SAV Partners' Winter 2007 Meeting

ECU Greenville Center Greenville, NC February 12, 2007

Meeting Notes

Attending:

Dean Carpenter, APNEP
Danielle Mir-Gonzales, DWQ
Scott Chappell, DMF
Brian Conrad, DMF
Bonnie Bendell, DCM
Bill Crowell, APNEP
John Stanton, USFWS
Jacquie Ott, NERR
Anne Deaton, DMF
Mike Street, DMF
David Knowles, ECU

Don Field, NOAA
John Gallegos, USFWS
Aaron James, DWQ
Maria Tripp, WRC
Joan Giordano, APNEP
Steve Mitchell, DOT
Rob Breeding, EEP
Rob Emens, DWR
Jimmy Johnson, APNEP/DENR
Liz Noble, ECSU

Stephanie Noblitt, ECSU

Dean Carpenter called the meeting to order at 12:35pm and asked those present for self-introductions. He stated the objective of the meeting: "to discuss ideas about promoting and coordinating current and future monitoring, assessment, and restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in North Carolina and Virginia." He then asked for approval of the draft meeting notes.

Mike Street asked that the typo in the previous month's meeting notes be corrected to read "CHPP" instead of "CHHP." The notes were accepted into record without further correction.

POLICY/OUTREACH DISCUSSION

Jacquie Ott led discussion pertaining to outreach and education as concerns the SAV program, emphasizing that much exists that can be utilized and that there was no need "to reinvent the wheel." Tools already in existence and recommended for SAV involvement included: being featured on or with EstuaryLive!, the NERR Coastal Training Program, Chambers of Commerce,

color maps on the ECSU website, CHPP presentations, Duck's Unlimited, NC Aquariums, NC Ferries and Sea Grant programs. Discussion ensued with the decision to investigate the development of a pamphlet/brochure, a static display, hold workshops, and consider a feature in NC Wildlife magazine. It was also suggested that money generated by NC recreational fishing licenses could be applied for through the granting process within the NC DMF.

Ms. Ott agreed to summarizing discussion suggestions and sending the document out to the group for consideration and prioritization.

RESTORATION DISCUSSION

David Knowles reported that he communicated with Jud Kenworthy (NOAA) and received the information he sought with respect to what criteria would be used to identify SAV sites most likely/not likely to be restored. It was suggested that Dr. Kenworthy be scheduled for presenting on this topic at a future SAV meeting. Further discussion centered on DOT's restoration efforts, as well as those of other entities.

ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION

Dr. Carpenter explained that in the aftermath of the Partners' Ad-Hoc Committee work to compile and map historical SAV research (first phase completed in December), that a session at this and future meetings will continue to be reserved for Partners' to share SAV assessment activities, specifically the analysis and use of existing SAV data for use by policy makers and other stakeholders.

MAPPING/MONITORING DISCUSSION

Dr. Carpenter reported that an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract through NOAA's Coastal Services Center is progressing. A mechanism to set up task orders (statement of work for image acquisition) is being drafted. This work will be submitted to DENR for review. Discussion morphed into questions about the IDIQ process and who will have an impact in making the final decision.

Don Field led a discussion on the merits of aerial photography and digital camera technology.

Anne Deaton reported on field monitoring protocols, the development of which she led. Discussion ensued with live ordnance mentioned as being on the bottom of waters to be monitored. It was suggested that the military do their own ground-truthing. It was also mentioned that the volunteer monitors (APNEP CMN and NCCF folks) need to do their samples by 6:30am and call in their results no later than 7:00am.

Scott Chappell discussed methods for determining strata for sampling sites.

Brian Conrad discussed the ground-truthing data sheet. He emphasized that if points appeared to be on land or a dock that the data should not be dismissed, but moved to an alternate point within the strata. He asked that comments on the data sheet be sent to him so changes can be made.

Liz Noble mentioned that she would send additional language to be inserted into the meeting notes pertaining to Stephanie Kudyba's presentation at the December 2006 SAV meeting.

Stephanie Noblitt reported that she is continuing at ECSU with mapping of the Pasquotank and North Rivers, the Chowan River, Salmon Bay, the southern shore of Albemarle Sound, Kitty Hawk Bay to Buzzard's Bay and Back Bay. Ms. Noble announced that Stephanie was married recently and her surname has changed from Kudyba to Noblitt!

It was decided that the next meeting would occur in June between the 10th and 30th of the month following the flight window. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.