and diseases, Wicker expressed that obtaining good samples of water quality was more important than "database manipulation". In response to this issue, Waite stated one could assume that the database would be of high quality.

***Adjourned***

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P. M.

Technical Committee Meeting  
July 30, 1992

*List of Attendees*

**Technical Committee Members**

Ann Brooks  
Ernie Carl  
William Cole, Jr.  
B. J. Copeland  
Bowman Crum  
Tom Ellis  
Jess Hawkins  
Robert Holman  
Don Hoss  
Michael Orbach  
Cecil Settle  
James Turner

**Committee Representatives**

John Carlock (PCAC)  
Jim Cummings  
Clyde Hughes (ACAC)  
Tom Stroud (PCAC)

**APES Staff Members**

Marlene Eubanks  
Murial King  
Kristin Rowles  
Margaret Scully  
Jennifer Steel  
Randall Waite

**Outside Guests**

Tom Leahy  
Dianne Reid (DEM)  
Mike Wicker (US Fish & Wildlife)

