

Policy Board Meeting
Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
March 10, 2010
NCSU Center for Marine Sciences and Technology (CMAST)

Members and Staff Present: Tom Allen (ECU), Charlie Bass (CAC), Lori Brinn (APNEP), Dean Carpenter (APNEP), Bill Crowell (APNEP), Terry Hairston (NuCOR), Kirk Haven (VIMS, STAC), Todd Herbert (APNEP), Jimmy Johnson (APNEP), David Knight (Assistant Secretary, NCDENR, PB), Wilson Laney (USFWS, STAC), Todd Miller (NCCF), Linda Pearsall (NCDENR), Marjorie Rayburn (CAC), Tony Reeve (UNC-CH, Institute for the Environment), Michael Richert (NPS, former STAC), Linda Rimer (EPA, MAC), Tom Stroud (Partnership for the Sounds), Jack Thigpen (UNC-Sea Grant, PB), and Eric Walberg (Hampton Roads, VA, Planning District Commission).

Introductions and Preliminary Announcements and Information:

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 by Jack Thigpen and those present introduced themselves. Dean Carpenter recognized Michael Richert for his years of service to the program and to several of the advisory boards. This would be Michael's last Policy Board meeting. It was noted that Michael, along with Nancy White, was the first co-chair of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).

Jack announced a leadership training opportunity for local government leaders to be held in Currituck County, and provided fliers on the training to the Policy Board. He asked members to share the information with others.

Wilson and Michael Richert briefed the group on the Status of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative. Wilson noted that the LCC's are being established nationally, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The SALCC Coordinator position has been advertised and a cert list has been compiled. We hope that the position will be filled by April. There will be a planning meeting in March, with the Interagency Scoping Team, and a workshop in April, with FWS Project Leaders, and all involved partners. Michael noted that the National Park Service will be hiring a position as well.

Dr. David Eggleston, Director of CMAST, welcomed the board to the facility. Dr. Eggleston explained who all the partners were in the building, and also noted the shoreline restoration project just outside the window, which was a cooperative endeavor. North Carolina State University has staff and graduate students located at CMAST, which represents three different colleges and six different departments. He reviewed all the programs which were based at CMAST.

Brian Long (NCDA&CS) joined the meeting by conference call at 1:00pm.

By-Laws Discussion: Bill Crowell

Bill led a discussion regarding the possible need to make a change in the by-laws to specifically address leadership succession and transition for the Policy Board. The need for the discussion came from the Nominating Committee and questions that arose as they were contemplating nominees to fill the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. The discussion centered on the desire to have the Vice-Chair succeed to the Chair after the current Chair's two year term expired. It was ultimately decided that no change in the by-laws was necessary. It was agreed to that the Policy Board would adhere to the spirit of the discussion and the Vice-Chair would ascend to the Chair after two years.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: Jack Thigpen

The Nominating Committee presented their nominees for leadership of the Policy Board. The Nominating Committee members were: Bill Crowell, Jack Thigpen, Linda Rimer, Tony Reeve and Richard Rogers. The committee nominated Tony Reeve for Chair and Eric Walberg for Vice-Chair. The committee felt it was proper to

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have the leadership divided between North Carolina and Virginia. Jack asked if there were any nominations from the Policy Board. There were none and Wilson Laney moved that the nominations be closed. Tom Stroud seconded the motion. The motion passed. Kirk Haven then made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations for Chair and Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Tom Allen. It was noted that when the Nominating Committee met and decided to submit Tony's name for consideration, Tony recused himself from any further deliberations on the matter. The motion was approved unanimously. The terms officially will run from this day until the first meeting of 2012. Jack then turned the gavel over to Tony.

Program Activities and Issues: Bill Crowell

Bill noted the national meeting of the NEP's was held in Washington, DC two weeks ago. At that meeting, Bill gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP), and APNEP's proposed change to an Ecosystem Based Management approach. That generated quite a bit of excitement among the other NEPs.

At the meeting, Bill was informed that APNEP will have an appropriated sum of \$800,000 available this year. It will drop back down to \$600,000 for FY 2011. Bill advised that he would like to work with the Executive Committee, to draft the work plan to incorporate the added funding. He would like to have a conference call or two, and will discuss that soon with the Executive Committee. Bill also encouraged members of the Policy Board to contact members of Congress and encourage them to support the upcoming NEP legislation. There is a proposed budget change calling for an increase in appropriations from the current \$35M to \$50M.

Bill welcomed Lori Brinn back from maternity leave. He also showed the board a picture of Lori's baby, Charlotte. Lori provided copies of several handouts which provided 2009 highlights, and also the projects which had been selected for 2010 CAC projects. Both of these lists will be posted on the web site. Bill noted the selection committee met in December. Bill indicated the total for all the projects combined is around \$119,000.

The RFP for the restoration project is now closed. Bill indicated he will not open any of the proposals, until he and Lori complete the evaluation sheet. They will have a ranking sheet as they did for the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) projects, and decisions will be made based on merit. David asked if the funding was available. Bill indicated it was. They plan to move quickly to get the funds obligated. They will advise EPA of their plans regarding any unexpended funds.

Bill noted that he had talked to Granville Maitland last week. Bill noted that at the December meeting, \$20,000 had been set aside for an educational project. Bill indicated that he needed more guidance from the Board, with regard as to where they want the funding to be used. Bill reminded us that Granville had discussed a farm demonstration day as one possible option. Bill noted that the Board had not dedicated it specifically for that, but that was one possibility. Jack explained that we could use the same demonstration format, for any sort of demonstration project, such as for shoreline stabilization. A significant amount of discussion ensued. Tony suggested that it was the staff's role, to come up with some recommendations for us, to be discussed at the next Policy Board meeting. Tony noted that we hadn't limited it to agriculture. Tony noted that we would also like to see some distribution in each state. Jack asked Marjorie how much a Field Day cost? Marjorie indicated that the expenses were usually shared by some of the agricultural corporations. She suggested that around \$5,000 was a good working total, by the time you include feeding the group.

Bill noted that he had come back, because he felt he needed more direction from the Board. Marjorie suggested that we send a notice to all the Cooperative Extension offices, in NC and VA, and asking for their suggestions. Jack suggested that we just look on the Cooperative Extension calendar. Tony asked that staff bring back to the Policy Board recommendations for at least one Field Day event in NC and one in VA. Marjorie noted that one extension office was looking for funds for a seed drill, which could be used in demonstrations.

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Todd Miller noted that there are some things which could be done, for outreach of the program itself, to highlight the planned activities for the year. Tony concurred noting that is why we specified that it went beyond just addressing agriculture. Marjorie noted that addressing the farmers will be good, since many of the farmers don't know what APNEP is or does. Bill noted that much of the APNEP work has been done in the Roanoke River Basin. Todd Herbert indicated that he could work on this. Staff indicated that they would come back to the Policy Board with ideas.

Wilson briefed the PB on the FWS American Shad in Schools Program and noted that was another opportunity for collaboration. He explained that the program would address initially the Neuse and Roanoke watersheds. Dominion Generation is going to contribute \$2,400 to the project in the Roanoke River Basin.

Climate Change Workshop: Linda Rimer

Linda Rimer was out of the room, on a conference call, so Linda Pearsall reviewed the workshop. She stated who some of the speakers were. There were 450 people in attendance, and a lot of positive energy. Linda noted that people kept coming up to Janine Nicholson, the workshop coordinator, telling her that they were not aware of a lot of the activities going on. Linda noted that table had five members of the NC Board of Transportation, and this is probably the first time that the NCDOT has ever dealt with science impacts on highway construction. Jack noted that he appreciated the fact that this workshop covered the Piedmont and Mountains, as well as the Coastal Plain, so he learned a lot.

Tony asked Linda Pearsall if there were any identified next steps. Linda noted there were breakout sessions, but she wasn't aware what next steps, if any, were identified. Bill and Jack indicated that video and slides from the workshop are already posted on the web. Bill will send out the link to the site. Linda Pearsall noted that a number of NC's Departmental Secretaries were in attendance.

Bill noted the workshop was originally planned by the Interagency Leadership Team. Linda Rimer serves on that team. Bill noted that he and Eric have discussed with Linda the fact that we need to have a similar workshop, with planners. Tony noted that he didn't feel there was enough recognition of APNEP, during the workshop. Bill agreed. Bill noted that during the planning process, he had pushed for a statewide perspective, since impacts will be felt throughout the state, not just in the Coastal Plain. Tony also noted that he had good interaction with the participants. He felt that people were very optimistic about the potential for national legislation on climate change.

Todd noted that his staff person, who attended, was very impressed by the speaker from the University of Maryland. Tony agreed that she had done a nice job, and felt that NC could learn from MD's experience. Jack agreed. Linda Pearsall noted that the NC Legislative Study Commission on Climate Change has asked David Knight to come to their meeting next week. They are interested in raising the profile of climate change impacts.

Update of APNEP's move toward Ecosystem Based Management (EBM): Jack Thigpen

Jack noted that at the last Policy Board meeting in Wilson, the Board had approved a concept for moving forward into EBM. Jack noted that a number of folks, including him, did not have a firm concept of what EBM is. A lot of members left the meeting, confused about what was going on. Since that meeting, an implementation team has been formed. The team members are: Jack Thigpen, Kirk Haven, Carl Hershner, Tom Stroud, Dianne Reid, Wilson Laney, Pete Campbell, Marjorie Rayburn and Molly Roggero. Jack noted that the team met for two full days in Halifax, to discuss how to move forward. A good portion of the meeting was devoted to the implications for APNEP.

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Kirk Havens led the Policy Board through an exercise to show how EBM was designed to work and how it is different than what is being done now. Marjorie noted that if you do not have monitoring in place, you will not know whether you were successful or not. In some cases, monitoring is there, and in other cases it is not. Kirk agreed and stated that APNEP needs look to see whether there is an indicator which is already being monitored.

Tom Stroud noted that it seemed to him that it was important to select objectives, and guiding principles. A discussion took place regarding chlorophyll *a* as perhaps a good standard for water quality throughout the entire region. It was noted that you have to choose the right metric, to get to the right end.

Kirk stated that you may find there are some factors about which you can do nothing. The Board discussed wetlands, but noted that sea level rise is a factor influencing those, and we cannot do very much about it. The entire process is pretty much a logic exercise. Part of the process will be getting together groups of people who will prioritize which indicators will be the focus. Senior managers may help to identify the highest priorities.

Bill noted that an important starting point is what are the objectives you want to address? The example used is one to sustain and restore SAV. It is important to have those objectives from the very beginning. Bill pointed out that the core point is that we want to look at different aspects of the system and how they relate to each other. We don't want to just look at one factor. For example, the impacts of dredging occur throughout the system, and we want to identify what those are, and which ones we can address. This should help us prioritize for our system.

Brian discontinued his participation in the meeting on the conference call.

Bill led a discussion on the general Adaptive Management Cycle. He reviewed the four steps: assess, plan, implement, monitor, then re-assess and go through the cycle again. The NEPs generally follow this pathway. For APNEP, the assessment was completed for the period of 1987-1994. During that time, the Ecological Assessment was completed. The CCMP was prepared. Some management actions were undertaken, but little monitoring has been done. Bill noted that we want to determine whether the funding which comes to the program lead to changes in the ecosystem. We will continue to follow the APNEP Adaptive Management Cycle.

Bill noted that one question is whether BMPs, such as Forestry BMPs, are really working. APNEP might fund a study to assess whether that is the case, if that comes out as a high priority. At this point in the process, the staff is looking at goals identified in other management plans which overlap with the mission of APNEP. The CCMP Steering Committee has pulled out some goals, and is now identifying objectives. It is expected that there will be gaps identified during the CCMP development process. The process will generate management priorities, compile agency plans, and work through the CCMP Steering Committee. Common areas will be identified as well as gaps. Bill gave an example for the SAV objective. He noted that multiple partners provided funding. We have never had complete imagery in the past, but we do now, and the imagery allowed us to also map wetlands.

Once the CCMP draft objectives are developed, APNEP will solicit public comment, and then finalize the CCMP objectives. During the spring and summer, APNEP will engage management and develop the objectives. For example, if it is determined that water quality is a priority for other partners, APNEP should be able to engage them and at least partially address their objectives, and thereby secure their buy-in. With SAV, numerous partners needed the imagery. Engagement of numerous partners will facilitate the program.

The goal is to have the draft CCMP completed by the end of the year. There was a significant amount of discussion around the CCMP process and involvement of partners.

Kirk noted that we should consider the climate change impacts during the process, and map out the impacts. Bill agreed that was part of the process. Kirk noted that you would identify the agencies which should address it, as well as those with capacity to address it, and eventually come up with measures. He noted that they had used

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wetlands as an example. While you cannot address sea-level rise, you can implement measures which allow wetland migration.

Old and New Business: Tony Reevy

Tom Allen noted that RENSI was going to be addressing coastal erosion. They will get this from some of the SAV imagery. They are also going to address new technology, not just the old digitizing approach. They want to know which partners are interested in shoreline erosion, such as hot spots, transportation infrastructure vulnerability, etc. They are putting together a white paper, with a team of about five faculty members. Jack asked how far upriver they were going. Tom indicated at least to the freshwater transition, Washington and Edenton. Todd Miller noted that the NCDOT had done a study, several years ago, looking at shoreline erosion. He noted that it would be interesting to compare that study, with this one. Tom Allen noted there is an opportunity here to look at different tools. He thanked Todd for the source.

Tom Allen noted that they are hosting the NC Hurricane Workshop, which conflicts with the next meeting.

Tony noted that before he was asked to be chair, he had made a commitment for May 26. Several other members have conflicts as well. Staff asked about changing the meeting date to May 13th? That was okay with the members present.

Todd asked about starting the meeting at 10:30 AM. Bill explained that given the present budget crunch, APNEP is no longer able to provide lunch. The meetings need to be in a location which enables members to go and get lunch. Tony noted that if we could meet at Chapel Hill, they could provide lunch, but they aren't in the APNEP region. Bill noted that we have to be careful about ethics as well, especially with regard to the perception that any board member, who might be applying for a grant, was buying lunch for the entire Board. Tony and Linda Rimer asked what would be the problem in having members pay for their lunch. Bill indicated that could be done.

Tony summarized that we would meet May 13th, at a location to be determined.

Linda Rimer moved and Tom Allen seconded a motion for adjournment. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.