

Agenda updated: July 12, 2024

Meeting notes added: July 16, 2024 by S. Anderson

Citizen Advisory Committee: Summer Meeting

July 12, 2024, 12:00-2:00pm

[Join the Virtual Meeting](#) via MS Teams

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Recording](#)

12:00 Welcome

Holly White/Tom Allen

Attendance and Introductions
Meeting Agenda

- Attendance and Introductions
 - Co-chairs: *Holly White and Tom Allen*
 - Committee members: *Lora Eddy, Karen Forget, Katie McCullough (new member at Partnerships for the Sounds, first meeting), Paul Angermeier (STAC), Jud W. (STAC)*
 - Staff: *Chandler Alred, Bill Crowell, Stacey Feken, Heather Jennings, Jimmy Johnson, Giancarlo Richardson, Katie Whittington*
 - Guests: *Andrea Webster (NCORR) presenting on NC Resilience Exchange*

12:05 Committee & Program Updates

Steve Anderson

BIL webpage & Equity Strategy Mapper
Committee member recruitment
Introduce Katie Whittington

- Steve: Offered a demonstration of where to find BIL background and resources related to EPA BIL Wrok Plan, Equity Trategy, and Mapper.
- Steve: Tom, Holly, Heather, Jimmy, Stacey and I met to brainstorm sectors, organizations, agencies, community, locales and names we could approach to join the CAC as members. Interested in committees input. Will share the spreadsheet and reach out to Steve with any questions or recommendations.
- My last day on APNEP staff will be Aug. 2, 2024, and will be joining DWR Ecosystems Branch (NC Wetlands) as a Wetland Specialist. Thrilled to stay close and continue to contribute in any way.
- Introduced Kate – APNEP’s Communications and Outreach intern until July 26, 2024. Done excellent work she will share with the group now!

12:15 Communications & Outreach Product Updates

Katie Whittington

Presentation on summer projects

- Katie: presentation [available on event page on APNEP](#) website and recording available upon request.

12:45 Approach to CAC BIL funded projects

Bill Crowell / Stacey Feken

Open discussion on approach for supporting good work on the ground!

HELPFUL LINKS!

[Citizen Advisory Committee Webpage](#) | [Past CAC Meeting Materials](#) | [APNEP Management Conference](#)

- Bill: We are waiting on approval for additional (3rd year) funding; Stacey is our lead BIL Manager; The equity strategy is a part of the BIL funds (and available on apnep.nc.gov/BIL). As part of the plan, we set funds aside for CAC to direct; There are multiple other pots within the BIL work plan that overlap with issues the CAC has outlined and discuss in prior meetings, where members could be involved in identifying ways to support projects in the watershed. The goal for BIL funds is for a minimum of \$0% of fund to directly support disadvantaged and underserved or under-resourced communities.
- Stacey: Gave the group a review of BIL focus areas and progress, and BIL work plan.
- Steve: We've posted a compiled document to get committee members start in planning how to spend the funds and find where there may be other ways to spend other BIL funds based on needs in communities.
- Tom: Highlighting the interest in using RFP or direct funding for match in communities who may have a requirement for applying for additional funds.
- Bill: Always referencing the CCMP Objectives and Action
 - Past projects examples: WQ in agricultural system, Living shorelines, riparian buffers, green school-yards, educational signage and materials, wetlands education,
 - Match requirement? CAC to decide! Leverage? Don't need money or in-kind - could add ranking criteria and highlights
 - Grant process and RFP can be lengthy at time; so depending on what work we're seeking to support.
 - There may be internal review at DEQ of RFP before release - length of call usually 30days and up; projects do no
- Tom: Setup a subcommittee of CAC and could invite STAC or other partners to join the process of selection.
- Bill: If RFP, the CAC or committee makes that decision, not staff. We can offer guidance on eligibility but not on decision-making of what/who to fund
- Stacey: A big push for existing projects - no need to start new projects! Support existing projects within APNEP, but also partners projects. This will reduce effort, time, and energy.
- Tom: Examples - non-profits or other committee members organizations can propose projects but recuse themselves from decision-making process.
- Bill: Member can't draft RFP and then apply
- Tom: How urgent is this for the committee to take this on? Next step is to **host a topics meeting ASAP to discuss approach**
 - Come up with Subcommittee to decide on project Themes and define the decision-making process.
- Holly: Small rural community are running into snags with required match funds, and making this available to those communities. Ensuring applicants have full access. Think through how we distribute funds - offer RFP funds for on the ground, e.g., stormwater projects, to match with Land and Water or DEQ/state grants, especially in underserved communities.
- Tom: Assist with grant writing as well? University in public service can maybe offer support. [EPA TICTAC](#)
 - A major goal for these funds, and CAC support, is to BE INCLUSIVE!

1:00 Guest presentation: [NC Resilience Exchange](#)

Andrea Webster (NCORR)

- Overview of the [NC Resilience Exchange](#)
- A site that came about because it was in the states plans
- A steering committee moving toward a advisory committee, with the final goal is a website to host resources within NC and some nationally. Wanted to host a site designed for native committee, local gov, state agencies, a site for resilience practitioners and identifying strategies for become a more resilient state
- NC State Climate Office the primary partners - not seeing to develop
- NCREx Webinar
- Climate Concierge for Resilience in the state of NC
- Walked the group through the webpage projections... Understanding Your Vulnerability - [climate projections; vulnerability maps](#)
- Tom comment: Use this for BIL funding subcommittee for decision-making!
- Karen comment: Is there a simiar resource for VA?! This is incredible.
- Stacey comment: [AdaptVA](#) is probably the closes counterpart for VA.

1:30 Member updates: [Community Disaster Resilience Zones](#)

Holly White

- A quick update - and very much related to the BIL funding discussion.
- NCORR received funding from GEOs institute to provide technical services to CDRZs. FEMA/national designation.

- 15 census Tracts in NC and 18 jurisdictions - NC has the large amount of CDRZs on the east coast.
- NCORR has been meeting with communities - have brought on new “navigator” funded through the program
- Busy visiting and understanding communities need and hazards - definition of resiliency is quite broad!
- Initial site visits in mid-May; **now seeking partners and funding sources** to bring on more projects (77 projects around 18 communities)
- Type of projects:
 - “Quick Wins” - home elevation, stormwater drainage, GI and NBS, Flood mitigation, Utility mitigation/adaptation & energy redundancy, Grant/Project administration capacity...
 - “Cross Cutting Transformative Initiatives” - *High Groundwater Tables and Septic Failures* - rapidly rising groundwater levels, need innovative technologies, and funding solutions; AND *Housing mitigation for Non- NFIP homeowners in Low Income Communities*
 - E.g., septic needs are very site specific...
 - Connect Holly with Paul Ulrich
- Approaches for getting funding and capacity to rural community challenges
 - **Simplifying grant processes (BIL Funds! Threshold requirement)**
- Tom comment: Census Tracts - often dispersed communities within the tract as a larger geography and not fully representative. VA primarily in north shore
- Holly: This is a rolling designation so it will be changed and there was no engagement around what census tracts, and so NCORR is already sharing what they are hearing from communities to FEMA. New round of designation - new communities coming online soon.

1:50 Open Floor

Tom Allen

Share news/updates, and share perspectives on BIL funds
Future member presentations

- Steve: I'll send out two polls for subcommittee (w/in three weeks) and mid-Sept
- Member sharing at future meetings:
 - Tom Allen - Back Bay research study
 - Colleen Karl – Interested, and may have time soon to share ob HAB and their community-led monitoring work
 - Others? Contact Tom, Holly or Heather J.
- Stacey - APNEP has funds for HABs work, and fund for VA as well (WQ and Resilience pots of funds)
- Karen Forget - VA hired coordinator for Sentinel Landscapes - opportunities for collaboration in VA and NC! Currently, learning more about the program and how to coordinate across state lines. These are DOD funds, and committee could dive into. New coordinator could be a good guest speaker!
 - APNEP's involvement in the Floodplain Forum in Virginia Beach was greatly appreciated! LRNow doing the program planning and seeking presentation proposals in fall!
- Tom: Navy beginning coordination - will check on details and contacts!

2:00 Adjourn