

## Freshwater Habitat & Fish Passage Meeting Notes

5/28/15

Attending: Fred Tarver, Eric Brittle, Wilson Laney, Fritz Rhode (phone), Bennett Wynne (phone), Erin Coombs (phone), Roger Rulifson (phone), Maurice Crawford (phone), JAJ, DEC

JAJ: Thank you for agreeing to join. Be thinking about who else should be a workgroup member. Refer to Powerpoint. APNEP mission. APNEP a National Estuary Partnership. APNEP's management approach. Ecosystem-Based Management: next two slides Dean's favorites. APNEP's adaptive management cycle. Questions? None. Plan (CCMP) organization. CCMP Question 1. Implement CCMP, DEC: outcomes are still general, indicators needed. Advisory structure, parts 1 and 2. Implementation workgroups. Freshwater Habitat and Fish Passage Workgroup Goals . Gant chart. End of presentation. Questions?

DEC: STAC members serving on the workgroups to facilitate determination of metrics, targets, modeling. Need to derive an action plan.

MC: Requested confirmation that an action plan is an initial priority.

EC: Options for identifying barrier. SE Aquatic Connectivity Project (SEACAP). NC barrier prioritization tool. Both have strengths and weaknesses. Could run a prioritization for removal and fish ladders. Neuse Basin high priority for Erin. She offered several iterations or a single (Erin's) iterations. For actions C4.1 and C4.2 they have existing. Limiting factor is having a project manager. American Rivers staff has done dam removal training.

JAJ: DMF has done much in the NE portion of NC.

FR: Effort similar to the Cape Fear Partnership, where a dam subgroup was established. GIS people identified sites. Perhaps a dam subgroup for this workgroup? Erin would be happy to facilitate that subgroup.

RR: Technical workgroup for river herring, habitat subgroup. Dare County effort using HUC-12 and HUC-8. Could find the Powerpoint presentation on the NOAA web site.

RWL: Joined meeting after participating on a 1:00 pm conference call of national hydropower coordinators. ASMFC shad and river herring technical committee publications will be useful. SAFMC currently in the process of its fishery ecosystem plan. Roger Pugliese looking for experts to work on diadromous species on the plan.

FT: Roanoke Basin: hydropower relicensing: Lower Roanoke Rapids dam and eel passage on lower dam and doing monitoring. Options for eel passage on Gaston dam. Kerr Dam by ACE: ongoing 216 study, Congressional designation of core dam, looking at flow alterations. Rocky Mount Mills dam, first impediment on Tar-Pam. Neuse: Quaker Neck removed,

Milburne dam, above Falls Dam. Discussion with City of Raleigh, have discussed hydropower on Falls. ACE would have to agree to fish passage on Falls.

BW: Transfer of adults in holding pattern. Relicensing issue something to be aware.

RWL: Just got off national hydropower coordinators call, proposed legislation in Senate 1236 would substantially alter the FWS and NMFS ability to comment on proposed hydropower projects. House bills still in discussion stage. Re: Milburne Dam, uncertain when removed.

FR: ACE dragging their heels on Milburne Dam. Fine tuning monitoring plan.

RWL: Kenny Waldroup, City of Raleigh, briefed EMC subcommittee this month. Suggest this workgroup as action begin dialog with Raleigh and ACE to create MOU. American eel should be a candidate for Falls fish passage.

FT: Bennett aware of Rocky Mount Mills status?

BW: Removal of dam not option. If shad get upstream, getting them downstream a concern.

RWL: Bennett's correct. Had feedback from Curt Orbis of FWS Region 5.

FR: Found the presentation that RR referenced, emailed to workgroup.

RWL: ASMFC fish passage workgroup, looking at lists from each SE states.

FR: How does action B2.5 differ from the status quo? DEC: perfectly fine to approve the status quo if the process meets APNEP's needs.

RWL: Prioritizing by river basin?

EC: Could prioritize by basin. Two options: prioritization across region or by basin.

FT: Other considerations than dams, i.e. other non-dam barriers.

JAJ: What about other resources?

RWL: A bit of FWS funding (\$15-20K) could be available in FY 2016.

FT: Duke Energy established a restoration fund by another administration entity.

RWL: NFWF possibility

BW: CRFL

EC: CWMTF

RWL: CHPP, basin water quality plans, wildlife action plans.

EC: APNEP's GIS capability?

JAJ: Loss of Lindsey Smart but APNEP is lining up contractors for this summer. Whose missing that needs to be at table? Anne Deaton with DMF, has designated Ernie Hain in future. New DMF section chief, Steve Murphy.

RWL: Environmental branch of ACE, defer to BW, FR

BB: Shaw

FT: Jeff Richter

JAJ: Sent an invitation to Frank Yelverton but he has retired.

EB: Regarding DGIF staff, Allan Weaver (statewide) also Scott Smith (Lynchburg office) has lead on all things rivers, familiar with Kerr and Gaston. Also Brian van Eerden of TNC.

RWL: Fish lift in Emporia?

EB: Functional but does not pass fish. Spawning fish are at the base. Don't know if it is a traction problem.

RWL: FWS and NMFS provided designs.

BW: Enough fish at base of Emporia dam?

JAJ: Asked Dick Brain, but he declined. Asked Dave Kimmel, Dave not sure why because this is a freshwater group. Asked Joe Hightower, Joe declined. Asked Matt Bluter PTRF (now Sound Rivers). Asked Joel Fodrie, declined because he is up for tenure this year.

RWL: Since Joe said no, Tom Kwak at NCSU Co-op leader. WRC offered to fund position knowing that USGS cannot fill Joe's position.

FT: Bob Graham Dominion.

RWL: Somebody from NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Paul Angermeier.

JAJ: Next meeting between June 22 and July 10, will Doodle. Location TBD soon thereafter.

EB: VA-DGIF biologists must submit plans to Wildlife Action Plan staff by June 1.

RWL: Should get an official WRC representative, e.g., Kevin Dockendorf.

JAJ: Please send agenda items for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.