

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (Spring) Meeting

April 30, 2007

Pitt County Office Complex

Greenville, North Carolina

Minutes

Those Attending:

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|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Bob Christian | Jeff DeBlieu | Robin Dennis |
| Don Field | Kirk Havens | Pete Kalla |
| Lorry King | Wilson Laney | Martin Lebo |
| Ross Lunetta | Lynn Maguire | Mike Mallin |
| Heather McGuire | Michael Piehler | William Porter |
| Lane Price | Doug Rader | Robert Reed |
| Stan Riggs | Michael Rikard | Tony Rodriguez |
| Richard Smith | Steve Smutko | Tim Spruill |
| Brad Atkinson | Anne Deaton | John Fear |
| Joanne Harcke | Guy Stefanski | Dean Carpenter |
| Bill Crowell | Joan Giordano | Noah Hill |
| Jimmy Johnson | Chad Smith | Brian Chevront |
| Katy West | | |

Co-chair Michael Rikard called the meeting to order at 10:20am and welcomed attendees. He noted a change in the agenda that consisted of switching the 10:30am and 2:30pm presentations.

Dean Carpenter began with recognition of STAC liaison members Brad Atkinson, Anne Deaton, John Fear, Joanne Harke, and Guy Stefanski, as well as a new STAC member from East Carolina University's Department of Biology, Enrique Reyes (not present). He also listed those members whose terms were expiring in June '07. Proceeding with an update of APNEP activities since the last STAC meeting he reported that:

- the STAC Executive Committee held a teleconference on March 5th;
- the next STAC meeting would be held at VIMS on August 17th;

- The fall STAC meeting would be held on November 20th at EPA's "Green Building" at the Research Triangle Park. He added that this will be an "all hands" meeting, meaning that all APNEP advisory committees would be participating.
- the Indicators Steering Committee had not met during that quarter and asked for help in reviewing the indicators work to date;
- the APNEP Policy Board would meet on May 15th in Manteo; the APNEP Management Advisory Committee (MAC) met on March 28th in Raleigh; and the APNEP Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) would meet on July 25th in Northampton County;
- Jimmy Johnson and Wilson Laney would be attending the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in VA May 16th - 17th;

Bob Christian reported on a workshop he attended in Kitty Hawk on March 14th which dealt with establishing sustained water level measurement stations in the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. He said workshop discussion centered on what was needed, how to get it, where it was needed, and when. It was thought that in the Pamlico Sound the site should include Oregon Inlet, and perhaps be established at Cedar Island. In the Albemarle Sound, Sandy Point was mentioned as a possible site. Dr. Christian said that five subcommittees were established to dwell on what was discussed at the workshop and sign-up sheets were distributed for assignment to each of them: **1. location of current systems; 2. location of new sites; 3. equipment, sensors, variables; 4. group needs; and 5. funding strategy.** Discussion ensued.

Dr. Carpenter led discussion on the prioritization of technical issues, a listing of which the APNEP STAC Executive Committee distributed prior to the day's meeting. An action plan containing those issues receiving the greatest interest will be drafted in the future. Issues under discussion were: **tracking land cover change** in the A-P drainage area; instituting an **in situ monitoring system for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)** in the A-P region; **continuous water level measurements** in the A-P sounds; emerging impacts on the APNEP region, especially rivers with municipal waste sources due to increasing concentrations of **pharmaceuticals**, antibiotic resistant bacteria and **endocrine disruptors**, and the use and impact of large amounts of **antibiotics and steroids** in agricultural systems; **juvenile fish distribution and abundance**; **buffer zones**; **exotic species**; **statistical design of indicator networks**; **watershed and estuarine monitoring**; **predictive modeling**; **global warming**; **the efficacy of existing groundwater quality standards**; **importance of disturbance in the effects of sea-level rise (SLR)**; **Outer Banks blow-out**; **human activities directly affected by SLR**; **shoreline hardening**; **coastal plain agricultural land-use**; **Highway 12, groundwater withdrawal**; and the US Military's proposal for an **outlying landing field (OLF)**.

Brian Cheuvront, NCDMF, briefed the group on the results of the NC Waterfront Access Study Committee's report to the NC General Assembly released on April 13th. He emphasized that the public is losing access to the water and that among the committee's recommendation to the General Assembly be included: retaining and enhancing working waterfronts; enhancing public access to coastal waters; planning and zoning approaches to waterfront and access issues; purchase or transfer of development rights; that fishing piers are a NC heritage; recommendation that the General Assembly re-examine and reformulate the State's public trust submerged lands easement fee structure; that funding sources and mechanisms be made available and tapped to assist working waterfront and public access facility developers in developing or redeveloping facilities along the waterfront in ways that comply fully with environmental regulations; that educational outreach be endorsed and financially supported; and that further study and oversight be undertaken through a formal joint legislative commission.

Jeff DeBlieu briefed the group on The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Conservation Action Plan initiatives that include the APNEP region. The five objectives cited included many strategic actions for reaching implementation and can be seen in their entirety on TNC's website.

Doug Rader briefed attendees on efforts to integrate fish management planning, habitat restoration, and fisheries status within the APNEP region, using river herring as a case study. Discussion ensued.

The next STAC meeting is scheduled for August 17th at VIMS from 8:00am-1:00pm. A reception will be held the evening prior to the next meeting at a time and place to be arranged.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.