



Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

Policy Board Meeting

Via Conference Call

9:00 am – 10:00 am

March 3, 2016

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Policy Board members present: Dr. Tom Allen, Todd Miller, Dr. Wilson Laney, Dr. Kirk Havens, Mr. Mac Gibbs, Mr. Tom Reeder, Dr. Carl Hershner, Dr. Susan White, Ms. Joanne Benante.

APNEP Staff present: Dr. Bill Crowell, Dr. Dean Carpenter, Jimmy Johnson

Guests present: Rhonda Evans, Dave Redford, Ed Ambrogio

Call to Order and Roll Call: Dr. Bill Crowell

Bill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Bill asked to table approval of the December 16, 2015 meeting notes to the April meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to cover approval of the December 16 and July 29, 2015 notes at the next face-to-face meeting.

Updates: Dr. Bill Crowell

Program staffing

Dr. Coley Hughes was recently hired as the new Project Manager. She earned her PhD from the East Carolina University's Coastal Resources Management program.

An offer was made to fill the vacant Policy and Engagement Manager position, and we are awaiting approval to advertise for the newly created Ecosystem Analyst position. The newly created Environmental Education Specialist position is being held until the move is resolved.

Katia Griffin-Jakymec has completed her AmeriCorps term but has been kept on as a temporary contractor to assist with tasks including River Days, Shad in in the Classroom, and a creating more videos for the website.

Mary-Grace Knight moved on a week ago to a position in South Carolina.

Update on Program Location

APNEP has moved to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Division staff have been very supportive of getting staff situated and unpacked. Bill is working with DEQ on a new delegation authority, which is moving slowly.

Update on North Carolina General Assembly

There has not been any new information on the General Assembly study since late fall. Secretary Tom Reeder has not provided any additional information at this time.

Update on New host investigations

A subcommittee conference call was held in January regarding the University of North Carolina (UNC) system as a possible host. Several meetings and conference calls have been held, with the next meeting scheduled for March 11. Bill will keep the subcommittee advised, there are some issues that have arisen in the UNC Institute for Environment. Dr. Susan White has been advising Bill on issues to consider for university hosting.

APNEP Policy Board Draft Meeting Notes March 3, 2016

Update on FFY 16-17 funding level

A federal grant will begin the new fiscal year; it is the same as last year with an operating budget of \$600,000. Bill is currently drafting the annual workplan and will distribute two weeks prior to the next board meeting.

Potential for additional funding for monitoring

At the National Estuary Program National Meeting held in February, it was mentioned that new funding is available for Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) revisions and monitoring from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters. Rhonda Evans has encouraged APNEP to apply for the monitoring funding.

Bill indicated a preference for long-term rather than one-time, short-term monitoring efforts, but will put some ideas forward to EPA Region VI. Todd Miller also suggested that some intensive, local analysis might be helpful in order to characterize a particular issue or conduct a problem assessment. Carl offered the idea of refocusing the CCMP in light of monitoring and asked whether or not it was time to do a quick refocus for program. Bill stated that it is definitely on the agenda to catch-up on the CCMP and do some reprioritization, which could guide any proposal for new monitoring.

Action Teams

Staff will work to reconvene the action teams as the new and vacant positions are filled.

Economic Analysis

Bill discussed the status of the RTI study. Carl Herschner is on the steering committee. The report will be available later in March, and a webinar briefing for APNEP stakeholders will be held (date TBD). NC Sea Grant has new economist on staff, Jane Harrison.

Shellfish cost-benefit study

A steering committee group which includes Todd Miller exists for the shellfish cost-benefit study. The report is nearing a final draft and should be available by April 1. The Division of Marine Fisheries should be able to utilize the information. NC Senator Bill Cook has been inquiring w/RTI about it.

APNEP Conference

An APNEP conference had been tentatively planned for the fall but has been cancelled, staff are now looking at options for next fall or spring 2017. NC Sea Grant noted that a statewide coastal conference was planned again for next year, perhaps we could explore the idea of combining the two conferences.

Opportunity for public comments

The floor/ telephone line was opened to public comments. There were no public comments.

Next meeting date and location

The next Policy Board meeting will be held April 29, 2016. The location is to be determined (TBD), either Raleigh or Greenville.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14.