

ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ESTUARINE STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES - NOVEMBER 8, 1989

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bowman Crum called the meeting to order. Mr. Crum will be acting co-chairman until Mr. Ray Cunningham, the new Water Management Division Director at EPA, can assume the chair. (Attendees List Attachment A)

Mr. Crum reported that Dr. Jim Stewart has retired and his possible replacement will be discussed later during the meeting.

The agenda was revised allowing Mr. Richard Batiuk of the Chesapeake Bay Monitoring program to make a presentation regarding the Chesapeake Bay's monitoring efforts.

Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Efforts - Mr. Richard Batiuk
Monitoring Coordinator

Mr. Batiuk said he hoped his presentation would provide some interplay or technology transfer between the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and the A/P Sound Program. He expressed an interest in future meetings to share information between the two programs. The Chesapeake Bay Program has a number of years experience in terms of a monitoring program. The Bay Program Monitoring effort is an extensive program spending approximately \$2 million annually for monitoring. He explained the major committee structure of the CBP. The monitoring committee coordinates activities among the numerous agencies involved in the monitoring program. The CBP Monitoring Program is "an evolving data collection network and process providing information necessary for management of the Chesapeake Bay's resources". He gave a chronological history of the Chesapeake Bay monitoring program. Other topics covered in Mr. Batiuk's presentation included water quality and living resource monitoring program objectives; components of the monitoring program; monitoring program design and implementation; quality assurance; data management; and data analysis and interpretation. (Attachment B)

II. REVIEW OF DRAFT CALL FOR PROPOSAL SUBJECTS FOR FY 1990

Information Acquisition CFP - Mr. Jim Turner

The Technical Subcommittee developed proposed priority topic areas for the information acquisition element of the CFP. These areas include: (1) submerged aquatic vegetation in

Currituck and Albemarle Sounds; (2) toxicants in the A/P Study area; (3) nutrient loadings and budget in the Neuse, Pamlico, Chowan and Roanoke Rivers; (4) flow and flow patterns for the Albemarle Sound Estuary; (5) fisheries issues; (6) social and economic factors; (7) Currituck Sound Watershed Management Plan; (8) Greenville Urban BMP Follow-up Projects; and (9) Early Demonstration Projects. The Committee discussed each area and made revisions. Mr. Turner moved that the Technical Committee adopt the revised Information Acquisition CFP (Attachment C). Paul Wilms seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Public Participation CFP - Dr. Michael Orbach

The Citizens' Involvement Subcommittee developed recommendations for the Public Participation CFP which have been approved by the Pamlico and Albemarle Citizens' Advisory Committees. The recommendations are intended to create effective avenues for disseminating information about the need for planning, conservation and management of the A/P watershed and to obtain advice and input from the public concerning A/P Study activities. Topics recommended include, but are not limited to: (1) citation/award program; (2) PSA targeted to specific audiences; (3) public education displays; (4) fact sheets; (5) outreach programs; (6) a model estuarine education curricula for public schools; (7) interactive media projects; and (8) family-oriented estuarine educational camps. The Technical Committee discussed these items and made minor revisions. Dr. Orbach moved that the Technical Committee approve the Public Participation CFP as modified (Attachment D). Mr. Bill Cole seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Ted Bisterfeld suggested that the comment about the federal program consistency review element on page 2 be clarified. The sentence should read "EPA requires a review of federal assistance programs to determine their consistency with the goals and objectives developed by the estuary studies". Mr. Wilms moved that the minutes of August 22, 1989, be approved as revised; Dr. Carl seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

IV. PROGRAM DIRECTOR/PROJECT OFFICER REPORTS

Program Director's Report - Dr. Robert Holman

Dr. Holman updated the committee on the status of the early demonstration projects, information management for the study, meetings attended, status and trends report, and the FY 89 projects. (Attachment E) He noted that the Army Corps

of Engineers is again participating in the Study by the involvement of Mr. Larry Saunders on the Technical Committee and Col. Suerman on the Policy Committee. Comments on the Preliminary STR from the Publications Review Subcommittee should be sent to Dr. Holman by November 20. Dr. Copeland should be sent comments on the Technical document by November 20 and on the Executive Summary document by December 1. The Final Preliminary Status and Trends Reports will be sent to the committees and interested parties during early January. Public meetings will be held sometime during February. Regarding the Federal Consistency Report project by Rob Nichols of RTI, the Policy Committee has sent a letter to OMEP requesting them for a six-month extension past the time when they provide the Study with a guidance document. No response has been received as yet from OMEP.

Dr. Holman asked Mr. Bill Cole of U.S. FWS to explain a proposed CFP item which was not included in the original CFP topics. Mr. Cole said he proposed an item regarding waterfowl which he felt should be an area studied since the Study area is the primary waterfowl area of the State of North Carolina. Waterfowl hunting is big money directly and indirectly in the Albemarle/Pamlico study area. Waterfowl data is collected but never analyzed. The committee discussed this issue and decided that Mr. Cole and Dr. Holman meet with an appropriate group to determine the cost for analyzing this data. Mr. Cole and Dr. Holman will develop a proposal for a project of this type. The proposal will be discussed as an entity by itself to determine if this is an issue to pursue.

Project Officer's Report - Mr. Ted Bisterfeld

All FY 1989 grants to the Study were obligated on schedule. He participated in an EPA quality assurance audit on several of the funded researchers of the Study. This is a requirement under the National Estuary Program. Drs. Rulifson, Noga, Paerl and Engel were audited; Stan Riggs is to be audited in the future. EPA is making recommendations to them regarding their recordkeeping, such as checks on field equipment and splitting samples with other laboratories. In addition, it was felt that Rulifson could possibly cut back on the number of samples which he takes eliminating some of the repetition of his work. Bill Cole said the Striped Bass Board is not ready to change the formula developed for this type research. Rulifson also has only two students counting the eggs and EPA questioned the ability of a replacement to accurately duplicate the work. Recommendations will be made to the researchers regarding the findings of the audit and copies of these recommendations will be provided to the Technical Committee.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Information Management Subcommittee - Dr. Robert Holman

Dr. Holman said that LRIS work is basically on schedule. He reported that the GIS Coordinator is no longer with the Study. There was discussion as to what avenue to pursue to resolve this issue. Paul Wilms moved that the Technical Committee recommend to the Policy Committee that the appropriate amount of money be set aside to fulfill the function of the GIS Coordinator. Dr. Orbach seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Mr. Bisterfeld noted that the most expeditious way to accomplish this is to amend the LRIS--A/P Study contract allowing LRIS to assume this function which Dr. Holman is going to explore.

Monitoring Subcommittee - Mr. Paul Wilms

The Monitoring and Technical Review Subcommittees held a joint meeting. One item discussed was the Preliminary Status and Trends Report. The final Status and Trends Report has to go to OMEP by October 30, 1990. The preliminary report contains no conclusions drawn from the data and observations in the STR or any recommendations developed from the conclusions. A recommendation from the joint Monitoring and Technical Review Subcommittees is that an ad hoc subcommittee be established to review the STR and formulate conclusions from the information presented in the STR (recommendations may be made in the CCMP instead of the STR). The draft conclusions would be presented to the Technical Committee in the spring (May 9 meeting) and sent out for public review. The final conclusions would be presented to the Policy Committee (August meeting) for final review and approval. The ad hoc subcommittee would include representatives of the Division of Environmental Management, Division of Marine Fisheries, Division of Coastal Management, EPA, NOAA, Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Corp of Engineers, USGS and representatives of the Albemarle and Pamlico Citizens' Advisory Committees. These would be policy level people who are technically qualified to review the STR. Mr. Wilms moved that the Technical Committee create an ad hoc committee of those entities to formulate recommended conclusions based on the information in the STR and bring those draft conclusions to the Technical Committee no later than the May 9, 1990, meeting after which they would be made available for public scrutiny, discussion by the CACs, and presented to the Policy Committee in the fall for inclusion and submittal with the STR. Mr. Bill Cole seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding this concept. It was decided that Dr. Copeland would be asked to provide a summary and conclusion chapter in the Preliminary STR. The Publications Review Subcommittee should emphasize this need in their review of the Preliminary STR. The motion was dropped.

Standard Operating Committee

The Committee has not met since the August 22 Technical Committee meeting. Dr. Holman would like the committee to met before the Policy Committee on November 21 to review some action plan items that need to be included in the outline of the CCMP. Some members of the Policy Committee have requested more input to the CCMP. It was recommended that the Policy Committee give guidance and that previously established procedure for the CCMP development be continued.

Citizens' Affairs Subcommittee - Dr. Michael Orbach

Dr. Orbach reported that numerous activities have taken place as noted in the Public Involvement Coordinator's Activities Report (Attachment F). Several publications are coming out (Guide to Estuaries, State of the Estuaries, and 1990 Calendar). These will be presented in December to the Superintendent of Education by Secretary Cobey as educational products for the school systems developed by the Study. The annual public meeting held on November 6 was well attended. It was organized around tours that took in several stops such as Agricultural Best Management Practices, land application treatment systems, water quality/sediment sampling, and the striped bass hatchery. The same format has been requested for future events.

VI. REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The schedule was distributed and Dr. Holman asked for comments or requested changes as soon as possible. (Attachment G)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. was duly seconded and unanimously approved.

(A\TCNOV.MIN)