

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

May 13, 2026 | 12:00 PM – 2:45 PM

Virtual



In attendance: Jimmy Johnson, Kay Winn, Heather Deck, Karen Forget, Wilson Laney, Mary-Margaret McKinney, Tom Allen, APNEP Staff - all, Holly White, Katie McCullough, Matt Windsor, Lora Eddy

Agenda

12:00 PM	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of meeting objectives, agenda, and logistics • Introductions 	Natalie Ivey
12:30 PM	<p>APNEP and the CAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APNEP overview • Role of the CCMP • Role of the Management Conference • Funding • Overview of some current activities/projects • Operational guidelines • Co-chairs and membership <p>Bill gives overview of APNEP, slide show, Collaborative Approaches to Management. 1987 Designated Estuary of National Significance – NEP Program created, assigned to EPA under The Clean Water Act Section 320. Management Plan, CCMP required, Updated 2025 approved CCMP at APNEP, planning for next version, 28 sites around the country, the largest in program size not including all of our watershed – upper Roanoke is not included in the watershed 23K miles in VA and NC. Mission: To understand, restore and protect the significant resources in the APNEP watershed. We rely on CAC and LC to implement the CCMP Holistic approach to the ecosystem management, CAC is essential to that.</p> <p>EBM approach, structure DEQ Host, MC NC</p>	Bill Crowell

	<p>EO#29, Leadership Council, STAC, CAC, Ad-hoc Groups (monitoring & assessments teams, focus groups), Partners, Staff</p> <p>Goals, Actions, Objectives are all geared towards goals.</p>	
1:00 PM	<p>CAC Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members • New co-chair nominee • Meeting frequency and next meeting date <p>Recently new to CAC, I have served on the LC in the past. My working, teaching and research is in the public realm to engage on research direction and raise awareness</p> <p>New Members, we have sought new members and filling gaps or different expertise – gap in memberships, geographically diverse, and expertise</p> <p>Tom suggest: watermen, ag community, recreational community, forestry professional (Please provide name or potential candidates)</p> <p>Holly recommended local government</p> <p>Septic issues, salinization issues in agriculture</p> <p>Kay Winn – clarification on “recreation”, Tom defined as hunting, fishing, water sports, (golfing is huge, but has ramifications with cancer and fertilizer)</p> <p>State Parks system would be great from Karen, nature-based tourism (water based, bird watching, hiking)</p> <p>Karen Forget, LHR Now unanimous support</p> <p>Frequency of Meetings</p> <p>Plan in person meeting and tour a project in action</p> <p>Bill: Yes, we can get folks in the field, we will plan on that</p> <p>A minimum of 2 meetings/year, some years will need more</p>	Tom Allen
1:15 PM	Break	
1:30 PM	<p>Communications and Engagement Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Next steps <p>Overview of the Communication and engagement plan PowerPoint presentation.</p>	Natalie Ivey

	<p>How can the CAC create more engagement and communication opportunities with the Management Conference Groups (STAC and LC). Inviting everyone Or at the least making everyone aware of the meetings.</p> <p>Covers grants and contracts, funded sponsorships and presentations at conferences APNEP newsletters, listservs, digital materials,</p> <p>Target audience for our group</p> <p>Kay Winn, do not minimize AI because I use it frequently. AI can be a useful tool Cost-benefit question</p> <p>Lora – AI can be a great tool; the concern may be land conversion. Past approaches dealing with solar and wind and proper siting of where the data/AI centers are going to be constructed.</p> <p>Data centers are the largest issues in VA right now, holding up the state budget</p> <p>Karen, do you have a list of all partners listed on the website? We can certainly add that Project catalog being added to the website, topics, then drill watershed, then filter down to partners, timelines, budgeting</p>	
<p>2:00 PM</p>	<p>STAC Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator input needed • Webinar <p>22 years with the Program, thanks to all for serving the CAC. There was one time more frequent meetings with CAC/STAC LC, we are building the momentum on pulling together meetings with all of us (CAC/LC/STAC)</p> <p>This is the beginning of the opportunity to grow the program and strengthen partnership with more engagement between the different committees</p> <p>Digital and visual data has been the focus of the STAC, leading to restoration, assessment, monitoring</p> <p>Helping science and technical answer the 4 questions posed in the CCMP</p> <p>Assessments need indicators and metrics in order to develop the monitoring plans.</p> <p>Hoping to put this practice in the field</p>	<p>Dean Carpenter</p>

We are finalizing metrics now, determining how to monitor those, then moving on to the monitoring of those indicators. Selected Currituck Sounds/Back Bay, Core Sound as the first watershed to monitoring

The south area and the north area are very different, so we want to cover both areas

Core Sound selected because of the development of Interstate Hwy 47, was hwy 70, national a national highway

Currituck Sound/Back Bay – Mid Currituck Bridge will have an impact. We have had less monitoring in that area because it is in the state of VA

Both will be impacted by more development

Create an assessment of these 2 areas (what data sets are available) to determine where we can institute the integrated monitoring effort

Steve Chalmers obituary

Dean would like to see more active role in folks wanting to volunteer monitoring. Would love to see more volunteer engagement. The CAC is the perfect group to direct us to the active groups in the area I want to understand the entire rationale of why metrics are selected for indicators of the specific metrics.

We know there are volunteer monitoring networks, we do not know where they are, CAC could possibly file in those gaps.

Mallory, currently pulling together wetlands and terrestrial vegetation for APNEP. Please share that data with me, or you see what is going on in the watershed

Karen – very important to include the problematic invasive needs to be included (phrag, nutria, etc.) all need to be included

Karen – feels sure there is a lot of data available for back bay and north landing river (Green Seed Plan)

Using AI to convert technical language to a nontechnical audience

	Knowing ecological flows and the potential impacts of the data centers, as drawing the water budget off the river. These are things that	
2:15 PM	<p>CAC Member Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share updates, opportunities, etc. <p>Tom Allen, Green Line Project sent link in the chat – mapping the future migration of marshes and then marked them on the ground to demonstrate the loss of marsh project to occur. Also teaching a drone application class – ag drone, mechanical engineer, videography</p> <p>Karen, why was the Roanoke River never included in the APNEP Watershed. Has there ever been a discussion on including the Roanoke River Watershed, it should be included. Partners in the area have been working in the area, but we do not. We proposed putting in the state waters, but EPA said no.</p> <p>EPA discussing of adding 2 new NEPs, there is no money for that currently. If that were to happen, we might want to discuss the idea of splitting into Albmarle NEP and Pamlico NEP</p>	CAC Members
2:45 PM	Adjourn	Bill Crowell

Lora Eddy
12:26 PM

Sorry just got to office after traveling for a work thing, just off camera as I have some lunch

1 Like reaction.

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
12:27 PM

I think in part, also, if there is a particular knowledge base that would be helpful from LG... (stormwater, planning, etc?)

Lora Eddy
12:27 PM

I agree local government - engineer?

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
12:29 PM

Ditto to what Holly is noting: Depending on Holly's Q re: geographic needs and knowledge needs, we could probably think of a few to recommend.

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
12:39 PM

Second

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
12:40 PM

I should note for clarity: Second on nomination if needed.

1 Like reaction.

Lora Eddy
12:45 PM

thanks Karen

Windsor, Matt
12:46 PM

in favor, yes

Lora Eddy
12:46 PM

yes

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
12:46 PM

In favor, yes

Mary-Margaret McKinney
12:46 PM

in favor

Lora Eddy
12:46 PM

thank you Karen

White, Holly B
12:46 PM

Yes! ❤️

Jimmy Johnson
12:46 PM

Yes

White, Holly B
12:47 PM

Agreed! I'd love to go

Katie McCullough
12:54 PM

I can offer the NC Estuarium in Washington as a in-person site to host a meeting.

1 Heart reaction.

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
12:54 PM

I can only stay until 1:30, sorry all! but I'll be back for the last 20 at 1:10. tx

1 Like reaction.

Ivey, Natalie
12:55 PM

Membership thoughts --> Natalie.Ivey@deq.nc.gov

Return from break at 1:10pm

White, Holly B
12:55 PM

I am going to have to drop for another meeting at 1

1 Like reaction.

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
1:22 PM

As you all are thinking of communications, who do you think are your key target audiences? (professionals, general public, local gov't staff, etc?)-- and apologies if that was in there-- I didn't catch all of it!

Lora Eddy
1:23 PM

up vote Heather's comment

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
1:24 PM

also Re; Tom's note on AI; I know I need to drop off, but happy to chat with staff re: data centers and water resource concerns. This is moving so fast, wondering how watershed managers are thinking of these challenges.

Heather Deck, Sound Rivers
1:31 PM

somewhat likely to have 2 hyperscale ones in middle Tar in Edgecombe and Nash.... and there seems to be limited good available info re: water quantity and how climate change and water demands will change this and what it means for future community needs-as well as ecological needs- ECU is doing some good modeling on this issue. happy to have follow up if you all are brainstorming on this--- (lastly following the IBT issues creeping in... the need for good information regarding benefits or costs of water withdraw permits / registration for NC is also timely... Sorry have to go-- feel free to reach out Natalie!

1 Like reaction.

Allen, Tom R.
1:59 PM

Recent news from VA <https://virginiamercury.com/2026/05/07/gov-spanberger-signs-bills-aimed-at-protecting-wetlands-detecting-pfas-and-preparing-for-natural-disasters/>

Wilson Laney
2:00 PM

CAC and staff: I have to drop off to attend another meeting. Enjoyed listening in and look forward to more communication in the future.

2:02 PM
Jennings, Heather

PowerPoint Presentation Green Sea Plan

1 Heart reaction.

Alman, Mallory
2:03 PM

Reach out to me with your opinions on important considerations when designing the vegetation monitoring plan for Currituck and Core Sounds: mallory.alman@deq.nc.gov

Lora Eddy
2:05 PM

From what I was hearing it could be research into minimum flows for the APNEP basin and/or the current human water consumption and potential increase from community growth and data centers

Alman, Mallory
2:06 PM

I'm interested in recommendations for the vegetation communities that most need protection/monitoring, feedback on what aspects of vegetation communities should be monitored, people I should reach out to, etc.

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Alman, Mallory
2:06 PM

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Allen, Tom R.
2:10 PM

FYI re webinars, I co-host a series of them at ODU online and available. It can be research but keep a mind to maybe us teaming up on one. <https://www.odu.edu/coastal-physical-oceanography/seminar-series>

Seminar Series

Immerse yourself in the forefront of coastal science knowledge with Old Dominion University's Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography's engaging seminar series. Join experts, researchers, and enth...

www.odu.edu

Windsor, Matt
2:10 PM

for veg communities- NC Natural Heritage Program : Contact | NHP

Contact | NHP

Contact members of the Natural Heritage Program staff with your questions or concerns.

www.ncnhp.org

1 Like reaction.

2:11 PM

Jennings, Heather

Ecological Flows Team | APNEP

Members participating with the APNEP facilitated Ecological Flows team pursue collaborative initiatives aligned with topic specific APNEP Comprehensive...

apnep.nc.gov

Allen, Tom R.

2:12 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/greenlineodu>

The Green Line Project

Visualizing the Future of Marsh Migration in Port Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia