

ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Quarterly (Summer) and Environmental Indicator Workshop Meeting
August 3-4, 2005
Johnston County Community College
Smithfield, North Carolina

Minutes

Call to Order

Michael Rikard, STAC Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 9:20am, welcomed those present and asked for self-introductions of members, state agency liaisons, staff and guests. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, which was made by Kirk Havens and seconded by Doug Rader.

Dr. Rikard called on Dr. Rader who gave an overview of the workshop format, expectations and characterization of environmental indicators as defined by the STAC indicator working group. Dr. Rader said the participants' job was to gauge, measure and assess environmental indicators and to communicate the health of the Albemarle-Pamlico sound system. He defined the criteria to be used and reported that staff from Battelle (a National Estuary Program contractor) would be called upon to array the results in an electronic grid format.

Dean Carpenter, APNEP Science Coordinator, added his welcome to Dr. Rikard's, thanked those present for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend two days with the APNEP, and reviewed housekeeping details.

He mentioned that the STAC Board, which met on June 14, would meet again in late September or early October, and that the full STAC was scheduled to meet again on October 31 and February 1, 2006 at a time and place to be arranged.

Dr. Carpenter cited the new Executive Order (#74) signed by Governor Easley in May that formally established the APNEP within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;

reported that the APNEP underwent its 3-year audit in June and passed with flying colors!; and emphasized the importance of developing environmental indicators in order to engage in a long-term status and trends monitoring program for the sounds.

Dr. Carpenter then made room assignments for each of the six indicator development teams (Water Quality, Terrestrial Habitats, Air Quality, Wetland Habitats, Living Aquatic Resources and Human Needs) to commence their deliberations later in the day.

Bill Crowell, APNEP Director, also added his thanks to those present for attending; underscored Dr. Carpenter's comments regarding the importance of environmental indicators; mentioned readdressing the 10-year old APNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) which needs to better reflect present conditions, i.e. consider topics such as invasive species, TMDLs, etc.; and outlined the new APNEP structure contained in Executive Order #74: Policy Board, Management Committee, Citizens' Advisory Committee, and Science and Technical Advisory Committee.

Lastly, Dr. Carpenter introduced Dr. Jay Messer from the US EPA's Office of Research & Development located in the Research Triangle Park. Dr. Messer gave a presentation on the development of environmental indicators for EPA's *Report on the Environment*.

Following Dr. Messer's presentation and a subsequent break, participants adjourned to their respective breakout rooms and began indicator deliberations.

A working lunch was provided and, at 4:30pm, the development teams reconvened for a plenary session during which brief (approximately 10 minutes each) reports were heard from each team leader. Discussion and feedback followed.

Day 2

Dr. Carpenter called the group to order at 8:15am, expressed his thanks to those present for returning and continuing their work, and charged the group with the day's assignment.

Dr. Rader recapped the previous day's accomplishments and offered the opportunity for questions and answers. Some questions centered around reducing the number of indicators being identified and whether an indices of indicators should be developed. Discussion ensued with the determination being made that all the indicators that could be identified should be, and that the APNEP Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) could be engaged (as a first step) to test indicator indices initially proposed by the STAC.

Discussion continued and Dr. Carpenter mentioned that indicators would play a vital role in the development of a "state of the sounds- type" publication slated for completion in 2006. Hans Paerl, team leader of the Water Quality and Hydrology development team, added that connecting the indicators to the economy would get the attention of Congressman Walter Jones, Jr. and NC Senate President Pro Tempore, Marc Basnight, as well as engender public debate. It was also mentioned that employing a marketing team to promote and package such a publication could be useful.

Following the discussion, the development teams adjourned to their respective breakout rooms to continue their work.

During a working lunch, and into the afternoon hours, completed assignments from each development team were submitted to Dr. Carpenter for review and synthesis. The closing plenary session was deemed unnecessary and each development team departed following completion of their work.

The last of the development teams and staff departed at 3:00pm.