# Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Nov. 6, 2023

**1:00-2:30**

*Virtual Meeting via MS Teams* [Click Here to Join the Meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDkwYWE4YmItMjg3MC00N2Y0LWIyZTEtNjZlZWE3YTdkOTMz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227a7681dc-b9d0-449a-85c3-ecc26cd7ed19%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ea15b1bb-30b1-4891-af6e-96cc1c074ff1%22%7d) [Meeting Materials](https://apnep.nc.gov/about-apnep/committees/meeting-materials/citizens-advisory-committee)

# AGENDA with Notes

**Attendance**

* Co-chairs: Holly White, Tom Allen
* Committee Members: Kay Winn, Lora Eddy, Pete Campbell, Karen Forget. Tom Stroud,
* Staff: Steve Anderson, Bill Crowell, Stacey Feken, Heather Jennings, Dean Carpentar, Tim Ellis (end)

Couldn’t attend but connected with Steve: Roy Flanagan, Heather Deck, Colleen Karl, Jimmy Johnson (staff)

{Enough for quorum? General consensus on CCMP moving forward}

**To-Dos**:

**\*Members next steps:**

* Brainstorm new members to recruit to represent other industries or communities in geographically under-represented in APNEP management conference.
* Propose topics of discussion, guest speakers, etc.
* Members please submit comments on the document by Thursday or Friday of this week.

**\*Staff next steps:**

* Provide a shared document with CAC information for potential new members
* Provide shared spreadsheet with member nominations and information
* Poll for in-person meeting in February, and a save the date for spring meeting.
* Mail out Kay Winn CCMP documents

1:00 **Welcome** Tom Allen/Holly White

Tom Allen - Intro to meeting; review CCMP revisions for approval and feedback, BIL funding explanation, recruiting CAC members, and members encouraged to share topics that are coming from the ground up in your watershed area.

* Noted northeastern portion of AP management area well represented southern watersheds of VA
* Tom long term LC side of committee and scientific side but interested in hearing topics members are hearing on ground / your corner of AP watershed and estuary. Encouraging members to bring those up to committee to propel those to LC and staff.
* Talk about leadership/membership soon, want suggestions from committee.
* Steve Anderson is the go-to APNEP staff member for liaising with the committee.

1:05 **CCMP action updates** Bill Crowell

* CAC feedback on Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan update legacy actions and 2 new actions. *Are there CCMP actions you think have particular importance and need highlighting? Are there actions you think could be removed?*
* CCMP is APNEP strategic plan to guide APNEP priorities and work areas.
* The revision is a 5 year plan vs previous 10 year plan. Before meeting the revision was submitted to CAC members.
* Please discuss thoughts, concerns, needs that need to be included. All are carryover actions and or combination of previous actions. The grouping will be different from 2012 documents (Protect, restore, Engage, identify, monitor), many protect and restore have been combined in the new document (A-E)
* Kay requested hard copies of the CCMP in hand to review (can not print and review the electronic documents). Starlink is the only internet access in the area, accessibility is a huge issues in Kay’s area. It would be nice to have face-to-face to outreach with the community. APNEP cannot rely on the internet to get information disseminated to the public in her area.
* Pete under D3, D3.2 previously coordinated with communities, staff, and the look at sea level rise in their area and planning ahead with that in mind. Target areas that can be sustained ecologically, not necessarily where communities would like to see the improvements. Forward looking view to not spend resources on areas in which will be under water. Prioritize where it is important to maintain corridors, and municipalities of need – the mapping and wording needs to be clarified. Engagement in addition to providing information to local communities.
* Kay, interesting to look at Pete’s suggestions on the legal aspect of it.
* Tom, sharing data and projects are not the same. Controversy currently with wetlands, and jurisdictions issues (can gain and lose). Later in agenda, we will discuss need to discuss the concept of the dash board with sharing with the public. Future meeting topic
* A number of the CCMP actions are aligned with BIL funding requirements for priorities. Tom
* Bill, there was an effort made to prioritize to implementation first.
* Holly looking at D1 Watershed Stewardship, supporting and engaging with other organizations that are not state or municipal (nonprofits, other) Support those organization and align with their goals to the CCMP actions.
* Bill, this is meant to be an open and inclusive documents to benefit all
* Karen – D1 section, work in VA Beach fit into this action. Egagement and Stewardship directly aligns with our work (LHRnow).Working on SAV restoration that may fit in the CCMP, Marsh terrace restoration in Back Bay would fit in nicely. Question: VA state agencies included in list – how much engagement are you getting in VA? Can we assist with those partnerships or building relationships with them.
* Bill, we need assistance on building those partnerships.
* Karen the election tomorrow will determine move forward for the next 4 years. Continue the effort to keep VA engagement. Back Bay Marsh Restoration.
* Bill, VA has showed interest in the upper watersheds and Roanoke in recent conversations.
* Stacey, suggested meeting with VA CAC members specifically to further engagement with VA partners. Brainstorm ideas on building those relationships and highlighting the need for VA to direct attention to the APNEP region.
* Karen, very much in support of a meeting to identify strategies with state agencies and groups.
* Bill, please submit comments on the document by Thursday or Friday of this week. Mail out Kay Winn ccmp documents

*1:25* **CAC Membership Discussion** Tom Allen/Holly White

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* Steve will mail out Kay Winn CCMP documents ASAP

1:45 **BIL & Equity Strategy Update and next steps** Stacey Feken

* Last update was in June. APNEP has been in planning phase. This includes the 2 year workplan has been approved by LC last year. Received 2 years of funds in February. Detailed draft budget has been developed, wanting CAC input on the funding and how it will be spent. Justice 40 initiative requirement in equity strategy (currently on 4th revision – EPA headquarters awaiting approval). Again, if approved we can wave match on all projects.
* 5-year strategy once equity approve – package together and annually refining workplan with project selection and needs. Subset of the advisory committees will make funding decisions and direct project implementation needs (CAC, STAC, LC co-chairs).
* CAC to help with community needs and where they are needed most in the region. We will rely on your input – developing RFP for equitable opportunities for the local areas of need. Budget is narrowing to more specific prioritizes so that money can be contracted (spatial plans, equity plan, etc) Developing a relationship with University that can help target GIS locations for projects.
* LC has approved to move forward, but CAC input is needed before decisions are made. Support existing partners that are leading resilience planning and efforts (RISE). Advocating to LC to continue support for existing projects that APNEP is involved: Tribal community engagement, Scuppernong project. Support work that is ongoing in the community in engagement in accordance with VA planning initiatives, Hampton Roads.
* Develop RFP with input and assistance include needs in the community projects (Kay this is similar to the CAC previous task years ago). Decisions that have been made (reference the budget table in ppt).
* We are not excluding this focus areas if there is a continued effort in your regions.
* Mapping project NOAA for CCAP mapping effort (wetlands mapping). We are really looking for input from CAC on water quality and community resilience (again not limiting to those 2 areas). We feel it appropriate to continue support for RISE projects, Currituck Sound Coalition. Addressing Ag BMP’s, stormwater BMPS funding with RFP. No need to reinvent the wheel, if there are projects that you are aware of we will certainly look to include.
* Holly will discuss the RISE project list next. Direct support for specific projects would fall in line with APNEP goals.
* Provide feedback to Steve and open discussion.
* Tom that is a lot to focus on, the mapping effort is of interest in mapping wetlands and landcover to help with decision making on land-use and water quality needs.
* Bill DMF is covering 20 of coastal counties in purchasing data for the mapping, 17 are in the APNEP and we plan to purchase the mapping areas to cover all NC APNEP region areas. Interested in adding VA in the mapping efforts.
* Tom, the VA side the existing data may already be compatible with the CCAP effort. While not coastal wetlands per say, but there is a 1 meter land cover map that is existing of the entire state. In the past visits were made to the potential project sites.
* Tom Stroud, general comment, the landscape for legislation is changing very quickly in NC legislature. How so the Supreme Court ruling to redefine wetlands in NC and the impact of those. The AOC is giving some direction, awaiting data from coastal wetlands to determine how the ruling with issues with the defined wetland and connections with intermittent stream are wetlands. Wetlands no on intermittent streams will not be considered wetlands. More to come.
* Side-note that states cannot be more restrictive than federal rulings in wetlands protection areas.

2:05 **RISE Project Portfolio** Holly White

* What is the RISE portfolio, and how can APNEP use it to prioritize projects to fund?
* NCORR resiliency divisions, main focus is recovery. PPT review.
* RISE program focus in this presentation. Homegrown leaders program, NC resilient community guide, regional resilience portfolio (the point of this presentation). This program was run through all council of governments in eastern NC (49 counties), huge engagement effort in local governments, nonprofits, and faith based communities.
* Vulnerability in the area and work to identify projects to mitigate the vulnerability areas. All information is online. Vulnerability assessment looked at social vulnerability, housing and critical infrastructure, water quality issues, climate issues, economy, historical and cultural – supplemented by mapping.
* HAB example from portfolio – identify problems, who is the needed to be involved in discussions, challenges, (Meeting on Nov 3 HAB meeting – state senator even attended). Duke provided $600K in startup grants 1 for each regional was funded. In total 18 projects have been funded $923K, another 6 awaiting funding decisions.
* Holly cross-walked with CCMP priorities for the resilience project list.
* Water quality – many stormwater based projects in communities of need – including water quantity and water quality components. Education of elected officials, mapping and comprehensive planning projects, wetland and stream restoration projects were identified.
* Tom included a link in the comments for a similar VA project list. [Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool - RAFT (virginia.edu)](https://raft.ien.virginia.edu/)
* Lora was struggling to provide feedback on the CCMP revisions. It was helpful to see the RISE projects and the prioritized focus areas.
* Stacey highlighted that identified priorities in other regions, can be applied to the APNEP region as well.

2:20 **CAC meetings moving forward** Tom Allen/Steve Anderson

* Winter in-person meeting (February) – Discuss preferred date/time and location?
* Future discussion topics, e.g., State of the Sounds Dashboard – a CAC/STAC collaborative effort
* Does the committee have any areas of concern they would like to discuss in the future? Please be listening in your communities between now and the next meeting for topics to share at an upcoming meeting in early winter.
* Tom: CAC Moving forward planning the next CAC meeting in February in person meeting. Seeking location, dates, times for that meeting. Open to suggestions. Future discussions topics as well. A reportcard or dashboard for APNEP as a means engage citizens and scientist.
* Karen, Love the idea of the dashboard. There is really value in person meetings. Combined meetings with a site visit would be beneficial (assessment project)
* Tom: *State of the Sounds* would be a dashboard title. Concerns and discussions for future meetings: Legal issues in wetlands, sea level rise in planning. CAC/STAC collaboration
* Kay: North Hampton County Solar Farms, convert forest land to soft pines pellet mills. Atlantic Coast Pipeline going through the county. A lot of green renewable energy in the region that could be highlighted. Concern on counties on the land base that is being forfeited for that. Would like to understand the economics of these renewable energy projects. Would like to know more about that pro/cons and financial benefits to the county. APNEP stand on renewable landuse and impacts on economy, agr tourism ecotourism.
* Tom, NC State has a solar center, VA has interest in expanding solar in southside VA
* Holly, we have received a number of questions on the renewable landuse and the options that are available to reference for landowners and what can be done on the land. What is it that landowners need to know.
* Kay, the industry has gotten so competitive. This is land-use issue in the region. Potentially include in land-use in the region along with agricultural, forest, tourism, etc.
* Karen, second what Kay is saying. This is being discussed in the GA in VA and legislation passed for mitigation on forest land where solar farms are implemented, also farmland mitigation also included. Very timely issue in VA.
* Stacey: Tom Stroud had to leave, but he is offering facilities for the next meeting. Columbia theater or Partnership for the Sounds facilities option.
* Pete, Columbia would work to tour scuppernong as well.
* Thursday good for Tom and Kay. Friday good for Tom as well.
* Steve, planning these meetings - if you have needs or recommendations on streamlining that process. Planning multiple meetings at once to keep ball rolling and have all dates on the calendar.
* Tom, topic on land-use in solar. Know folks at JMU to have information on energy (solar and wind)
* Kay another renewable energy project Smithfield is collecting biogas and no longer making emission. Goal was to have a biogas projects. That could be an interesting topic to include on renewable energy. Value added project in agriculture industry in the state. The environmental aspect for the solar industry is important (positive and negative). Change in the environmental affects and effects on these fields were solar farms are established.
* Pete very interesting when looking at targeting priorities – agricultural runoff. What are the implications in reductions on ag lands when solar farms are established. The runoff from the fields and the improvements. Sentinel landscape covers are areas in APNEP, is there connection with APNEP.
* Bill serves on the steering committee, also on the Surpass/cerpass(?) committee as well.
* Pete, military can have deep pockets if you can find compatible projects.
* Tom is running down the issues of the next meeting including locations and homework of contacting prospective other members for CAC
* Steve has a shared spreadsheet and document that will be shared.
* Holly good meeting, good to hear all perspective.

~2:50 **Adjourn**

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