

SAV Partners' Autumn 2006 Meeting

ECU Greenville Center

Greenville, NC

December 13, 2006

Meeting Notes

Attending:

Dean Carpenter, APNEP	Michael Durako, UNC-W	Rob Emens, DWR
Craig Hardy, DMF	Anne Deaton, DMF	Mike Street, DMF
Jimmy Johnson, CHPP	Danielle Mir-Gonzalez, DWQ	Gloria Putnam, DWQ
Rob Breeding, EEP	Steve Mitchell, DOT	Jacquie Ott, NERR
Don Field, NOAA	David Knowles, ECU	Joan Giordano, APNEP
John Gallegos, USFWS	Maria Tripp, WRC	Joe Luczkovich, ECU
Kevin Dockendorf, WRC	Liz Noble, ECSU	Stephanie Kudyba, ECSU

Dean Carpenter called the meeting to order at 12:40pm, welcomed those present, asked for self-introductions around the table, and briefly outlined the objective of the day's meeting.

GOALS:

Dr. Carpenter reported that all expected signatures for the SAV Memorandum of Understanding had been attained. He also mentioned that the APNEP website was undergoing update and that a SAV portal was planned and in the works. While unsure of a completion date, he extended thanks to those who are contributing toward that end.

MAPPING/MONITORING DISCUSSIONS:

Presently SAV Partners have committed ~\$240K for mapping in 2007, broken down as follows: \$160K from APNEP, \$45K from USFWS, and \$35K from NC Division of Marine Fisheries. It is hoped that there will be adequate resources for interpretation costs.

While updating the group on NOAA's mapping project, Don Field distributed a (draft) SAV sampling design handout for the Partners' 2007 effort. He outlined the upcoming interagency effort utilizing remote sensing technology to map SAV, while emphasizing the need for collecting sufficient ground verification data to ensure accuracy of the final product. Urging that ground-truthing occur as closely

as possible following the flights to avoid natural or man-induced changes to the SAV, Dr. Field added that Liz Noble's group at Elizabeth City State University could rectify those images from non-digital cameras. Discussion ensued with questions pertaining to image overlap, wave action, numerical data, the spotted appearance of some subject slides, and the appropriate season for the flight imagery.

Anne Deaton, reporting on the field monitoring protocol ad hoc committee's work, distributed minutes from their September 27th meeting, as well as a transect survey data sheet originating at ECSU. Ms. Deaton outlined several aspects of ground-truthing: the timing of data collection, types of data to be collected, equipment needed, sampling design and training needs for the field crews. She added that in January Dr. Field and Scott Chappell would prepare a ground-truth site map showing the appropriate number of sites to be sampled and their locations. By the end of January a draft ground-truthing protocol will be sent to members of the SAV Partners' group.

Stephanie Kudyba, Research Assistant at Elizabeth City State University's (ECSU) Remote Sensing Program, gave an overview of ECSU's SAV mapping efforts since the last SAV meeting. Stephanie showed slides of aerial photography completed on 3 October 2006 of Pasquotank, North and Chowan rivers, Edenton and Batchelor bays, "Salmon Creek Bay" and the southern shore of Albemarle Sound to Laurel Point near the Scuppernon River. These areas incorporate the Pasquotank, Chowan and Roanoke River basins (PACHRO). Criteria required for successful photography for capturing submersed rooted vascular plants and other mission specifications were outlined. Stephanie showed ArcGIS maps showing water clarity stations in the study area sampled daily by ECSU students and staff. These data were collected in some cases for six weeks prior to the flight. Stephanie, Liz Noble and Amber Eure were on the water on the day the photography was taken, collecting water clarity information and GPS ground control points, as well as ground truthing the presence and absence of SAV in the study area. Stephanie summarized ECSU's ground truthing efforts to date, including a map of ground truth stations sampled from September through December and a map of all random points generated using Hawth's Tools. An overview was given on the rectification process which included georectifying, subsetting and mosaicing the aerial photography. Rectified and mosaiced images of the mouth of North River were shown. Extensive SAV beds are present at this site. Stephanie also presented an overview of ECSU's Currituck Sound Restoration Project SAV research. She

described field sampling methods, showed transect stations in Currituck Sound and Back Bay with SAV and presented data on percent species composition of SAV sampled at all transect stations. The three most abundant SAV species sampled were *Ruppia maritima*, *Vallisneria americana*, and *Najas guadalupensis*.

Assessment Discussion:

Kevin Dockendorf, while referencing the map of historical SAV research prepared by himself and Scott Chappell, asked the group if there were any omissions to the arrayed data. It was suggested that the addition of NCDOT data and land-use data be included in the map mosaic.

Restoration Discussion:

David Knowles distributed a questionnaire he developed with regard to SAV restoration. The questions prompted discussion centering around SAV fluctuations due to low and high salinity, what criteria would be used to identify SAV sites most likely/not likely to be restored*, and that mitigation and restoration are different things. *Jud Kenworthy was said to have such criteria and it was suggested that he be scheduled for presenting on this topic at the next meeting. Dr. Knowles agreed to electronically send his questionnaire to Dr. Carpenter for distribution to others.

It was also mentioned that recommendations for how to spend the revenues from the new recreational salt water fishing license be made to Preston Pate, Director of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. It was agreed that the Restoration Ad Hoc Committee would develop a position paper on SAV.

Policy/Outreach Discussion:

The Policy/Outreach Ad Hoc Committee has yet to be formed. Dr. Carpenter said the purpose of such a group would be to get the word out about SAV and its importance. Gloria Putnam drew attention to the CHPP posters she was involved in developing, especially the one pertaining to SAV. She said they have been distributed in large quantities to the NC Dept. of Agriculture, the NC Environmental Education Centers, and NC DOT's Ferry Division. It was also stated that there is a section on SAV in the CHPP and that comments on such should be directed to Jimmy Johnson, the CHPP implementation coordinator. Further discussion brought the suggestion of developing a small card depicting SAV info and tips which could be distributed to boaters and others and be distributed at fish houses, recreational boating stores, etc.

The next meeting was scheduled for sometime in February with the exact date and location to be arranged. There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.