

POLICY BOARD CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

February 24, 2006

2:00pm

Those participating:

Walter Clark	Joan Giordano
Dean Carpenter	Eric Walberg
Bill Crowell	Lauriston King
Fred McManus	Tony Reeve
Terry Hairston	

Walter Clark, Policy Board Chair, began the conference call at 2:05pm by welcoming those who dialed-in to participate. He asked Bill Crowell, APNEP Director, for a program update.

PROGRAM UPDATE & SCHOOLYARD DEMO PROJECT RFP

Bill reported that much has been happening since the last meeting of the Policy Board (10/31/06) held at EPA in Research Triangle Park. He asked Joan Giordano, Outreach Coordinator, to report on the APNEP Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) activities.

Joan reported that:

- the CAC held its first meeting on January 20, 2006 at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Washington Regional Office in Washington, NC with 71% committee attendance
- vacant CAC positions include: K-12 education, the NC Association of County Commissioners, and 2 At-Large slots
- CAC by-laws were established
- Chair and Vice-Chair positions were named: Kay Winn and Tom Stroud, respectively, as well as the Executive Committee (Marty Wiggins, Mary Alsentzer and Stacey Bradshaw)
- Tom Stroud will be one of the CAC representatives to the Policy Board, the second representative is yet to be named. The CAC members wanted representation from VA.
- discussion of the current grant funding cycle occurred and that release of the RFP for Schoolyard Demonstration Projects was imminent. (Note: the RFP deadline is March 1st.)
- demo project proposals were beginning to trickle-in and, as in past years, the majority would come as the deadline drew nearer
- the question of whether or not to require a match by proposal submitters was discussed with determination made by the CACs that none would be required, but that match and leverage of funds sought, would be encouraged.
- Chairman Winn requested staff to do a reconnoiter of proposed demo sites prior to the next CAC meeting (4/7/06) in order to answer questions the CAC might have during their evaluation and selection of proposals

Questions about whether or not the RFP could be targeted to local governments in the future was asked by Fred McManus, and Eric Walberg asked if Noah Hill, APNEP VA Field Rep, had promoted the RFP in VA.

Bill asked Joan Dean Carpenter, Science Coordinator, to report on recent Science & Technical Committee (STAC) meeting.

Dean reported that:

- the STAC held its most current meeting on February 1, 2006 at East Carolina University in Greenville and was well attended
- the meeting was a departure from the usual meeting format in that the program was exclusively dedicated to environmental monitoring and inland fisheries as occur in NC and VA
- the next STAC meeting will be held on May 3rd at the UNC-CH Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City

Questions about viewing the February 1st STAC meeting presentations on the APNEP website was asked. Dean said the site was password protected, but that Bill would email the password to Policy Board members so they could view it.

Bill continued the APNEP report mentioning that a new staff person had been added to the APNEP team, Jimmy Johnson. Jimmy came to the APNEP from the NC Dept. of Agriculture; previously owned a crab business in Washington; and is a past Chair of the Marine Fisheries Commission. He will share his time between the APNEP, CHHPs and One NC Naturally programs.

Bill mentioned that there has been a change of Governors in VA and that Policy Board member David Paylor will be replaced by Jeff Corbin. He also expressed gratitude that the CAC and STAC committees have brought NC and VA closer together through their work.

NATIONAL NEP MEETING AND CONGRESSIONAL EFFORT

Bill commented that Policy Board and CAC members have been contacted with information regarding for assistance in securing FY'07 budget dollars from our Congressional delegations (NC & VA). He explained that the 28 National Estuary Programs (NEPs) are funded through EPA and that EPA expects a substantial cutback in funding from the Congress. APNEP staff cannot lobby the Congress or state legislature on their own behalf. Direct constitute contact is the best method of gathering support for the NEP.

Walter mentioned that the Sea Grant association identifies constituents in each of their regions to contact members of Congress. Fred McManus inquired if Governors and state legislators could lobby, and any letters in support of the effort sent to EPA's Administrator, could be sent over to the Congress.

Bill added that on the Senate side calls should be made to Nathan Miller in Senator Chafee's office at (202) 224-4235, and on the House side to Andy Oliver in Representative Saxton's office at (202) 225-4765, or Paul Kidwell in Representative

Tauscher's office at (202) 225-1880. If you would like to see a copy of the letters currently being circulated please contact Bill.

Bill will be in Washington, DC for the annual EPA/Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) meeting the week of March 6-10. Walter Clark added that he'd be in Washington as well around that time, and was planning to attend some of the EPA/ANEP sessions. Fred McManus mentioned the first day's meeting of the two groups was always informative and if Walter's schedule permitted it, it would be beneficial for him to attend.

Tony Reevy mentioned that Ben Grumbles, EPA's Assistant Administrator would be attending a conference at UNC next month.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONSERVATION POSITION FOR POLICY BOARD

Walter Clark reported that Jeff Horton's position (Conservation Organization) on the Policy Board has become open due to Jeff's job change. Walter asked for help in rounding out a Policy Board nominating committee. Tony Reevy mentioned Sam Pearsall as a possible candidate and Lorry King mentioned Leigh Leidy. Following discussion Walter nominated Ms. Leidy, an attorney for the Coastal Land Trust and part-time professor at UNC-CH's field site in Manteo. Tony Reevy seconded the nomination. There were no objections to the nomination and no other names were entered into nomination.

FY'07 WORKPLAN PROJECTS

Broaching discussion of the FY'07 Workplan, Bill reported that the current workplan has categories for demonstration projects, administration and submerged aquatic vegetation and posed the question of category expansion for the '07 plan. Suggestions included:

- updating of the CCMP (to be done in the future w/ possible outside funding)
- expand demo projects RFP to a wider range of audiences
- environmental indicator implementation (EPA mandates indicator development for establishing estuarine health. Indicators will help with a monitoring plan which will take time to develop)
- using the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) as a data repository
- the VA green infrastructure planning project – Resource Lands Assessment (dovetails with One NC Naturally)
- UNC-CH's Carolina Environmental Program modeling work
- Environmental Education Teacher Institute (~1K/participant)
- SAV mapping (not to the level of past allocations)
- Currituck Sound Study (maybe future linking with them via monitoring and mapping)
- TMDLs (DENR is the APNEP's connection to these)
- participate in EPA's efforts at targeting 303(d) listed water bodies to have them delisted (this could be a demo project)

Bill asked that additional ideas be emailed to him. He added that demonstration projects make the APNEP very project based, which is important in showing environmental improvement, but limits our overall strategic planning and implementation. Also, in terms

of updating the CCMP, he indicated that it will take a while and perhaps the approach used this time should continue to be project-based until we update the CCMP.

Fred added that the 303(d) delisting project will show environmental results and environmental results are what the government's evaluation tool, Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART) uses to "grade" government agencies, including the EPA. He added that NC DWQ has already been approached for participation in the 303(d) delisting program.

In terms of performance and subsequent budget allocation, Bill reported that the APNEP would most likely be receiving 492K for FY'07, a cut of ~20K from previous years. This is due to EPA's decrease in funding from Congress. He expects final numbers from the EPA soon.

LICENSE PLATE EFFORT

Walter queried the conference call participants about their thoughts on pursuing a license plate promoting the APNEP. In order to do this, a bill must be introduced through the General Assembly, which was not seen as an impediment. The revenue generated by consumer purchase of the license plates would be shared by the APNEP via dedication to an APNEP project. The "catch" was seen as obtaining (beforehand) the 300 commitment signatures necessary to begin the process. There are many such license plates in NC and it was mentioned that instead of saying "APNEP" the plate might carry the slogan of "Save our Sounds" or "Protect Water Quality." The NC Coastal Federation began use of the "vanity" license plate program this past year "Protect Our Coast".

Tony added that such license plates are very popular and success clearly rested on the marketability of the idea. Many universities and other organizations participate in this manner and, while the revenue generated is not huge, it is an income stream.

Walter emphasized the need for a good design and Bill agreed to have staff try their hand at developing one. The prototype design will be brought back to the Policy Board for consideration and, depending on their decision, could be forwarded to the General Assembly for bill introduction.

DIRECTOR/CHAIR VISITS

Walter and Bill would like to visit with Policy Board members to discuss, in a more in-depth manner, APNEP program direction and to hold conversations more conducive to one-on-one meetings rather than at regular Policy Board meetings. Such events might also include another Policy Board member. Bill will send out a listing of possible dates and will be in contact to confirm the visits.

OTHER

The next meeting of the Policy Board (June 15, 2006) will be dedicated to finalizing the Workplan. Bill agreed to preparing the budget and Workplan and to distribute it to Policy Board members for their review. The location of the meeting is to be arranged, with the possibilities of Morehead City and Manteo being mentioned.

There being no further business, the conference call was adjourned at 3:35pm.

ACTION ITEMS

- send password for protected STAC website location
- member calls to Congressional Delegation in Washington, DC to support NEPs in EPA budget
- invitation to NC agency people to VA spring environmental workshop
- staff design of license plate prototype
- determine dates of Director/Chair visits to Policy Board members
- decide on venue for June 15, 2006 meeting
- develop draft Workplan and budget and distribute