

ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Quarterly Meeting (Winter), February 2, 2005
Pitt County Agricultural Building
Greenville, North Carolina

Minutes

Call to Order

Michael Rikard, STAC Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30am, welcomed those present, and asked for self-introductions of members, staff and guests. He then called for a motion to approve the November 10th meeting minutes: James Ebert moved the minutes be approved, with Michael Mallin providing the second. The motion carried.

Special recognition was given to those attending their first STAC meeting: Dr. Stan Riggs (East Carolina University), Tim Spruill (USGS), Dr. Martin Lebo (Weyerhaeuser), and Dr. Lauriston King (East Carolina University).

STAC Member Elections

Co-Chair, Dr. Nancy White, reported that there were two candidates for filling the vacancies created by the resignations of Drs. George Hess and Sam Pearsall. She asked for a motion approving Dr. Robert Peet (UNC-CH) to replace Dr. Hess and for Jeff De Bliou (The Nature Conservancy) to replace Dr. Pearsall. Dr. Havens moved that the nominees be accepted and Dr. Smutko seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APNEP Update

In reporting on APNEP activity since the last STAC meeting, Dr. Dean Carpenter, APNEP Science Coordinator:

- displayed the new APNEP STAC loose-leaf binder provided to each member for organizing STAC materials
- thanked Dr. King for his effort in identifying a PhD candidate, Jean Palmer Maloney, who will act as Secretary to the STAC beginning at the next (spring) meeting

- mentioned the successful APNEP Symposium held in New Bern on November 17th with 200+ in attendance
- reported the STAC Board met on December 17th
- alerted the group to the SAV meeting being held on February 7th in Raleigh
- asked the group to consider ideas for retention of members
- announced he would query the members in the near future for their concurrence in determining the spring and summer meeting dates, May 5th and August 3rd, respectively
- reported that abstracts of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study (APES) research documents are being scanned by a Governor's page, preparatory to a STAC section on the APNEP website
- reported that the (full) APES Status and Trends document will soon be available on the website and that it contains indicators determined in 1989 when it was developed
- reported that this year APNEP is undergoing its Implementation Review (IR), which is conducted by the EPA every three years. The IR team includes EPA staff from Headquarters (Washington, DC) and Region 4 (Atlanta), as well as a Director of another NEP. Bill Crowell, APNEP Director, mentioned that the IR team might want to speak with STAC members.
- reported that the March 15th deadline for abstract submittals to the Estuarine Research Federation is quickly approaching and that the 2005 conference will be held October 16-20th in Norfolk, VA. Dr. Riggs added that a special section on NC estuaries would be featured at the conference.

Indicator Development by the Atlantic Slope Consortium

Co-chair Rikard introduced Dr. Denice Wardrop, Assistant Director of Penn State's Cooperative Wetlands Center, who briefed the group on the results of an indicator development initiative done by the Atlantic Slope Consortium. A lengthy discussion ensued culminating in a question and answer session.

Co-chair Rikard thanked Dr. Wardrop for her presentation and invited the members to select a box lunch that were available in the lobby.

STAC Indicator Development Subcommittee Report

Dr. Doug Rader referenced Dr. Carpenter's work/handout entitled "A/P Regional Ambient Monitoring Program Development" which is a survey of other NEPs'

indicator development work. Dr. Rader also distributed his own latest indicators paper entitled "A/P Indicators: Second Cut" that arrayed the categories of Ultimate stressors, Proximate stressors, Responses, and Effects on Humans with numerous sub-categories, measures and the resulting indicators.

Discussion ensued with Dr. Riggs stating he did not see mention of long-term changes in the paper distributed. Dr. Rader agreed to add a sub-category of large scale/long-term stressors. He added that a process needed to be devised to move from the concepts in his handout to a suite of indicators.

Following lengthy discussion, it was decided to hold a 2-day STAC indicator retreat/workshop. Mr. Spruill thought it would be beneficial to know "what's out there, read about it on our own, and develop ideas prior to the retreat, and then come together to debate it." Dr. Riggs stated that lots of natural evolution goes on in the system and natural changes vs. human changes needed to be understood before indicators can be defined. Bill Crowell endorsed the idea of a 2-day retreat/workshop with up-front work and agency participation and Dr. Rader agreed to do a master spreadsheet to aid in the indicator development task.

Dr. Carpenter suggested that members look at the CCMP (water quality, habitat, fisheries, stewardship sections), determine where their expertise lay, and consider forming sub-groups corresponding to those sections.

Dr. Smutko asked how indicators for the stewardship section of the CCMP would be developed and suggested that stewardship could be wrapped around the other three sections, i.e. economics, sustainability, etc.

Dr. Mallin suggested that the 2-day workshop could be combined with the summer STAC meeting in August. Dr. Carpenter suggested that the STAC Executive Board briefly meet following the full member meeting to determine definitively when the workshop will be held.

APNEP Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) Review

Dr. Carpenter led the group in a CCMP review discussion. The water quality section of the CCMP was arrayed with members commenting on the goal, objective, and management actions associated with it. This discussion culminated with the question of whether or not the STAC had the political "clout" to change the document. At this point, Bill Crowell advised the group of a newly developing

Governor's Executive Order that would clearly define the roles and responsibilities of members associated with the reorganized APNEP committee structure (Management, STAC, and Citizens Advisory) and, based on that reorganized structure and those members, CCMP revision would begin in the fall.

Next Steps and Public Comment

Dr. Carpenter agreed to contact the full STAC membership to apprise them of the decision made by the Executive Board with respect to the indicators workshop and also how the CCMP review sessions would be structured.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm and the Executive Board convened for a short session.