

**Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
Human Dimensions Monitoring & Assessment Team**

WebEx Meeting

2:30 – 4:00 PM

September 6, 2018

Meeting Notes by Tim Ellis

Team members in attendance:

Burrell Montz (ECU; Team Lead)
Tancred Miller (NCDCM)
Doug Wakeman (Meredith College - ret.)
Marty Wiggins (NCOEE)

APNEP staff in attendance:

Dean Carpenter
Bill Crowell
Tim Ellis
Stacey Feken
Heather Jennings
Trish Murphey

Agenda/Summary:

The purpose of this meeting was to develop a course map for the remainder of 2018. The agenda included taking a review of the team's list of indicators and associated metrics to date (a spreadsheet was sent out ahead of time) and then coming to a consensus on a suite of indicators for near-term focus. The team also generally discussed human well-being indicators (a Puget Sound vital signs and indicators report was sent out ahead of time).

Dean Carpenter began the meeting with a brief review of the team's history. He noted that by the end of the year there needs to be solid draft reports summarizing the status and trends of 3-5 of the metrics being considered by this team. These reports will be approximately 5 pages long and should target technically-inclined environmental managers. Dean stated that he anticipated APNEP staff working more directly with individuals after today's meeting to facilitate progress on these 3-5 near-term indicator assessments. In early 2019, the team will then do a synthesis report on the status of human dimensions in the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Later in 2019, there may be a distilled version of these reports for non-technical audiences. Before passing the meeting over to Burrell Montz, Dean explained that there are two parts to today's meeting (see agenda description above) and he also asked members to think about any additional partners that APNEP should invite to join the team.

Burrell led a discussion on the Puget Sound Vital Signs for Human Health (*Outdoor Activity, Air Quality, Local Foods, Water Quality*) and Vital Signs for Quality of Life (*Economic Vitality, Cultural Wellbeing, Good Governance, Sense of Place, Sound Behavior*). Burrell noted that she liked their methodology and framework.

Doug Wakeman noted that he liked the cultural aspect of it all (i.e., *Sense of Place* and *Good Governance*). He suggested that a possible approach to getting this information would be through surveys.

Burrell agreed and noted that all of the indicators that the team discussed during the last meeting in February were data driven and not about perception. Indicators like *Sense of Place* are important because they are more indicative of connection to the area and willingness to engage in conservation to improve and protect the health of the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Dean stated that if the team thinks that the cultural aspect is important and there isn't sufficient data to understand it, then APNEP can fund a survey to acquire the necessary information. He noted that APNEP has a history of working with academic partners to conduct surveys on public perceptions (e.g., 2009 ECU report on "Public Perceptions of Environmental Quality and Values in the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary" available via the APNEP website).

Doug noted that it is important to make it a comprehensive survey that includes questions directly about quality of life (e.g., physical and mental health). Resurveying periodically could be a way of monitoring status and trends in quality of life.

Tancred Miller asked if there any parallels between Puget Sound and the Albemarle-Pamlico region. He is concerned about being able to separate perceptions on the environment and well-being from economic and political viewpoints (e.g., *Good Governance*).

Burrell stated that how you ask the survey questions is important, but she agreed that the governance aspect is concerning. She suggested that the ECU Center for Survey Research could help with survey design.

Heather Jennings noted that the team should decide on the intended audience (e.g., residents, visitors, users of the system).

Burrell agreed that this was something in need of further discussion. She noted that *Sense of Place* varies across user groups.

Bill Crowell stated that policy and decision makers (e.g., legislators, county commissioners) is an important audience.

It was noted that the Puget Sound report focused on residents. The team will discuss the issue of intended audience more later, as well as consider options for how best to build on past APNEP surveys. The team transitioned to reviewing the indicator spreadsheet.

Dean gave an overview of the spreadsheet of potential indicators and associated metrics that was sent to the team. This spreadsheet contains all of the indicators discussed at the team's February meeting, as well as lists likely lead agencies that can provide data to support each indicator's assessment.

Doug asked if these were to be one-off assessments, and if so, he recommended that the team select indicators that are comparable to other reports (e.g., statewide metrics).

Dean clarified that the team should determine indicators that they think APNEP needs to invest in for long-term monitoring (i.e., what is most important for the Albemarle-Pamlico region).

Burrell led a review of the indicators listed in the spreadsheet. Key points from this discussion are below.

- *Land Use*
 - The APNEP 2012 Ecosystem Assessment reported on the extent of land cover types and it was noted that this can be different from land use. Based on the provisional indicators listed here in the spreadsheet, the recommendation was made to report on metrics for both land use extent by type and land cover.
- *Waste Generation*
 - The team did not think these provisional indicators were a priority at this time.
- *Natural Resource Use*
 - Of the eight indicator types listed, the team considers *Agricultural Output, Timber Production and Harvesting, Fish and Shellfish Harvesting, Water Use, Energy Use and Production, and Recreation Resources* as the most important.
 - It was noted that many agencies already regularly report on this information, usually at the statewide level, but the value added by APNEP would be to report on it for the Albemarle-Pamlico region directly (e.g., at a subbasin level).
- *Human Population*
 - There was consensus that the *Human Population Characteristics* and *Human Health* indicators were important.
 - Burrell stated that she and her students could take lead on all of the provisional indicators listed for *Human Population Characteristics*.
 - Regarding *Human Health*, there was discussion on if to replace or add to the two provisional indicators listed (*Rate of Infant Mortality, Life Expectancy*). No changes were recommended at this time, but the team will discuss this more later.

APNEP staff will reach out to potential partners to lead near-term assessments on *Land Use* and *Natural Resource Use* and will report back to the team in October. Burrell Montz will lead assessments on *Human Population Characteristics*.