

**Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study
Policy Committee Meeting
July 29, 1993
Greenville, North Carolina**

Minutes

Call to Order

Sitting in for Policy Committee Co-chair Jonathan Howes, Steven Levitas, Deputy Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resource (DEHNR) called the Policy Committee meeting to order. He began the meeting by noting the success of the Technical Committee and Roundtable meetings which had taken place the previous day and evening, respectively, and stated that those meetings had provided a very valuable exchange of ideas. Levitas stated that the discussion during those meetings had centered around accessing the present direction the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) process had taken since the last committee meetings in February, and that the day's meeting would employ a similar format. In addition, Levitas mentioned that the day's discussion would center on incorporating more people under the "APES tent" in order to "produce a CCMP that we think can gain wide support and provide a sound basis for moving forward in protecting the resources of the region on a long term basis."

Following a self-introduction of those present, Levitas presented an overview of the CCMP process since the February meetings. He stated that the APES staff had been in the process of addressing a number of concerns expressed by the public, and attempting to make the Management Plan "more accessible, user-friendly, and easier to read."

In addition, Levitas stated that the upper management of the Department of EHNR had asked the APES Management Conference for the opportunity to "provide some strategic input in terms of the overall philosophy, direction, and objects" of the Plan in order to produce a document that would have wide political support, particularly that of the Governor. Levitas summarized the principal thrust of this input as follows: to use the CCMP as a planning document to galvanize public support in recognition of the problems affecting the APES region, and to combine efforts across the region to act on these problems. Levitas stated that the second contribution of the upper management of EHNR had been to "emphasize both in the habitat area and the water quality area a river basin-wide planning approach, building on the work that has already been done in the water quality area, and to extend that holistic approach to concerns about critical habitat areas and wetlands."

Levitas stated that one way of accomplishing this goal would be to strengthen the "marketing" aspects of producing the CCMP - to develop a "very sophisticated test marketing effort to sell the Plan" as a solution to the environmental problems in the APES region. Levitas stated that APES had contracted the services of Ken Eudy Communications to help in the "marketing" process.

Third Internal Draft Released

Levitas stated that between late May and early June, a third internal draft of the CCMP had been released. Levitas explained that this draft was considered interim, since staff had needed more time to respond to public comments and to hold a series of user group workshops before releasing a final public draft. Levitas stated that the third internal draft had presented improved readability and presentation, and staff felt optimistic about these improvements.

Technical Committee Report

Technical Committee Co-chair Bowman Crum reiterated in delivering the Technical Committee report the similarity of the Technical Committee and Policy Committee agendas. He stated that Michael Orbach had made a motion to amend the budget portion of the current APES Work Plan to provide specific examples of activities that could be accomplished through expenditure of the \$90,000 indicated for demonstration and implementation strategies. The motion had been seconded and approved. The meeting had also included a presentation by Dodd Galbreath, director of the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program (CWQMP), who was in the process of reassessing the program and arraying options for carrying the Monitoring Program into the post-CCMP/ implementation phase. A committee member added that the reassessment should include increasing the sensitivity of some of the test equipment used in monitored areas, as well as other vital activities.

Discussion had then turned to the current (third internal) draft of the CCMP. Bo Crum further reported that APES Director Randall Waite had presented an overview of the user group workshops held in June, which dealt with public response to the CCMP, and had provided the Technical Committee with the workshop facilitator's report.

In addition, Waite had presented suggested changes to the Water Quality section of the CCMP. Discussion had then ensued concerning the issue of buffer strips. Mike Orbach had made a motion to suggest to the Policy Committee that the revised portion of the Water Quality section be kept in principle, on the condition that all user groups be considered for pollution controls, and that buffer strips be considered as a very important Best Management Practice (BMP) for controlling nonpoint sources of pollution. The motion was seconded and approved. In addition, a motion was made by Bill Cole and was carried unanimously to recommend to the Policy Committee that the third internal draft, including the Water Quality section, be revised, and that the revision be released for public comment.

Citizens' Advisory Committees Report

Derb Carter summarized the proceedings of the previous night's Roundtable Meeting. He mentioned the need for increased participation on the part of CAC members, and stated that more efforts needed to be made to "re-energize" the CACs and to reincorporate into the Program members whose participation had declined.

Earlier, comment had been made relative to the APES Citizens' Advisory Committees' desire to have produced a compilation on the studies that had been done in the sounds and rivers of the APES region, incorporating the name of the study, the researcher, conclusions gathered, recommendations made, and a bibliography of sources used. CAC members felt that such a compilation would provide direction for the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program and for further research into the problems affecting the A-P area. (A Project Summary document may be obtained from the APES main office.)

Program Report-Bisterfeld

Ted Bisterfeld of the Environmental Protection Agency presented the following developments :

- (1) Paperwork:
*Bisterfeld would be working with APES Program Director Randall Waite and Waite's staff on completing paperwork relative to approximately 29 different grants.
- (2) Funding:
*Some federal money would be coming from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services to survey marine sanitation devices in near coastal waters. The funds totaled at that point \$12.5 million nationally

over two fiscal years (1993-94). Since the N. C. Division of Coastal Management had already received a grant from EPA to do such a survey, North Carolina was in an "excellent position" to gain additional funds for the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and pumpout facilities.

(3) NEP Meeting:

*Randall Waite and APES Public Involvement Coordinator Joan Giordano had attended a "very successful" National Estuary Program Directors' Meeting in May, where discussions included stormwater regulation issues, outreach efforts, environmental equity issues, Section 6217 guidelines, potential construction grants for wastewater treatment facilities, and other topics.

(4) Dam Removal:

*APES had been working with Coastal America, the U. S. Marine Corps, the Army Corps of Engineers, Carolina Power and Light, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services in efforts to remove several North Carolina obstructions to anadromous fish migration, including the Cherry Hospital Dam and the Quaker Neck Dam. A meeting would be held shortly after the day's Policy Committee meeting relative to this subject.

(5) Extension:

*EPA had approved APES' request for the extension of the Management Conference. Later, Waite stated that he had a copy of the approval letter for Policy Committee members.

(6) Work Plan:

*The funding package, which included the Work Plan for the next fiscal year, had been submitted to the EPA grant office, and APES administration was projecting the issuances of a grant extension and revision, with \$294,000 additional funds, some time in August. These funds would allow for the continued operation of the APES program office, and two specific management efforts: the completion of the Management Plan through January, and operation of the APES Program during the first half year of implementation.

After Bisterfeld's Program Report, a comment was made about the desirability and feasibility of demonstrating to the public what had been learned relative to the coastal environment during the six years of the Management Conference. One attendee pointed out the national headlines generated by JoAnn Burkholder's discovery of the toxic dinoflagellate Pfiesteria and the development of specific management plans for the CCMP as proofs of new information gained. In addition, Waite mentioned that APES writer Tom Stroud had been working on types of fact sheets to point out these discoveries. The development of one-page summaries was also discussed.

Program Report - Waite

APES Program Director Randall Waite discussed the following developments:

(1) Staff Change:

*Waite stated that APES environmental analyst Kristin Rowles would be moving to Madagascar at the end of August. Waite stated that he would soon start interviewing candidates for Rowles' position.

(2) Progress:

*Waite stated APES was gaining a significant amount of national interest. In addition to receiving much media attention, other programs had been contacting APES for advice. Waite cited these developments as a sign of success on a national scale.

(3) Projects:

*APES was in the process of closing out projects for this year. While there were still some outstanding or "trailing" projects, most were being completed and closed out. In addition, new service contracts had been written. APES had written a contract with Research Triangle Institute to do a review of buffer strips and their potential impacts in the APES area. A resultant draft report was currently out for review, incorporating a summary of national information on buffers and using the Tar-Pamlico basin as a model. One committee member commented that the document focused mainly on nutrients but did not specifically address sedimentation. Waite stated that the report would be helpful in writing the Water Quality Plan of the CCMP, and that he would distribute the report widely once it had been finalized. Meanwhile, copies of the draft would be available from the APES office.

(4) Contracts:

*Waite reiterated that APES had obtained the the contractual services of Ken Eudy Communications to aid in the "selling" aspects of the Management Plan.

*Waite stated that APES would also be subcontracting more personnel to provide public outreach to local governments. Waite reported that Joe Hollowell had already been providing this type of outreach under APES Public Involvement Coordinator Joan Giordano, and had been experiencing much success and receiving a significant amount of positive feedback from local governments.

*Waite announced that Jeff Camp had also been hired on the outreach staff. Camp would be involved in technical presentations, as well as general outreach. In addition, APES was hoping to hire Sybil Basnight, who has significant contracts in the public sector.

*Jane Bacchieri had been hired as a summer intern. She would be focusing basically on fishery habitat or shellfish areas that had been contaminated or degraded, and attempting to design a restoration plan for those areas. In addition, Bacchieri would examine surrounding land uses and attempt to determine the cause of contamination or degradation in a very small basin, and determine whether there were management actions that could be applied to "clean up" such an area. Waite stated that APES was hoping that the results of Bacchieri's project might lead to an implementation project in the near future.

*Bitsy Waters of Charlottesville, Virginia had again been hired as a facilitator for a series of APES User Group Workshops held from late June to early July. These meetings had provided the opportunity for a variety of user groups - local government, environmental groups, nonprofit groups, fishermen, farmers, etc. - to meet and discuss pertinent issues and their feelings about the CCMP.

(5) Section 6217:

*Committee members had been sent a packet containing a handout entitled "Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Management Measures Guidance". Waite stated that this handout was the fact sheet pertaining to Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Management Act that committee members had requested during the last meeting. He added that APES had draft plans to continue to review how the CCMP "meshes" with the CZMA program.

Program Report - Giordano

APES Public Involvement Coordinator Joan Giordano presented the following developments:

(1) CCMP:

*Giordano's staff had been occupied with working with Ken Eudy Communications to update the CCMP. What was formerly the Public Involvement and Education Action Plan had been changed to the "Stewardship Plan" and had been consolidated with some portions of the Human

Environment Action Plan. Staff had also been responding to many letters from the public on the Study and the Plan .

*Giordano added that APES had been receiving some congratulatory comments on the CCMP, along with some "messages and comments of deep concern" that were being responded to "truthfully and tactfully". Giordano stated that another type of inquiry being received was of a general nature expressing interest in the program and desire to help as a citizen.

(2) Bookmark:

*Giordano had a prototype of a set of bookmarks, one for older children and adults, and a set for younger students, that was being developed.

(3) Contracts:

*Giordano stated that all of the APES public involvement contracts had been completed and the deliverables had been received.

(4) Workshops:

*The Public Involvement office had held a series of teachers' workshops entitled Rivers, Wetlands, and People, a "two-day effort for approximately 22 teachers from Martin and Beaufort counties in grades K-6." Mary-Walter Rumley, the education specialist on Giordano's staff, was developing the curriculum guide from those workshops.

*APES also participated in a teacher workshop that was held at the Craven County Soil and Water Conservation District in June.

*APES participated in the Environmental Field Days in Beaufort, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, and Martin counties.

*APES participated in an environmental outing at Merchants Mill Pond for students from the UNC-Charlotte Math and Science Center.

*APES assisted in the development of the Goose Creek Environmental Education Learning Experience (ELEE) and a wetlands education curriculum guide.

*U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services provided APES with about 5000 copies of activity kits on wetlands education. They may be obtained from Giordano's office.

*In April, APES participated in a Dare County symposium entitled: Insight 20-20 You, Your Community, the Economy, and the Future. Waite participated in a panel discussion on the economy and the environment during this symposium. A videotape of the discussion may be obtained from Giordano's office.

*In June, the Public Involvement office participated in a sustainable development workshop sponsored by the Environmental Resource Project of Chapel Hill.

*APES was presently in the third week of participation in Camp Wannagoma, an environmental day camp held at Goose Creek State Park. APES, along with NCSU's Sci-Link Project, was awarded EPA funding for the camp to be used for the summer of 1994, during which time teachers would become acquainted with topics pertinent to wetlands and coastal issues and would develop curriculum guides to be used in their classrooms.

**In April, APES attended a science education forum concerning the Department of Public Instruction's new standard course of study for environmental education.*

(5) Media:

**In February, Randall Waite appeared on Newsleader Sunday. Videotapes of this appearance may be obtained from Giordano's office.*

**In June, the Charlotte Observer produced a four-page, full color supplement devoted to the APES program. Copies of this supplement may be obtained from Giordano's office. During the same month, the Elizabeth City Daily Advance also produced a supplement on the Albemarle area and a full page supplement devoted to APES. Giordano stated that this article had generated a significant amount of inquiries.*

**Giordano stated that APES continued with numerous press releases on the Study's activities.*

(6) Exhibits:

**APES participated in a Coastal Celebration exhibit in Raleigh and would participate in the Association of County Commissioners Annual Meeting exhibit in August. In October, APES would be exhibiting at the League of Municipalities' Annual Meeting.*

(7) Newsletter:

**The current issue of the Advocate was in the process of being printed.*

(8) Fact Sheets:

**Giordano stated that a full complement of fact sheets was available from her office, ranging from individual selected studies to a variety of informational topics.*

Levitas commended Giordano for her work in the public involvement arena and stated that her work was "very much in synch" with the Governor's emphasis on education and preserving the Study area's natural resources for future generations. In addition, Levitas remarked on his gratitude at having Ken Eudy involved in the CCMP process. Levitas stated that Eudy had tremendous background experience in media and politics and could provide a "fresh perspective" for the Study.

Work Plan- Waite

Program Director Randall Waite discussed the current Cooperative Agreement between EPA and NC DEHNR. Waite stated that this year, while there were no plans for specific research projects, demonstration projects would be discussed at some point in the year. Waite stated that most of the Work Plan focused mainly on outreach activities. For EPA's purpose, the year had been divided into two halves, the first half being completion of the CCMP, and the second half being implementation oversight.

(1) Funding Mechanism Problems:

**Waite stated that, because of funding mechanism problems, some completed NEPs were in jeopardy of losing their basic funding for the coming year.*

(2) Administration:

**Waite stated that APES was running about a 30% overhead rate for fringe benefits. For the main office personnel, APES still did not have to pay for overhead such as office space, heating, etc. Yet overhead did have to be paid for office space in the Washington Regional Office. This amount had increased significantly, since Giordano's support staff had increased.*

- (3) Travel:
**EPA Headquarters had tagged about \$5,000 this year for each program to be used by directors or senior Management Conference officials to participate in national or international conferences. However, these funds could also be used for other purposes.*
- (4) Outreach Contract Activities:
**The Work Plan reflected an expanded public liaison program, as APES was considering hiring an additional staff member to help "sell" the Management Plan.*
- *APES was concerned about finding a "permanent home" for the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program, and whether the CWQMP should stand as a non-profit organization or a university-based program during implementation. Waite stated that the main burden, however, was funding for the Program.*
- (5) GIS Outreach:
**Waite stated that the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) had hired a staff member to provide GIS training at a local level, especially in training local officials. The \$40,000 allocated for computer services would cover this staff member's expenses.*
- (6) Demonstration and Implementation Strategies:
**Waite stated that, if the Management Plan was to be completed in December, APES would be looking for expansion funding from the next session of the Legislature in several programs. The Study would work on developing two or three models by January for legislators to prove that the Management Actions in the CCMP could be successful.*
- *The Technical Committee had recommended the previous day that the three listed items in the Work Plan for demonstration models be omitted, and that Technical Committee members and others become involved in suggesting such projects.*
- (7) Work Plan Adopted:
**A motion was made to adopt the APES Work Plan, as amended by the Technical Committee. The motion was approved.*

CCMP Discussion

The Third Internal Draft of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan was discussed. Steve Levitas began the discussion by discussing the revised Water Quality Plan. Levitas reiterated that the revised version of the Water Quality Plan presented greater emphasis on basinwide planning. In addition, some of the Management Actions had been consolidated. Furthermore, the third draft "significantly cut down" on the Management Action for buffer strips, in order to avoid "broader negative sentiment about the whole Plan itself." Levitas stated that the sense of the Technical Committee on the previous day was that the Technical Committee was comfortable with this direction, although the Technical Committee wanted to make it clear that the use of buffer strips and other BMPs as viable management tools to control nonpoint sources of pollution from agriculture was not being ignored.

Levitas stated that the concept of some type of pre-harvest notification for forestry had attracted a great amount of support from the Technical Committee, and that this concept would possibly be included in the final draft of the CCMP.

Levitas stated that he felt the third internal draft of the CCMP had focused more on addressing the concerns of those who were particularly centered on specific regulatory controls and Management Actions,

but APES had not yet had the opportunity to demonstrate the commitment to follow through on implementation. He stated that he felt this commitment was expressed in proposed revisions of the Management Plan, and that he'd like to see similar efforts made to strengthen the Vital Habitats Action Plan, to "beef up the basinwide planning concept for habitat."

Schedule Extended

Levitas suggested, since "I can assure you that the Governor is not going to look at this document between December 13 and January 1, and I don't think anyone else will either," that the submission date of the final CCMP be moved to the end of December. Thus, the proposed Third Public Draft print date of August 19 should probably be moved three weeks forward to August 30.

Waite suggested that, instead of holding separate Policy Committee, Technical Committee, and Citizens' Advisory Council meetings, the meetings be held together over two days (It would be decided later whether the CACs would meet separately or with the Policy and Technical Committees). Additionally, during the week of October 11, a series of five public meetings would be held.

Other Changes in the Management Plan

Waite stated that significant support had been expressed for the change in the wetlands section of the CCMP - that is, addressing wetlands for water quality or habitat purposes, instead of just protecting wetlands because they are wetlands.

In the Fisheries Action Plan, there was much support for the language used for focusing on the licensing structure. Instead of stating that APES supported a recreational fishing license or a license to sell, the Action Plan basically stated that APES recommended "taking a new look at the entire licensing structure."

Waite stated that changes needed to be made in the CCMP's reference to the state of Virginia. Waite felt that it would be more diplomatic to bring in Virginia as a partner and to work out an agreement regarding to what Virginia could commit, instead of telling Virginia to what the state should commit.

Waite presented the idea of proposing a five year sunset clause for the Implementation Council. Waite cited this proposal as a philosophical concept to address the fears that APES would "go on forever". However, the motion failed.

Waite stated that during the user group workshops, there was strong objection expressed towards the make up of the Implementation Council. There was a strong sentiment that local governments would be setting policy for the APES area. Workshop facilitator Bitsy Waters had mentioned that action would have to be taken regarding this concern, and that this would be a difficult issue to resolve.

Levitas stated that the Executive Summary for the final CCMP would be a "stand-alone" type of document of between 25 and 30 pages .

Waite stated that Laura Margeson of Resource Analytics, Inc. would be developing a Program Description document as a separate appendix to the CCMP. In addition, APES was considering developing a funding chart which would "price" each Management Action on a yearly basis.

A motion was made to endorse the present draft of the CCMP as an interim draft, to give the staff an additional four weeks to receive additional input, and to authorize the staff to complete the draft and release the document to the public as a third public draft. The motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study
 Policy Committee Meeting
 July 29, 1993

List of Attendees

Name	Address/Affiliation
Dan Giordano	APES
Kristin Rawles	APES
STUCH LEVITS	DEHNR
Mike McGhee	EPA
John W. Costlow	201 Ann Beaufort MC. APES/PC
Kenneth Brooks	601 King's Boulevard VA DES
BUD CROSS	NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA
DON BRYAN	Policy Committee
m. la Wicks	USFWS
Guy Stefanski	APES
RANDALL G. WAITE	APES
Denise A. Seasome	DEM
Dawn Reid	DEM
Jimmie Overton	DEM
Bo Crum	EPA, Region IV
John M. Carllock	HRT/PC
James W. Williams	RAE / APES
Mary-Walter Lumley	APES
Lucia Peck	RAE / APES
Jean Lewis	EPA Headquarters, D.C.
Chad Banchiera	Duke University / APES
Ted Bestuffeld	EPA Region IV
Steve Vash	DEM/WG

