

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
Science and Technical Advisory Committee (Quarterly) Meeting
February 7, 2007
Goose Creek State Park
Beaufort County, North Carolina

MINUTES

Those Attending:

Robert Reed	Tony Rodriguez	Emily Bernhardt
Jimmy Johnson	Doug Rader	Tim Spruill
Dean Carpenter	Bob Christian	Jean Lynch
Robin Dennis	Bill Swartley	Walker Golder
Joan Giordano	Craig Conrad	Phoebe Wahab
Dennis Borton	Martin Lebo	Becky Davenport
Michael Rikard	Joanne Harcke	Stan Riggs
Matt Windsor	Bob Van Dolah	Bill Crowell
Nancy White	David Mallinson	Don Field
Heather Jacobs	Chad Smith	Lorry King
Eric Brittle	Heather McGuire	Michael Piehler
Kirk Havens		

Co-chair Nancy White called the meeting to order at 10:15am, welcomed those present, and asked for self-introductions around the table. Members attending their first meeting, Craig Conrad and Emily Bernhardt, were recognized.

Dean Carpenter, APNEP Science Coordinator, updated the group on APNEP activity since the autumn 2006 STAC meeting. He further reported that: Dan Dauer has resigned his STAC membership; new STAC Policy Board liaisons are due to be named; the STAC Executive Board had a teleconference meeting on December 14; and the 2007 meeting dates for the (**spring**) April 30, (**summer**) August 17 and (**fall**) November 20 meetings would occur at the following locations: **Pitt County Agricultural Auditorium in Greenville, VIMS at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and EPA's "Green" Building-RTP**, respectively. He also mentioned upcoming APNEP meetings dates for the Policy Board (March 5 by telephone) and Citizens' Advisory Committee (February 19) at the DENR Washington Regional Office.

Dr. Carpenter then asked those present to share upcoming meetings or activities that might be of interest to the group: (1) STAC member Michael Piehler briefed members on development of the National Estuaries Program Chapter of Synthesis and Assessment Product (SAP) 4.4, *Preliminary Review of Adaptation Options for Climate Sensitive Ecosystems*, which is being produced under the auspices of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. The Albemarle-Pamlico estuary will be featured as a case study and a public review draft should be available this spring. (2) STAC Executive Board member Bob Christian announced the joint Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS)/ Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS) meeting on March 15-17 in Pine Knoll Shores, and a UNC Coastal Studies Institute workshop on water-level monitoring on March 14 in Kitty Hawk. (3) NC Division of Forest Resources liaison Bill Swartley announced a \$2 million-plus project involving NC DFR, NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program, and NC Department of Transportation as partners in a restoration effort involving 13,000 linear feet of stream bank and flood plain. While the aforementioned budget is dedicated solely to restoration, NC DFR is open to facilitating research opportunities.

Dr. Robert Van Dolah, Director of South Carolina's Marine Resources Research Institute briefed members on South Carolina's Estuarine & Coastal Assessment Program (SCECAP), a cooperative, multi-agency program designed to assess the condition of South Carolina's coastal zone. The program collects multiple measures of water quality, sediment quality, and biological condition at a large number of sites throughout the state's coastal zone each year, and integrates those measures into an overall assessment of estuarine habitat condition at each site and the entire state.

STAC member Don Field briefed the group on 2006 NOAA research involving remotely sensed submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the southern APNEP coastal region using digital mapping camera technology. He also discussed current plans for a 2007 SAV mapping effort along the North Carolina and southeastern Virginia coastlines relative to the APNEP SAV Partners' group.

A discussion on formulating a method for STAC issue prioritizing followed. It centered on the opportunity for the STAC to be pro-active in its recommendations to the APNEP Policy Board, rather than responding to Policy Board directives.

Ideas ranged from clarification of whether it was a process vs. substance that was needed, to the preparation of white papers by small STAC sub-groups, to the recommendation that STAC small-group members assist APNEP Director, Bill Crowell, in developing ideas for presentation to the Policy Board, to acknowledgement that the Chesapeake Bay Program's STAC prepares an emerging issues document for the CBP each year, to the notion that issues about which little is known (information gaps) should be the driving force. It was decided that STAC Executive Board member Kirk Havens (also member of CBP's STAC) would submit the CBP-STAC's efforts as an informational template for evaluation of the APNEP STAC's need, and further development and deliberation by the APNEP STAC Executive Board would follow.

STAC member Stan Riggs updated the group on the progress-to-date made by the NC Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change, of which Dr. Riggs is a member. At the conclusion of his presentation Dr. Riggs referenced his paper *Preliminary Recommendations for Mitigating the Consequences of Climate Change Within North Carolina* and asked that comments and ideas be emailed to him. **NOTE:** Dr. Riggs' paper was sent as an attachment to Dean Carpenter's email directed to STAC members on February 6, 2007.

Discussion pertaining to agenda item *Tracking Land Use Dynamics* was only minimally addressed given the (regrettable) absence of STAC member Ross Lunetta.

It was brought to the group's attention that a program pertaining to Climate Change was being aired on WUNC-TV on February 15, 16 and 18, 2007.

There being no further business brought before the group, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.