

SAV Partners' Spring 2007 Meeting

East Carolina University's Greenville Center

Greenville, NC

June 13, 2007

Meeting Notes

Attending:

Joan Giordano - APNEP

Dean Carpenter - APNEP

Bill Crowell - APNEP

Chad Smith - APNEP Citizens' Monitoring Network

Jimmy Johnson - APNEP/DENR

Mike Street - DMF

Scott Chappell - DMF

Anne Deaton - DMF

Brian Conrad - DMF

Rob Emens - DWR

Danielle Mir-Gonzales - DWQ

Julia Harrell - DENR

Joe Luczkovich - ECU

Greg Meyer - ECU

Rob Breeding - EEP

Maria Tripp - WRC

Stephanie Noblitt - ECSU

Liz Noble - ECSU

Maurice Crawford - ECSU

John Gallegos - USFWS

Haylee Schwartz - USFWS

John Stanton - USFWS

Don Field - NOAA

Dean Carpenter called the meeting to order at 1:20pm and asked for self-introductions around the table. The minutes from the previous meeting (2/12/07) were distributed with a request to send any comments or corrections to Dr. Carpenter for inclusion in the official record, as the minutes had not been sent electronically prior to today's meeting. He reiterated the objective of the SAV

Partners' group, "to discuss ideas about promoting and coordinating current and future monitoring, assessment and restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in North Carolina and southeast Virginia."

POLICY/OUTREACH DISCUSSION

Dr. Carpenter reported for Jacquie Ott who was unable to attend. Ms. Ott is currently summarizing comments, suggestions, and reports from the last meeting and will send a matrix of her compilation when it is completed. During discussion pertaining to the availability of funds for accomplishing potential outreach/education activities and materials, Mike Street mentioned that the Marine Fisheries and Wildlife Resources Commissions approved the '07-'09 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) implementation plan. He said that a RFP will be issued this fall and, because SAV is part of the CHPP, he felt the monies generated by the sale and enforcement of coastal recreational fishing licenses could be used to fund the RFP and therefore be competitively available to the group for outreach/education projects.

RESTORATION DISCUSSION

Dr. Carpenter reported that Dr. Knowles was in Costa Rica and asked if there were others present who also served on this sub-committee. John Gallegos and Rob Breeding responded saying while they were part of the Restoration Ad-Hoc Committee, there was some confusion about suitable restoration techniques and that a white paper was supposed to be written. There was no further discussion pending Dr. Knowles' return.

ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION

Dr. Carpenter referenced the assessment section of the SAV Partners' winter meeting minutes which states "... 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."

MONITORING/MAPPING DISCUSSION

Bill Crowell reported that an MOA with a scope of work is in place with NOAA's Coastal Resources Center and that we're waiting for a contractor to submit a proposal to do the work. He said that the MOA had to go through NOAA's

attorneys and the delay caused us to miss our flight "window" for spring. Dr. Field provided additional information detailing pixel sizes, and color sensors vs. black and white. He added that once CSC transfers the money there will be a 2-year+ timeframe for spending it. Mr. Crowell added that we need to be aware of time constraints on certain portions of the NOAA money.

Anne Deaton reviewed the field monitoring protocol she and others designed and stated that if the flights were not made by June 30th she would thank the volunteer monitors for their commitment and work and dismiss them until such time as they are again needed.

Scott Chappell added that the spring '07 flight schedule would be moved to spring '08 and that the fall '07 schedule would remain the same.

Discussion ensued with questions pertaining to who would give the order to fly on a specific day; whether the volunteer monitors will need to be retrained; which groups will undertake ground-truthing; and what the total number of monitors trained was. It was decided that the APNEP would send a letter by July 1st thanking the volunteer monitors and apprising them of the fall "window". Dr. Carpenter agreed to develop the letter. It was further agreed that when the flight contract was signed, monitoring points would be sent to volunteers.

Scott Chappell and Brian Conrad agreed to have the fall monitoring points done by the end of July and will do two scenarios, one with transitional areas and one without.

Don Field reported on the NOAA Mapping Project stating that data on Core Banks will not be obtained because the NOAA money expires on September 30th. He regretted any gap in data this will cause. Discussion then turned to IKONOS satellite imagery with the suggestion that these data could supplement APNEP and DENR data over time.

Liz Noble and Stephanie Noblitt updated the group on the Elizabeth City State University mapping project. Ms. Noble reported that since the last SAV Partners' Group meeting they have engaged in monitor training including the lamination of a SAV fact sheet for use by the volunteer monitors. She added that they are presently engaged in photography, rectification, and polygon database development. They have the polygons created and shape files done for Southern Shores and

Albemarle Sound and they are focusing outreach and monitoring efforts on northeastern NC.; additionally they are working with the University of New Hampshire on Visible Infrared Intelligent Spectroradiometer (VIRIS) data. Mrs. Noble introduced Dr. Maurice Crawford who has recently joined ECSU's faculty.

Bill Crowell thanked the Wildlife Resources Commission and the NC Division of Marine Fisheries for their part in getting the NOAA contract signed.

PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION

John Stanton reported that it is time to start planning for the long-term future of the SAV program and that Regions 4 & 5 of the USFWS have expressed desire to continue funding of the program. He said that both he and John Gallegos (representing Regions 4 & 5) were awarded funds to be obligated by September 30th (but preferably by August). This \$45,000 needs to have a non-federal match. He hopes to turn the funds into a project proposal. John Gallegos added that he hoped such a proposal would include Back Bay.

Dr. Carpenter reported that an Internet web portal for the SAV Partnership will be included within the new APNEP web site. Initial items to be included will be a list of members, a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a Partnership history, and links to web sites with SAV content that will be of interest to stakeholders. The APNEP web site is tentatively scheduled for publication next month.