

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 6, 1991
RALEIGH, NC

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Mr. Bowman Crum, co-chair. The attendees are listed in Attachment A. The agenda was modified to allow Mr. Jim Cummings, Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC), to brief the Technical Committee on the Merchant Millpond and the Composting Farm and Seafood Animal Residue projects.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Dr. William Hogarth moved to approve the August 20, 1991, Technical Committee minutes as distributed. Dr. Don Hoss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PROGRAM REPORTS

EPA Project Officer

Mr. Ted Bisterfeld, the EPA Project Officer for APES, was unable to attend the meeting; however, he will be attending a number of the workgroup sessions. Mr. Crum reported as follows:

- 1) Mr. Bisterfeld visited the Coweeta National Forest Service Hydrologic Laboratory.
- 2) An Issue Paper on the National Estuary Program produced by EPA Headquarters was recently reviewed by Region IV. Region IV recommends:
 - \$100-150K annual EPA funding for approximately a three-year period with the state match higher (50/50) than at present (75/25);
 - Funds would cover administrative commitments made in the Conference Agreement; monitoring and federal project consistency review and reporting;
 - Restructuring management conference committees and forming an implementation committee;
 - Convening new NEPs as existing ones complete their CCMPs;
 - EPA commitments to focus on strengthening existing program authorities to assist in implementation of CCMPs;

- Couple the NEP with broader coastal programs having stronger regional control and flexibility.

Dr. Michael Orbach felt the NEPs should be provided copies of EPA's draft recommendations regarding restructuring the management conference committees and the formation of an implementation committee. Mr. Randall Waite suggested that an "implementation committee" would probably provide a better means of obtaining funds from Congress rather than continuing the current program structure.

- 3) The annual Coastal Program Conference (NEP and NCW) will be held December 10-12 in the Washington, D.C. area.
- 4) EPA and NOAA recently issued for review proposed guidance on development and approval of state coastal NPS programs in accordance with Section 6217 of the CZMA. Comment period closes December 12. Guidance is in conjunction with other proposed guidance on actual NPS pollution management measures issued earlier.
- 5) EPA's Gulf Breeze Lab is set to perform the toxicity testing of sediment samples selected from sites where Riggs found elevated levels of metals. The samples are scheduled to be delivered by DEM to Gulf Breeze the week of November 18. (Note: Delivery was completed in January.)
- 6) It is expected APES will receive federal funding in 1992 but the amount of base funding is uncertain at this time. There will be an opportunity to compete as in the past for supplemental APDP funds.

Technical Coordinator Report

Ms. Jennifer Steel summarized the plan proposed by the Gulf Breeze Environmental Laboratory to conduct sediment toxicity tests and chemical analyses for APES. The work consists of toxicity tests on sediment samples provided by DEM staff, chemical analyses of the sediment samples, and preparing a data report. The tests should determine if sediments are contaminated and if they are acutely toxic to sensitive estuarine tests species.

The Status and Trends Report, Status and Trends Executive Summary, Projects Summary, and '91 Annual Report have been completed and distributed.

Staff have been working on the draft Goals and Objectives document and the issue papers that will serve as the foundation for the action plan portion of the CCMP. A version of the Goals and Objectives dated 10/14/91 has been distributed for comment. Based on some comments received to date and in-house discussions, the 10/14/91 version has been revised by deleting all the management and research oriented recommendations leaving only the

environmental goals and objectives. Those goals and objectives have been reorganized in terms of order to more clearly reflect the Status and Trends Report and the anticipated order the CCMP will take in terms of the four main action plans that will be developed (Critical Areas, Water Quality, Fisheries, Human Environment). This will allow the transition into the CCMP to be smoother. The management and research recommendations have been compiled and incorporated into draft issue papers that will go to 10 workgroups. Comments on the 10/14/91 version of the Goals and Objectives should be submitted to staff.

Public Involvement Coordinator Report

Mr. Waite reported that Mrs. Joan Giordano, public involvement coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting; however, a copy of public participation activities are outlined in Attachment B.

Mr. Waite noted the success of the Annual Public meeting held October 12 in Manteo with an estimated 800 attendees. Mr. Waite also read a letter in which an attendee noted the great success of the event and felt it provided a good example of the importance of the work being done in the Study and an important reason to become involved in the Study.

Project Director Report

Mr. Waite distributed (Attachment C) a copy of the FY 91-92 APES budget. He explained the status of APES funds since FY 86-87 to date. The Study is \$125,000 in the red; however, this is the State amount budgeted to cover the last quarter of this year (July thru September 1992).

The Technical Review Subcommittee has been asked to review a proposal submitted by The Nature Conservancy on "Utilizing the GIS of APES for Natural Community Classification and Critical Areas Planning." APES contribution to this effort would be \$2,500; however, the program would gain ~\$82,000 in cost-share funds which would help ensure adequate overall program match to Federal dollars.

The Nature Conservancy will be able to analyze the data obtained from CGIA to a greater extent than CGIA has the ability to do because the Nature Conservancy has ecological specialists whereas CGIA has computer specialists. Also the Nature Conservancy will groundtruth the data.

Dr. Orbach stated that CGIA through necessity has assumed the total data management activities for APES. He also stated APES has invested substantial funds into the GIS system. He questioned APES' future role in data management activities--will APES make recommendations to the State on a funding policy for information bases, access rights and privileges, etc.? He suggested, and Mr. Waite agreed, that the CCMP should include a separate Data Management Plan component. Mr. Waite said however

that analysis for the data management activities will likely fall under the CCMP Human Environment Section for population growth. That section will contain recommendations regarding long-term maintenance and use of the GIS system for land use planning.

Mr. Waite reported that the Policy Committee on October 11 voted (1) to invite as a PC member the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources and (2) to create a Wetlands Subcommittee to review the wetlands section in the Status and Trends Report.

Mr. Waite briefly summarized the CCMP draft outline which had been distributed earlier. The PC approved the outline on October 11. A revised schedule of the review sessions of the Water Quality, Human Environment, Critical Areas, and Fisheries workgroups will be developed and distributed. Staff plans to schedule the work sessions during the week of December 2 (the PC meets December 4, tentatively in Washington, NC).

Dr. Ernie Larkin suggested the workgroups be convened a second time to review the recommended action plans prior to their submittal to the Policy Committee or for public review. Dr. Orbach recommended that communication to the workgroup members stress the tasks to be accomplished during the sessions and the importance of participation.

CAC Report

Mr. John Stallings and Dr. Larkin reported that the CACs are looking forward to participating in the workgroup sessions.

MERCHANT MILLPOND/COMPOSTING FARM ANIMAL AND SEAFOOD PROCESSING RESIDUES

Mr. Jim Cummings (DSWC) briefed the Technical Committee on the accomplishments to date of the Merchant Millpond Best Management Practices project designed to implement agricultural BMP's to curtail nutrient and sediment delivery into the waters of the Millpond. The project was funded initially as an early demonstration in FY 88-89 for \$175,000. In FY 90-91 it was funded under APES technical information acquisition projects for \$90,000. Mr. Cummings noted delays in the project will not allow all of the funds to be obligated during the contract period.

Mr. Cummings also reported on the FY 91-92 early demonstration project on "Composting Farm and Seafood Animal Residues." He stated the information obtained by DSWC staff from other states that have participated in similar projects did not adequately detail the funding requirements necessary to complete this type of project. Therefore, the ~\$37,000 DSWC was awarded through APES will not be sufficient to complete this project and an additional ~\$29,110 is needed. Mr. Cummings requested approval from the Technical Committee to shift ~\$29,110 from the FY 90-91 APES general research funds for Merchant Millpond to the FY 91-92 Action Plan Demonstration Composting project. Currently,

~\$64,500 of funds are unspent in the Merchant Millpond project; however, some of those funds should be obligated this spring. Approximately \$30,000 will likely be returned to APES from the Merchant Millpond project. Mr. John Stalling made a motion to allow the DSWC to transfer ~\$29,110 from the FY 90-91 Merchant Millpond funds to the FY 91-92 Composting project. Dr. Robert Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Ms. Steel distributed an October 30, 1991, version of the Goals and Objectives. She emphasized that this version differs from the October 14 version in format only. Comments should still be submitted on the October 14 version.

Concerns were raised on the lack of specific numbers delineated in the Goals and Objectives. Dr. Carl made a motion that APES staff assign numbers (not percentages) to the Goals and Objectives. Mr. Jim Turner recommended staff arrive at the numbers using (1) background conditions and (2) best professional judgment. Dr. Orbach seconded the motion. Ms. Steel reported that very few comments have been received to date on the October 14 version and it has been difficult to get the experts to provide numbers. Committee members felt adding numbers to the current document will enhance the chances of comments. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Technical Committee did not approve the draft Goals and Objectives as had been requested by the Policy Committee. The Technical Committee recommended that the Co-chairs of the Technical Committee report to the Policy Committee in December that the process for formalizing the Goals and Objectives continues.

DINOFLAGELLATES AND FISH KILLS - NITRATE AND SAV

Mr. Waite reported that APES had become aware of new research conducted by Dr. JoAnn Burkholder, NCSU, that could be beneficial to APES in developing the CCMP. The Policy Committee was informed of the research and has approved APES funding contingent upon Technical Committee approval. The Technical Review Subcommittee has been asked to review both proposals. Funding requirements from APES would be ~\$65,000. Immediate action is being solicited in order to gain useful information for the CCMP.

Dr. Burkholder first explained the proposal "Coastal Eutrophication and Disappearing Submersed Vegetation: Lethal Effects of Nitrate Enrichment on Eelgrass and Other Beneficial Aquatic Plants." Dr. Burkholder said results from recent experiments demonstrate that during the warm spring growing season, water column nitrate enrichment can cause death to eelgrass as a direct physiological effect. Research indicates that before effective management practices to protect beneficial aquatic plants from cultural eutrophication can be developed, the

physiological mechanisms which control plant response and the fate of the total community must be understood. Also the threshold level of nitrate loading that begins to inhibit growth of desirable vegetation needs to be established. Therefore, two major objectives of the research will be to (1) work to determine the threshold level of nitrate loading which promotes destruction of eelgrass and (2) examine whether nitrate enrichment is, similarly, toxic to other valuable aquatic plants. Based upon ongoing research, this project (~\$25,000) will assist Dr. Burkholder define more specifically threshold levels of nitrate.

Dr. Burkholder also summarized the project "The Role of a New Toxic Dinoflagellate in Estuarine Finfish and Shellfish Kills in the Neuse and Pamlico Estuaries." Dr. Burkholder said that this new dinoflagellate has been discovered within the past five months and is extremely toxic to a wide array of commercially important finfish and shellfish. The organism has been documented as the causative agent of several major kills of finfish in the Pamlico and Neuse River Estuaries. The proposed research will provide concrete information to determine if the proportion of fish kills, among a range of target species, can be directly linked to a new toxic dinoflagellate. Examination of the optimal conditions for algal growth and toxic activity will provide the ability to predict the seasons and locations where toxic outbreaks can be expected. The potential for bio-control of this new dinoflagellate by natural protozoan predators may eventually provide the means to reduce its short-term and long-term, chronic effects on target fish and shellfish. Also identification of the stimulatory effects of eutrophication on toxic activity will strengthen water quality regulations for acceptable levels of nutrient loading, toward the ultimate goal of controlling the dinoflagellate's toxic outbreaks and preventing its potentially devastating effects on fisheries. Approximately \$40,000 APES funding would be required for this research.

After Dr. Burkholder's presentations, the Technical Committee discussed the projects. Dr. Don Hoss felt the proposals should go through the same peer review procedures established by the Study and that the Technical Review Subcommittee should make a recommendation following this review period. He also felt no Technical Committee member is technically qualified to review the proposals. Since the research will not begin until ~January, 1992, it was felt the potential results warranted providing sufficient time for comprehensive peer reviews.

Dr. Orbach made a motion to conduct outside reviews and delegate to the Technical Review Subcommittee, with staff, the authority for final recommendation. Dr. Hoss seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 6, 1991

ATTENDEES

ANN DEWITT BROOKS
JIM TURNER
MIKE ORBACH
RICH SHAW
BOB HOLMAN
TOM QUAY
BILL HOGARTH
DON HOSS
ERNIE LARKIN
JIM CUMMINGS
JOHN STALLINGS
MARGARET SCULLY
JENNIFER STEEL
KRISTIN ROWLES
BOWMAN CRUM
RANDALL WAITE
ERNIE CARL
SANDI HORTON
JOANN BURKHOLDER
KARON DONNELLY
KATHY NORRIS

AGENCY

VA/COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
U.S.GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
MARINE SCIENCE COUNCIL/ECU
EHNR/COASTAL MANAGEMENT
WATER RESOURCES RESRCH INST
PAMLICO CAC
EHNR/MARINE FISHERIES
NOAA/NMFS
PAMLICO CAC
EHNR/SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
ALBEMARLE CAC
APES
APES
APES
EPA
APES
EHNR
EHNR/SOIL AND WATER
NCSU
APES
APES

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT
Nov. 1991

1. Citizens' Advisory Committees (CACs)

- Continue to meet quarterly and other times as necessary
- Meeting jointly
- Meeting notices sent to public officials, interested citizens and newspapers in area
- CAC members continue to share program information with community, civic and educational organizations; also are accompanying outreach personnel on local government presentations
- 2 new members on Pamlico CAC:
 - Sybil Basnight - Friends of Roanoke Island
 - Dick Brame - Atlantic Coast Conservation Council of NC

2. Outreach

- General
 - * Va.-NC Bi-State Meeting - Sept. 26
 - * Presentation - Seafood & the Environment Conf. - Oct. 2
 - * APES Policy Committee Special Meeting - Manteo - Oct. 11
 - * APES Annual Public Meeting - Manteo - Oct. 12
 - * Elizabeth City Lions Club - Oct. 14
 - * Presentation - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council - Kill-Devil Hills Oct. 23
 - * Presentation - Washington Arts Council - Nov. 3
 - * Presentation - Mosquito & Vector Control Association - Nov. 7
 - * Presentation - Young Episcopal Churchmen - Washington - Nov. 10
- Education
 - * Researchers' Review Workshop - Manteo - Oct. 11
 - * Pasquotank County Environment Days - Oct. 17
 - * Project Aquatic Wild Workshop - Nov. 3
 - * Environmental Ed Presentation - 4th grade - Belhaven Elementary - Nov. 4-8
 - * Environmental Ed Presentation - 4th grade - Pinetown Elementary - Nov. 12, 13, 15 & 18
 - * Presentation - Farm City Day - Bayboro - Nov. 23
- Local Government Liaison
 - * Camden County Commissioners - Sept. 3
 - * Town of Winfall - Sept. 9; Nov. 11
 - * Gates County Commissioners - Oct. 7
 - * Hertford County Commissioners - Oct. 7
 - * Elizabeth City Council - Oct. 7
 - * Carteret County Commissioners - Nov. 4
 - * Perquimans County Commissioners - Nov. 4
 - * Town of Hertford - Nov. 11

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages + 2

To	Kathy Norris	From	Ann Tyndall
Co.	Apes	Co.	DEHNR
Dept.	DEHNR	Phone #	946-6481
Fax #	733-9555	Fax #	919-975-3716

3. Projects

4th cycle projects remaining to be completed:

- Exhibits

* Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium - "Precious Waters"

- Print

* Fact Sheets

ACA

PTRF in various stages of rewrite

NCCR

HRPDC - extension request to Nov. 30

* Environmental/Estuarine Health Modules (3) - Elizabeth City/Fasquotank Schools in rewrite

- Electronic

* Video PSAs for targeted audiences (5) are in process of distribution across the state - Accompanying Tip Sheet to printer - Nov. 6

* Radio spots - within established structure of daily syndicated radio program - "Weekdays with Barbara King" are available on a single tape for borrowing

4. Newsletter

- Mail list is constantly updated
- Next issue due toward end of November

5. Citizens' Monitoring

- CWQ database is presently being compiled into a technical report to reflect program activity since April 1988 (7700 records)
- Four regional QA/QC and volunteer recognition meetings for monitors will be held during November

6. Other

* GIS video completed and will be available for distribution to local governments (upon request) for introduction of GIS capabilities

10/29/91

FY 91-92 BUDGET

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>
EPA/EHNR	
ADMIN 3/4	\$206,421
ADMIN 1/4	\$68,807
CCMP	\$101,174
CGIA	\$186,000
DSW/CUMMINGS	\$34,922
DEM/TEDDER	\$57,881
DMF/MCKENNA	\$44,406
CARLOCK	\$44,200
LIPFORD	\$68,000
AMBROSE	\$4,070
BLINKOFF	\$45,322
COUTURE/AEA	\$32,680
ARMINGEON/NCCF	\$40,956
STROUD/PTRF	\$77,400
MEIGGS	\$50,625
SEDIMENT TOX	\$25,000
ROWLES	\$30,446
SCULLY	\$45,000
VIDEOFONICS	\$7,660
PUBLIC PARTIC	\$10,000
EPA/RTI	
LIDDLE	\$20,000
MCCARTHY	\$15,000
CUNNINGHAM	\$30,000
DODD	\$140,000
EHNR/NMFS	
FERGUSON	\$82,125
USGS - EHNR	\$219,850
91-92 TOTAL	\$1,687,945

TOTAL 1986-1991	EPA	ACTUAL EHNR	CREDITS	DEBITS
FY86-87	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$213,403
FY87-88	\$685,042	\$360,823	\$1,045,865	\$1,218,928
FY88-89	\$1,625,000	\$514,177	\$2,139,177	\$2,200,684
FY89-90	\$1,345,708	\$500,197	\$1,845,905	\$1,709,947
FY90-91	\$1,265,760	\$497,699	\$1,763,459	\$1,724,168
FY91-92	\$1,034,900	\$500,769	\$1,535,669	\$1,687,945
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,256,410	\$2,373,665	\$8,630,075	\$8,755,075

