

Draft

APNEP Citizens Advisory Committee
ECU Greenville Centre, Greenville, North Carolina
Spring Meeting Notes, June 2, 2010

APNEP Staff Present: Bill Crowell, Lori Brinn, Todd Herbert, Jimmy Johnson, Chad Smith, Maria Vozzo (APNEP summer intern).

CAC Members Present: Marty Wiggins, Brian Roth, Marjorie Rayburn, Kay Winn, Dennis Borton, Harrel Johnson, Lisa Kirby, Charles Bass.

Guest Speaker: Henry Lancaster (The Center for Green Research and Evaluation, ECSU).

Call to Order and Introductions: Kay Winn:

- Kay, CAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM and welcomed the APNEP staff and committee members; introductions followed.
- Kay asked members if there were any proposed changes to the meeting agenda as well as public comments. There were no agenda changes or public comments. Kay asked about the “public comments” section of the agenda. Lori stated that since these meetings were open to the public, they were allowed to attend and offer their comments on the discussion. Lori also mentioned it was a formality to the meeting agenda.
- Kay asked for approval of the CAC Winter Meeting notes. The notes were approved by consensus with no changes.

APNEP Updates: Bill Crowell and Lori Brinn:

- Lori mentioned there was a delay in receiving the 2009 CAC contracts. Bill added that they would be managing two contracts this year (both 2009 and 2010). Lori passed out a handout that summarizes the awarded CAC projects for 2009 and 2010.
- The remaining \$6000 from the CAC Demonstration Project Budget was used for printing based on the consensus at the last CAC meeting. The money was used to print booklets for the NC Environmental Education Plan. Lori passed out copies of the book to members. Marty was appreciative of the new books and said that the previous one was 10 years old and in need of updating.
- Bill informed members about the program relocation. Lori passed out handouts showing the timeline and the program’s structure. Lori also passed out a letter written by the STAC to Secretary Freeman in regards to the relocation. The proposed structure is that APNEP will be located under the Division of Conservation (formally the Division of Soil and Water Quality and Division of Natural Resources Planning and Conservation).
- Bill said that he is unsure where the program will be. Lori added that APNEP’s mission will not change and that our everyday activities would not change drastically.
- Kay was concerned about the continuation of the CAC with the new program changes.
- Lori passed out the 2009 EPA Program Review Letter. Bill explained the letter to members and encouraged everyone to read the letter when they had a free moment. He added that APNEP passed the review and that EPA will continue to present challenges to the NEPs. Bill also addressed the letter that DENR wrote in response to the EPA review.

A copy of this letter was also passed out to members. Lori added that the NEPs are reviewed every three years.

- Bill skipped over the budget agenda item for now and talked about the Clean Estuaries Act. In response, APNEP will be receiving an additional \$200,000 for the FY 2011 budget. This brings our budget to \$800,000 where normally we get between \$500,000-600,000. Lori reminded members that this increase is only for 2011.
- Marjorie asked about funding on the competitive level. Bill mentioned that it has been discussed. Lori mentioned that we have the largest study area which encompasses 52 counties and that we receive the same funding as other NEPs with smaller study areas.
- Lori introduced Mario Vozzo as the APNEP summer intern. She mentioned that Maria recently received her undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and that she will be with APNEP for 10 weeks. Maria spoke briefly with members about her upcoming involvements with APNEP.
- Kay reminded members about Lori's resignation and thanked her for her service with APNEP and the CAC. Kay said there will always be a place for her on the CAC.
- Lori mentioned that Lucy's position was still open. Bill added that Lori's position would be posted soon.
- Bill went over the highlights of the May Policy Board Meeting. He went over the FY 2011 budget and placed emphasis on the "CAC Projects" line item, which has been approved for \$75,000.
- Bill talked about "Shad in the Classroom," a new program that APNEP will begin in the FY 2011. He sees this program as a long-term project for APNEP. He explained that the extra money received in the FY 2011 budget was used to fund the program.
- Bill mentioned the recent loss of two positions in the NC Environmental Education Office. Marty mentioned this cut is coming from an already existing small staff.
- Kay mentioned that she felt sheltered (or protected) by APNEP with all the shifts that has taken place over the years. She appreciates APNEP's efforts in keeping the CAC going.
- Bill noted that our indirect costs will increase from 8 to 18 percent due to the program relocation. He mentioned this will affect the annual budget.
- Lori talked about Agricultural BMP Day, which is scheduled for late July / early August. This event will take place at the NC Estuarium in Washington, NC. The purpose of this event is to share success stories that deal with agricultural sustainability.
- Lori also mentioned the spending of \$20,000 for this event was approved by the APNEP Policy Board. The funds will be split between 2 projects at \$10,000 each. One of the projects was to partially fund the purchase of a no-till drill, which would be housed at the NC Cooperative Extension and made available for use in 6 counties that cover 2 river basins. Kay added that she thought this was a great idea and that it promotes precision agriculture, which uses advanced technology to reduce the overuse of product during agricultural practices.

Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Progress Report: Marjorie Rayburn:

- Marjorie informed members that she gave this presentation at the May Policy Board meeting.
- Marjorie talked about the development of a framework for EBM integration into the 2010 CCMP and Monitoring Plan.
- Marjorie also reminded members that the last CCMP was completed in 1994.
- The 1994 CCMP covered five priority issues: Water Quality, Vital Habitats, Fisheries,

Stewardship, and Implementation. The new CCMP will cover: Waters, Natural Communities, and Stewardship. Marjorie further discussed each priority issue.

- The next steps are to incorporate the Partners Strategic and Action Plans as well as develop CCMP objectives and actions.
- Marjorie went over the proposed timeline. She acknowledged that the timeline was ambitious but that there were different groups working on different activities of the CCMP. She mentioned that the final draft should appear in December 2010 and that the unveiling of the final CCMP document and Monitoring Plan would take place in June 2011. She also mentioned that the September 2011 unveiling of the final CCMP at the “State of the Sounds” conference in New Bern would be viewed as a celebration.
- Marjorie thanked the APNEP staff for filling in the gaps of the timeline. She mentioned that the earlier draft of the timeline was missing important information.
- Lori welcomed any comments on the goals and sub-goals that were mentioned in Marjorie’s presentation.

CAC Member Discussion: 2011 CAC Grants: Kay Winn:

- Lori passed out the 2010 CAC demonstration project grant application to members. Lori suggested that members offer their opinions on how APNEP can improve the application and/or selection process.
- There was discussion on whether or not funded projects should be on private lands. Some members felt that these projects are intended for the public and that having them on private lands restricts the educational component or that the public would have to pay an entry fee. Some members felt that it would be okay if they offered a public conservation easement, which basically allows the public to access private lands. Some members did not agree with the idea of a public easement and that whatever the CAC decides that it be clearly defined in the grant application.
- The educational component of the demonstration projects was also discussed. Marty expressed concerns that applicants were throwing something together for the sake that it is an application requirement (i.e. providing a stand with pamphlets versus a well thought out educational component). He would like to see applicants include a well written education strategy when putting together their applications.
- Kay suggested that a “reporting” period take place a year after the project is complete. She recommended that applicants provide photos and written feedback on how the public responded to the project. Marjorie suggested that this “feedback” form be a part of the application. Marjorie added that the CAC can send out an email reminder (with a reattached form) to all funded applicants when the first year anniversary is approaching. Kay mentioned we may not get 100% compliance but every bit counts.
- Lori mentioned that we are moving towards an online application with the possibility of presenting information piece by piece. She thought this might encourage applicants to read the directions/requirements more carefully.
- There was also discussion on where these projects should be taking place. Bill mentioned that historically these projects were on school grounds but over the years the project locations have varied. He added that the advantage of having the projects on school grounds is the strong educational factor. The disadvantage is that the ones (teachers/administration) that usually jumpstart the project leave their positions after a couple years, leaving the project unused if not properly passed down.

- This discussion led to an earlier discussion about the projects being on private or public lands. There was no final consensus on this discussion due to time constraints.

Guest Speaker: The New Green Economy: Henry Lancaster:

- Mr. Henry Lancaster works for the Center for Green Research and Evaluation, which is housed at Elizabeth City State University with funding through the NC Rural Center.
- Henry passed out a copy of his PowerPoint presentation and a program booklet.
- The project includes the creation of a baseline inventory that will support the development of a sustainable green economy in a 21 country region of northeastern North Carolina. These efforts are already helping communities throughout the region identify opportunities for sustainable development and green jobs.
- Henry provided an overview of the work that has been done and highlighted potential opportunities for APNEP to support these efforts to help the communities in the region.
- Marjorie asked if their center funded all the projects. Henry responded that funding comes from a variety of sources.

Q and A, Discussion:

Due to time constraints, there were no questions open for discussion.

New and Old Business:

- Due to time constraints, there was no discussion on the CAC vacancies.
- The next meeting will be in early August, possibly the 5th. There is a possibility that it will be a joint meeting with the STAC and MAC. The location hasn't been determined.
- Kay, once again, thanked Lori for her service with APNEP and the CAC.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.