

APNEP Policy Board Meeting

Curtis H. Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
1 Visitors Center Circle, Manteo, NC 27954

Meeting Notes, September 17, 2010

Members Present: Kirk Havens, Tony Reevy, Brian Long, Rhonda Evans, Marjorie Rayburn, Sara Benghauser, Reid Wilson, Charlie Bass, Linda Rimer, Tom Stroud, Tom Allen, Jack Thigpen, Granville Maitland, Richard Rogers, David Knight, Todd Miller,

Guests: Jan DeBlieu, Erin Fleckenstein, Sam Pearsall, Terry McGinnis, Mary Ann Hodges, Brian Boutin, Carl Hershner, Robert Howard, Nancy White, Jamie Daniels, Robert Perry, Linda Pearsall.

Staff Present: Bill Crowell, Dean Carpenter, Jimmy Johnson, Scott Gentry, Todd Herbert, Chad Smith.

Call to Order: Tony Reevy: Tony welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Members were welcomed to Manteo and the Outer Banks by a visitor guide from the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau. Tony read the conflict of interest statement to the Policy Board. Tony recognized that today's meeting is public and asked if there were any comments. There were no members of the public present to offer comments. Tony asked if anyone had any changes or corrections to the meeting notes from the May meeting. The meeting notes were later approved by consensus with no changes.

STAC Service Recognition for Nancy White: Dean Carpenter

- Dean recognized Nancy White for her service as STAC chair (2004-2008) and Policy Board (2005). Dean presented Nancy with a plaque and she provided a brief appreciation message. Bill added that Nancy helped him prepare to lead APNEP through work with the White Oak River project.

APNEP Director's Report: Bill Crowell

- Bill introduced Scott Gentry to the Policy Board; he is filling in the position previously held by Lucy Henry. Some of his involvements include contracts and CCMP updates.
- Bill added that he is trying to fill Lori Brinn's position and hopes to have it filled by the next Policy Board meeting.
- Bill also talked about APNEP contributing to the purchase of a boat to share with NCDMF for fisheries-related research and SAV.
- Bill mentioned there were 25 teachers at this year's Teachers Institute. Bill added that he hopes to send everyone a detailed report at a later date.
- Bill briefed members on the SAV mapping project.
- The grant for the "2010-2011" federal year had just arrived, which was earlier than usual.
- Bill added that the CCMP will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Tony asked if there were any comments for Bill. There were no comments.

Update Program Office Relocation in NCDENR: David Knight

- David said APNEP was now placed within the Office of Conservation (working title).
- Tony viewed this as a positive change.
- It was also mentioned that APNEP received \$600,000 for the present federal year but will receive \$800,000 for the upcoming federal year (October 2010 – September 2011). Bill added that we usually know our funding situation in the February-March timeframe.

Nominating Committee Report: Reid Wilson

- There are three open positions: (1) commercial, (2) planning, (3) Extension, preferably in the Virginia area. Timothy Baynes was nominated for “planning”; Lonnie Johnson for “extension.”
- Biographies of the nominees were available in the handouts that were issued at the meeting or through email.
- Marjorie encouraged participation in the “extension” area, she pointed out that past “extension” individuals did not attend the Policy Board meetings.
- The Policy Board approved election of Lonnie Johnson and Timothy Baynes for positions listed above. They will be serving a 3-year term. Both were not present at today’s meeting
- Todd Miller made a few comments to support his nomination for Vice-Chair. He was asked to leave the room while the Policy Board underwent discussion and the election process. Todd was approved to serve as Vice-Chair for a 2-year term.

CCMP / EBM Overview and Progress Report: Carl Hershner and Bill Crowell

- Bill provided an update on the CCMP. He also covered the APNEP mission statement and said that the CCMP is built around six goals/questions that focus on science, citizens, and management. He also reviewed the priorities but reminded members that this was a draft.
- Bill presented the different goals of the CCMP; each goal has a list of outcomes:
 - Goal 1: Healthy Human Communities
 - Goal 2: Human Well-Being
 - Goal 3: Healthy Native Species
 - Goal 4: Protected and Restored Habitats
 - Goal 5: Water for People, Fish, and Wildlife
 - Goal 6: Clean Waters
- Bill also presented six proposed strategies:
 - Identify the gap in our knowledge of the ecosystem (part of APNEP mission)
 - Protect the system (part of APNEP mission)
 - Restore the system (part of APNEP mission)
 - Prevent water pollution at its source
 - Collaboration
 - Monitor and track implementation action and changes in the ecosystem
- Bill asked members for questions. Tony asked if Bill could send the presentation to the Policy Board for later comments.
- One comment was made about who makes these decisions. Bill answered that the strategies would be a step process with objectives and actions. Another comment was made about the completion progress of the current CCMP. Bill said that 90-95% of the existing CCMP has been accomplished.
- Bill mentioned that it is important to identify the lead partner in the objectives and pursue action. There was concern about who is making and implementing the decisions. There is open communication to be sure that partners are interested and that there is no conflict of interest.
- APNEP is currently in the process of meeting with “partners” staff to be sure the objectives are correct; The Policy Board expressed interest in this process. One member made a comment that the agency and partnership names should be listed.
- Tony encouraged members to make comments about Bill’s presentation. Bill added that he has paper copies of the CCMP goals and strategies at today’s meeting.
- Bill introduced Dr. Carl Hershner to discuss APNEP’s EBM transition.
- The goal of Carl’s talk was to define “EBM” and where we are now and how it fits into the CCMP. Dr. Hershner passed out a handout to members.
- EBM is place based; focused on sustaining valued ecosystem services by protecting ecosystem structure and function; recognizes internal and external linkages of the whole system; and

specifically considers economic, social, and institutional aspects of the system.

- EBM is a program characteristic, not a program structure. There is no set way a program must be designed in order to operate as an EBM undertaking. The key characteristics are that actions are planned in light of the best available understanding of how the managed system operates – including both natural and human components. This accommodates evolving understanding and adaptive management.
- The essential elements of EBM are: (1) holistic vision/plan, (2) community, (3) process, and (4) foundation.
- Dr. Hershner went over the seven steps for CCMP/EBM development with a tentative timeframe:
 - Articulate program goals
 - Develop system-level model for goal attainment
 - Assess current management efforts (October 2010)
 - Develop management strategy (December 2010)
 - Develop monitoring program (February 2011)
 - Assess performance (2012)
 - Manage adaptively (difficult process)
- There was a question to whether or not there will be meetings/hearings for comments when the public draft of the CCMP becomes available.

Integrative Ecosystem Assessment Progress Report (STAC): Dr. Kirk Havens

- Dr. Havens mentioned that Dr. Mike Piehler (of STAC) facilitated a discussion on topics involving the upcoming APNEP regional ecosystem technical assessment at the summer STAC meeting. The goal for that meeting was to review the proposed table of contents and to pick a subset of indicators to see where the STAC stands.
- Dr. Havens provided a recap of what was discussed at the STAC meeting. August 2010: Prioritize indicators based on natural/social scientific criteria; September 2010: Select indicators for inclusion in assessment based on pragmatic criteria and assigning responsibilities (Dr. Havens mentioned this was difficult and that Mike has spent a lot of time on this); December 2010: Complete writing; January 2011: Draft assessments to the STAC; February 2011: Draft to other committees; March 2011: Make draft available to the public.

Working Lunch and Local Projects Presentation: Terry McGinnis and Mary Ann Hodges

- Terry McGinnis and Mary Ann Hodges gave a presentation on their CAC-funded demonstration project at Manteo Middle School where both work (principal and teacher, respectively).
- In 2006, two rain gardens were constructed on school grounds (20,000 and 9,000 square feet). Today, it plays a role in the science curriculum for both 7th and 8th graders. They are also constructing a boardwalk with assistance from USFWS this summer.
- Students have used the rain gardens for plant identification and population growth; they also want to measure precipitation by adding rain gauges. Mary Ann mentioned that the addition of the boardwalk will help control the study areas as well as provide an area for relaxation.
- Bill commented that the size makes these rain gardens unique. He also pointed out that the signs were well-placed (i.e. in the carpool lines so parents could read them while they wait to pick up their kids).
- Mary Ann mentioned that leftover funds will be used to purchase additional plants.
- This demonstration project also received some media coverage in “Our State” and “Coastal Edge.” This has helped peak interest from others.
- A question was asked about long-term monitoring. Mary Ann answered that it is improving and that she is still developing an effective curriculum.
- Tony thought this investment was excellent and effective.

New and Old Business: Tony Reeve

- Tony asked that the Policy Board members introduce themselves. He also pointed out new members: Rhonda Evans (EPA) and Sara Benghauser (Va DCR).
- Tom Stroud talked about the recent “Growing Greener” event at the NC Estuarium. He added that 300 people attended the two day course and that fees were waived to encourage higher attendance. He also mentioned that it was videotaped for DVD production and future airings on local cable stations. Pat Harris and Charles Davenport gave presentations at this event. People were also curious if this would be an annual event.
- There was also discussion on the Chesapeake Bay Program Visit. Tony said he was impressed with their monitoring program and also noticed their budget increase. Tony asked if anyone else who attended had any comments. David agreed with Tony about the monitoring program and said that it gave us a lot to think about when it comes to our own program.
- Others mentioned that they came away with a “lessons learned” approach.
- One member addressed that in order to clean the bay, you have to start with the sources, which are the tributaries (tributary strategists).
- Clean Estuaries Act: Status of the NEP reauthorization in Congress: Members were confident that HR715 has passed the House and Senate with 1.25 million dollars per NEP with room for more NEPs.
- Bill talked about the APNEP website reconstruction. He hopes to have it up and running in two weeks. Lori Brinn has been working on the website. One member suggested that the map of the estuary be upfront on the homepage. There were also requests to have the major meeting agendas and notes available somewhere on the website. Tony mentioned that this was required.
- Bill talked about the Sound Learning Teaching Institute. Bill mentioned there were leftover tote bags available for members to take home. Bill added that teachers left with an estimate of \$200 worth of material donated by APNEP and different partners.
- The next Policy Board Meeting is tentatively set for December 15, 2010; location: TBA.
- Tony briefed members about the optional field trip to the APNEP/The Nature Conservancy Project: Climate Change Adaptation Project at the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Members asked if Brian Boutin (meeting guest and field trip leader) could brief members on the project for those who cannot attend the field trip. Brian agreed and provided members with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the project.
- Bill mentioned that it was a good project and that it was receiving coverage in the media. Brian mentioned that we are in the infancy stage but things are moving smoothly and quickly. He also mentioned there was some vandalism and theft to the water quality instruments but it stopped once press releases were made.

The meeting adjourned from the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau at 1:45 PM.

Some members proceeded to the field visit site.