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## SAV PARTNERS' WINTER MEETING

DENR Washington Regional Office, Hwy. 17  
Washington, NC 27889  
March 6, 2012  
10:00 am

Present: Gloria Putnam, Steve Mitchell, John Fear, Jimmy Johnson, John Gallegos, GERALYN MIRELES, Joe Luczkovich, Brian Boutin, Kevin Hart, Jim Hawhee, Rob Breeding, Anne Deaton, Maria Dunn, Sara Sherman (WRC), Lindsay Jenkins (WRC)

Minutes from the December 15, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

### WRC Outreach at boat ramps

Anne Deaton introduced Lindsay Jenkins and Sara Sherman from WRC. They explained WRC's involvement with planning, designing, and constructing boat ramps. Since they have to purchase land for these, they want to learn about SAV concerns related to boat ramps so that impacts can be avoided. Lindsay explained that permit conditions for a recent boat ramp requested educational signage at the ramp to educate boaters on the value of SAV and how to avoid impacting it. She developed a sign that is not site-specific so it can be used at other boat ramps where needed throughout the state. Maria Dunn attended an interagency *Hydrilla* workshop and mentioned that a survey found *Hydrilla* near 12 WRC ramps. They plan to add information about how to avoid spreading *Hydrilla* at those ramps (using Rob Emens brochure/signs). She also shared that Sonar is the best herbicide to treat *Hydrilla* and that Rob Emens and others are working on grants to get funding for counties to treat it.

### SAV Action Plan

The group was asked for any other changes to the abbreviated or complete SAV Action Plan. Pending the changes noted, the plan was deemed complete.

### DOT NC-12 SAV Mitigation

Steve Mitchell gave a summary of the DOT progress regarding replacement of the Bonner Bridge over Oregon Inlet and the temporary Pea Island bridge over the inlet formed during Hurricane Irene (Phase 2 bridge), and NC 12 around the Rodanthe hot spot. Regarding Bonner Bridge, DOT will be required to do about 1.37 acres of SAV restoration. They received proposals for potential mitigation. A proposal by NMFS's Mark Fonseca was accepted. It will involve constructing a wave attenuator of rock and shell to reduce wave energy behind it and enhance SAV growth behind it in an area that currently has patchy and sparse coverage. SAV mitigation for the two other projects is still under consideration. The group looked at maps and discussed possible options. Another highway project that will impact SAV is the mid-Currituck Bridge. The Turnpike Authority will be responsible for associated mitigation. The project will result in 8 acres of direct impact and 27 acres of shading impacts. The EIS is currently out for review. Steve said that comments on any of these could be sent to him but were due within the week.

### Subcommittee Updates

#### *Restoration*

John Gallegos provided an update. Conference calls between subcommittee members resulted in further progress on the draft "SAV Research & Restoration" table. Copies of this draft document were provided to all SAV Group members present. This Excel spreadsheet provides specific site selection

## DRAFT

questions and answers dealing with critical SAV requirements including sections on SAV: life histories, historical occurrence, stressors, restoration research and project ID & prioritization. This table addresses Goal #2 Objective #1 of the action plan (“Develop and prioritize research questions that provide SAV restoration site selection criteria”). Discussion on the specific components of the spreadsheet began but was deferred until the next subcommittee conference call. The intent of this document is to provide specific site selection criteria after a general geographic area has already been identified for SAV restoration.

A second similar, but more general site selection spreadsheet (“SAV Site Selection Matrix”) has also been drafted to aid initial identification of a geographic area for SAV restoration; prior to applying the “SAV Research & Restoration” criteria. It is the Subcommittee’s addresses Goal #2 Objective #4 of the SAV Action Plan – “Develop an SAV restoration methodology to identify potential SAV restoration sites.” This draft Excel spreadsheet will be further developed when the SAV Research & Restoration table is completed. Copies of this spreadsheet were also handed out for review.

Further SAV Restoration Subcommittee conference calls will be held in the future to complete these two decision-making documents.

### *Monitoring and Assessment*

Joe Luczkovich provided a brief update on the status of the CRFL project.

### *Outreach*

Jim Hawhee summarized the outreach committee’s phone conference call on Feb. 15. Based on members’ strengths and capacity, the committee narrowed its focus to two projects: identifying potential outreach partners and venues for SAV-related information and developing informational resources for elected officials. After providing substantial guidance for the WRC boat ramp project, the committee discussed ways in which it can serve as a resource when other outreach materials concerning SAV are updated. The team also discussed the potential for creating an authoritative online source of SAV information in the partnership’s region of influence.