

APNEP Citizens Advisory Committee
Goose Creek State Park, Washington, North Carolina
Winter Meeting Notes, February 18, 2010

APNEP Staff Present: Bill Crowell, Lori Brinn, Todd Herbert, and Chad Smith.

CAC Members Present & Calling In: Dennis Borton, Christine Mele, Mike Street, Kay Winn, Harrel Johnson, Patrick Vincent, Stacey Bradshaw, Roy Flanagan.

Call to Order: Kay Winn, CAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM and welcomed the APNEP staff and committee members. The focus of today's meeting is to discuss and select the APNEP demonstration project applications for full or partial funding.

APNEP Demonstration Project Application and Selection

- CAC members were reminded that APNEP has a budget of 125K for demonstration projects. A total number of 17 applications were submitted with a total amount request of \$302,148.
- There was a brief discussion concerning the focus (or outcome) of the projects. Is the intent to strictly fund demonstration projects? (that decision is up to the committee)
- CAC members who were present at the meeting received a summary report detailing member remarks and rankings based on environmental benefits, educational component, and overall recommendations on all 17 applications. *Prior to the meeting, Lori Brinn sent all CAC members copies of the applications and provided a review form for member comments and rankings.*
- Members began by reviewing and removing the projects that received the lowest rankings from CAC members according to the summary report.
- Other considerations for funding selection: geographic distribution (funding projects in as many river basins as possible) and allocation funds to both North Carolina and Virginia.

APNEP Demonstration Project – Funding Selection

- Projects were discussed in random order. For purposes of the meeting notes, projects have been placed in ascending order.
- Project 1: Many Waters Outdoor Classroom. Not funded. Reason(s): A duplicate project from a different school in the same county.
- Project 2: Landscaping with Nature on Currituck County. Funded.
- Project 3: Uriah Branch Nature Trail, Phase 1. Funded.
CAC members Patrick Vincent and Stacey Bradshaw abstained from discussion due to conflict of interest.
- Project 4: Henderson Affordable Housing Wetland Boardwalk/Trail. Funded.
- Project 5: Manteo High School Constructed Wetland and Outdoor Environmental Education Classroom. Not funded. Reason(s): It was suggested that the project be modified to monitor the water quality before and after the construction of the wetland. Committee members felt that there was not enough time for monitoring and that the project falls outside the application requirements.
- Project 6: Outdoor Classroom and Trail. Funded.
- Project 7: Moyock Elementary Stormwater Demonstration Project. Not funded. Reason(s): This project was not funded based on maintenance issues. There were concerns as to why the project sponsor didn't want to correct their existing pond but instead have a new one constructed.

- Project 8: Nature Trail and Indoor Recreation/Meeting Building Improvement. Not funded. Reason(s): This project was amongst the first to be eliminated due to low overall score from the summary report.
- Project 9: Reducing Stormwater Runoff into Bogue Sound at the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) Headquarters. Funded. CAC members Sara Phillips and Mike Street abstained from discussion due to conflict of interest.
- Project 10: Carrot Island Habitat Improvement Demonstration Project. Funded. CAC member Mike Street abstained from discussion due to conflict of interest.
- Project 11: Wetland Restoration and Awareness Project. Not funded. Reason(s): There were concerns about the project being on private land and that the public would have to pay to visit the area.
- Project 12: Ivey Gut Educational Boardwalk. Not funded. Reason(s): This project was not funded on the basis that it was not a demonstration project. There was also concern to the overall maintenance of the boardwalk and that existing ones have deteriorated.
- Project 13: Healthy Living: Gardening, Water Conservation, and Composting- Mentoring in Conjunction with Environmental Stewardship. Not funded. Reason(s): This project was not funded because there were concerns about the workload and long-term sustainability. There was also concern about summer maintenance when students are not in school.
- Project 14: Virginia Beach Farmer’s Market Natural Resources Education Center. Not funded. Reason(s): This project was not funded due to its lack of focus. Members were unsure how APNEP funds will be spent. Members suggested that they reapply next year. An CAC member, Roy Flanagan abstained from discussion due to conflict of interest.
- Project 15: J.H. Rose High School In-Stream Constructed Wetlands Schoolyard Demonstration Project. Funded.
- Project 16: Chowan University Bio-Retention Stormwater Treatment Demonstration Project. Not funded. Reason(s): This project was amongst the first to be eliminated due to low overall score from the summary report.
- Project 17: First Flight High School Stormwater Wetlands. Not funded. This project was not funded because there was concern about high salaries in the budget for the principal investigator. Members also noted that the school’s existing system works to design standards.
- In summary, 7 projects have been selected for funding. The remaining 10 projects were denied funding for this year.
- To fund the 7 projects requires a total of \$118,022 out of \$125,000 (available funds).
- Members decided to use the \$6,978 in remaining funds towards printing and distribution of the 2010 N.C. Environmental Education plan. It was also suggested that grant recipients receive copies of the plan.

Closing Remarks

- APNEP director, Bill Crowell briefed CAC members on APNEP-related news.
- There was also discussion on ways to improve the application “review” process. Members agreed that this year’s review was better organized than the previous year but they would like to see less “back and forth” reading.
- It was suggested that we put something regarding the American Disabilities Act (ADA) in the application requirements.
- The next CAC meeting will be held sometime in May.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05PM.